

CURRENT PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE IN MAINE

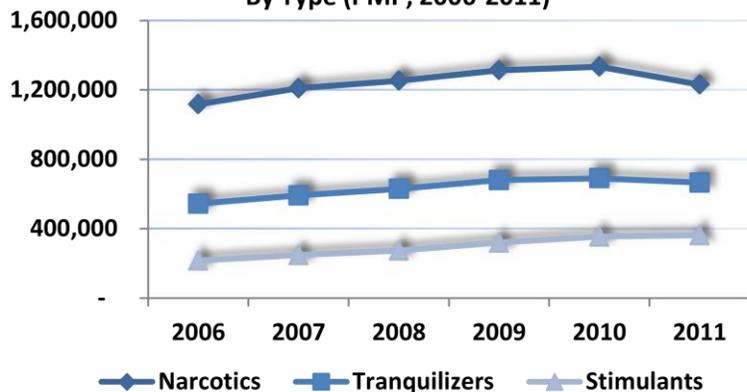
Quick Facts:

- Past year misuse of painkillers is highest among 18 to 25 year olds in Maine and has increased from 12% in 2007-2008 to 14% in 2008-2009, compared to only 3% of adults age 26 and older (NSDUH).
- Three percent of 7th and 8th graders and 7% of high school students had used prescription drugs for a reason other than their intended purpose in the past 30 days (MIYHS, 2011).
- Among high school students, 15% reported misusing prescription drugs at least once in their lifetime, this was down from 2009 (18%) (2009, 2011 MIYHS).
- Hospital outpatient visits related to opiates (including prescription narcotics, methadone, and heroin) increased from 19,739 visits in 2006 to 35,950 in 2009 (MHDO).

Availability of Prescription Drugs

The total number of prescriptions filled in Maine for narcotics, tranquilizers, and stimulants has decreased from 2,377,000 in 2010 to 2,255,000 in 2011. Pictured below, narcotics consistently accounted for most prescriptions filled, followed by tranquilizers and, at a much lower number, stimulants.

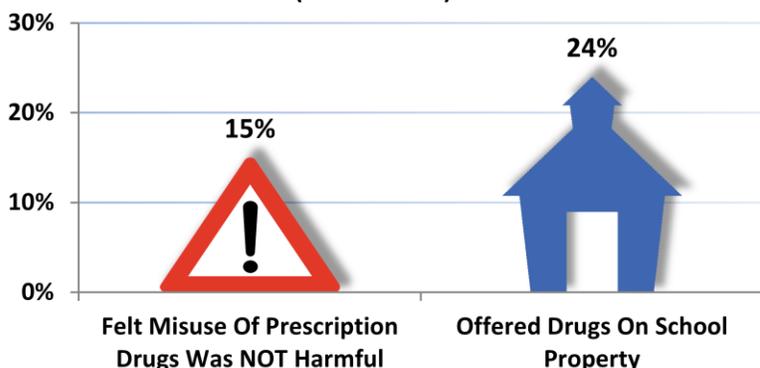
Number of Prescription Drugs Filled in Maine, By Type (PMP, 2006-2011)



Prescription Drug Use: Risk and Protective Factors

Maine high school students who reported that they believe using prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them would be harmful increased from 82% in 2009 to 85% in 2011. However, this means that 15% of students did not believe that misusing prescription drugs is harmful. In addition, the percentage of high school students who were sold, offered or given an illegal drug on school property during year increased from 21% in 2009 to 24% in 2011 (MIYHS).

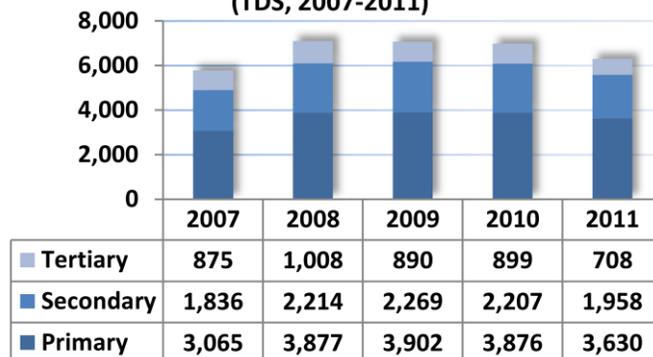
High School Risk and Protector Factors (MIYHS 2011)



Treatment for Prescription Drug Abuse

Synthetic opioids* are the second most frequent substance for which treatment is sought in Maine. After a three year period (2008-2010) of stability, the number of treatment admissions related to synthetic opiates appears to have decreased slightly. Although not shown, in 2011, synthetic opioids were the second most common substance for which both primary as well as secondary treatment was sought (TDS, 2011).

Treatment Admission Due to Synthetic Opioids* (TDS, 2007-2011)



*synthetic opioids are man-made and exclude naturally derived opioids such as heroin, morphine, and opium.

Overdoses and Prescription Drugs

Overdose deaths involving prescription drugs (such as methadone, oxycodone, and benzodiazepines) have more than tripled in Maine, from 51 in 2000 to 161 in 2010 (OCME, 2001-10). By 2010, 95% of overdose deaths in Maine involved prescription drugs (OCME, 2001-10).

Overdose Deaths Due To Prescription and Illicit Drugs (OCME, 2000-2010)

