

Macomb County

STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK STATE INCENTIVE GRANT | DATA PROFILE

Assessing the Burden of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol Abuse:

A Focus on Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse | February 2016



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This report marks the third data profile assessing the burden of alcohol and illicit drugs in Macomb County. This 2015 data profile presents estimates on indicators related to various substances, including heroin and prescription pain reliever mortality (deaths), morbidity (hospitalizations), arrests, and illicit drug consumption patterns in Macomb County with a focus on the period of 2010 to 2014.

Key findings in this report of Macomb County include:

PRESCRIPTION DRUG SCRIPTS

- The number of Schedule II and III prescription drug scripts increased 21% but this is largely due to the 221% increase in Schedule II scripts – however, the FDA revised drug scheduling to acknowledge the danger of certain substances and rescheduled them to II
- Geographically, the percentage of the population receiving prescription drug scripts increased in most municipalities within Macomb County

OPIATE/OPIOID-RELATED DEATHS

- Opiate/opioid-related hospitalizations increased from 2008 to 2013 and 14.5% of Michigan's total heroin hospitalizations occur in Macomb County
- Prescription drugs and heroin cause the most deaths by a single substance, while the combination of these substances cause the most deaths by multiple substances
- Compared to other counties in Michigan, Macomb County had among the highest reported fatal heroin overdoses from 2010 to 2012
- The number of deaths by heroin significantly increased from 2005 to 2013
- Geographically, northern Macomb County has a much lower rate of opiate/opioid-related deaths than southern Macomb County
- Most opiate/opioid-related drug deaths occur between the ages 20 to 29 and 35 to 54

ALCOHOL & ILLICIT DRUG USE

- Twenty-five percent of Macomb County residents aged 12 to 20 used alcohol in the last month, while 17% engaged in binge alcohol use
- The most used illicit drug in Macomb County for both adults and juveniles is marijuana – however, the data is reported federally, which includes *medical* marijuana use

MIPHY – YOUTH PERCEPTIONS & USE: ALCOHOL & OTHER SUBSTANCES

- From 2008 to 2014:
 - Most 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students perceived alcohol as risky and believed their parents would disapprove of them using alcohol
 - The younger the students, the more risky they viewed marijuana use, as well as the more they perceived their parent's would disapprove of them using marijuana – however, the perception of risk has significantly decreased for all age groups over time with only 40% of 11th grade students in 2014 perceiving marijuana as risky
 - Most substance use occurs by 11th grade students, followed by 9th and 7th grade students, respectively: alcohol use has decreased for all groups, marijuana use has remained relatively stable for all groups, and tobacco use remained stable for 7th grade students but decreased for both 9th and 11th grade students
 - The use of prescription drugs, barbiturates, or prescription pain killers has decreased for 9th and 11th grade students

SUBSTANCE USE DEPENDENCE & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT

- From 2010 to 2012, 3.60% of residents were alcohol dependent and 1.57% were illicit drug dependent
- From 2005 to 2014:
 - The primary drug of abuse associated with treatment admission rates changed from alcohol to heroin

- The number of alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana-related admissions decreased, while the number of opiate/opioid-related admissions increased, though the increase was most significant for heroin
- In 2015:
 - Heroin remained the leading substance for treatment admissions, followed by alcohol
 - The most significant increase by 36% was the number of opiate/opioid-related treatment admissions

JUVENILE & ADULT DRUG-RELATED CHARGES

- The most common drug-related charge for juveniles is possession of marijuana, followed by minor in possession
- Reflecting trends in youth perceptions of marijuana, juvenile drug-related charges involving marijuana (possessions, delivery or manufacture, or using marijuana) occur much more often than charges involving other substances
- From 2010 to 2014:
 - Most male drug arrests involved marijuana, followed by heroin
 - Heroin-related drug arrests increased, while other opiate/opioid drug arrests remained stable, and cocaine drug arrests significantly increased but sharply decreased in 2014

ALCOHOL & DRUG-RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES & FATALITIES

- Almost 20% of Michigan's drug-related traffic crashes occur in Macomb County
- From 2010 to 2014:
 - More traffic crashes involved alcohol rather than drugs but the amount remained relatively stable for both
 - Of Macomb County's total traffic crashes, 3.34% were related to alcohol and less than 1% were related to drugs
 - Of Macomb County's total *fatal* traffic crashes, 27.14% involved alcohol and 15.69% involved drugs – therefore, almost half of Macomb County's *fatal* traffic crashes are substance-related