

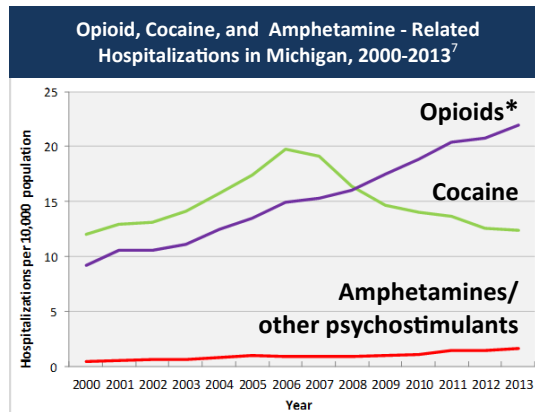
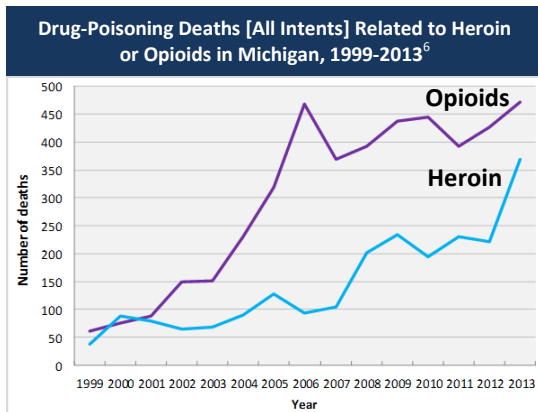


Opioid Abuse in Michigan

In 2011, the CDC announced that deaths from opioid prescription painkillers had reached epidemic levels, surpassing deaths from heroin and cocaine combined.¹ Opioids are pain-relieving medications that reduce the intensity of pain; they can produce drowsiness, confusion, nausea, euphoria, and other side effects. Opioids slow the central nervous system, reducing breathing and heart rate. Popular opioids include hydrocodone (Vicodin, Norco), oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet), morphine, and codeine.²

Prescription Opioid Use in Michigan

- * The number of opioid-related hospitalizations increased 136.9% between 2000 and 2013.³
- * The number of people admitted for prescription drug treatment increased by 369% from 2000 to 2011.⁴
- * The number of deaths in Michigan caused by unintentional prescription opioid overdose grew more than tenfold in 14 years: from 31 in 1999 to 384 in 2013.⁵
- * Drug-poisoning deaths [all intents] involving heroin grew by 66% from 2012 to 2013.⁶



* = heroin, morphine, methadone, opium; synthetics with morphine like

Combating Opioid Abuse in Michigan

Current Strategies⁸

- “Doctor shopping” law
- Prescription drug monitoring program (optional)
- Support for abuse treatment services
- Prescriber education required/recommended
- Require suspected misusers to use a single prescriber and pharmacy (Medicaid only)
- Require legal ID prior to dispensing controlled substances at pharmacy

Opportunities to Expand Strategies⁸

- Require medical providers to use MAPS, Michigan’s prescription drug monitoring program for all opioid prescriptions
- Enact a rescue drug law (to expand access to naloxone, which counteracts overdose)
- Require physical exam prior to each prescription
- Increase number of medication drop boxes for safe disposal
- Expand availability of medication-assisted addictions treatment

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