



# Heroin use and prescription drug misuse in Kentucky

Kentucky ranks fifth worst in the nation for drug overdose deaths, behind only New Mexico, West Virginia, Nevada and Utah.<sup>1</sup> Drug overdose deaths per capita quadrupled between 1999 and 2010.<sup>2</sup> They now surpass motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of accidental death in Kentucky.<sup>3</sup> The Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) reported 980 overdose deaths in 2013.<sup>4</sup> KIPRC found that while prescription drug overdose deaths have declined 10% from last year, deaths because of heroin use rose 55% from 129 in 2012 to 200 in 2013.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2013 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2015. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2013, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Retrieved Jan. 23, 2015, from <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

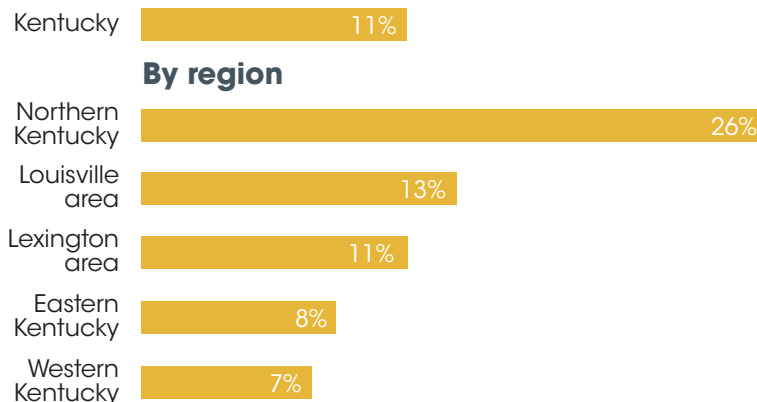
<sup>2</sup> In Trust for America's Health. (Oct. 7, 2013). Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic. Retrieved Jan. 2, 2014, from <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH-2013RxDrugAbuseRptFINAL.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (Oct. 2014). Special Emphasis Report: Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths, 2000-2013. Retrieved Dec. 3, 2014, from [www.safekentucky.org/images/documents/reports/substance\\_abuse/KY\\_Drug\\_Overdose\\_Death\\_Special\\_Emphasis\\_Report\\_2013\\_KIPRC.pdf](http://www.safekentucky.org/images/documents/reports/substance_abuse/KY_Drug_Overdose_Death_Special_Emphasis_Report_2013_KIPRC.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

**Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of using heroin?** (Graph shows only those who said yes.)



The **2014 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked Kentucky adults about the influence of drug misuse on their family members or friends.

**1 in 10 knows someone who has had problems because of heroin use**

Overall, 1 in 10 Kentucky adults (11%) reported family or friends who have experienced problems as a result of heroin use. This is similar to 2013, when 9% of adults knew someone who had experienced a problem due to heroin use. However, the rate is much higher in some parts of the state. Three in 10 Northern Kentucky adults (26%) knew

someone who has experienced problems as a result of heroin use.

**Misuse of prescription pain relievers continues to decline**

Nearly 1 in 4 adults (24%) reported that a family member or friend has experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine. This is down from previous years.

Since 2011, the percentage of adults who reported knowing friends and family members who have experienced problems as

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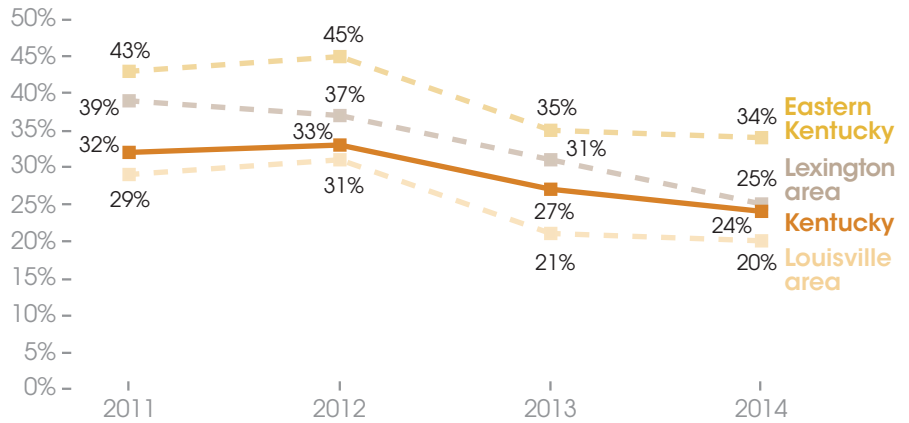
a result of abusing prescription pain relievers has declined in all five regions of the state. Eastern Kentucky and the Lexington and Louisville areas had significant declines.

## Young adults more likely to know of drug abuse

Older Kentucky adults are less likely to report having friends or family members who have experienced problems as a result of drug abuse. Adults 18 to 29 are more likely than older adults to report knowing someone who has experienced problems as a result of using prescription pain relievers or heroin.

### Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers?\*

*(Includes only the state and regions with significant changes 2011-2014.)*

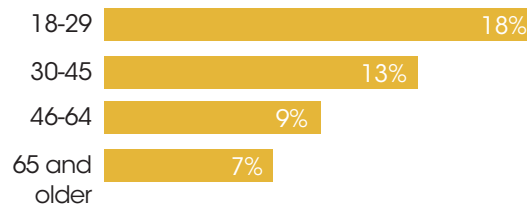


\*KHIP asked "Thinking about your friends and family ... have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine?" Graph shows only those who said yes.

### Percentage who reported having family members or friends who experienced problems as a result of using heroin or abusing prescription pain relievers, by age

*(Graph shows only those who said yes.)*

#### Heroin



#### Prescription pain relievers

