



Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative

Maine Information and Analysis Center



29 February 2024

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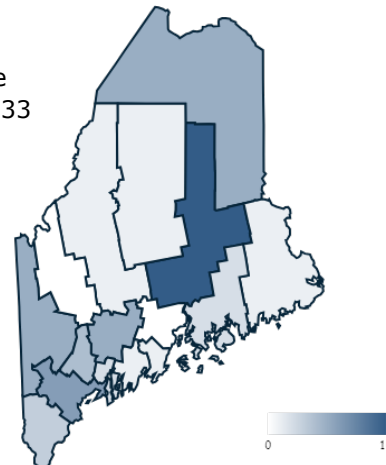
(U) Purpose: *This Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) report is a collection of information obtained from various sources and partners, including but not limited to public health, law enforcement, and EMS. The MIAC welcomes the sharing of information that your agency believes may be beneficial to this report and to other agencies.*

(U) Increasing Naloxone Availability and Distribution

(U) One strategy that has been reported to increase naloxone availability is through naloxone dispensing vending machines. A [CNN](#) analysis of state health departments finds that at least 33 states have naloxone vending machines. On 1 March 2024, a naloxone vending machine in Maine will be unveiled by [Mi'kmaq Nation's Health Department in Aroostook County](#). The machine is Maine's first naloxone vending machine north of Portland and will dispense free naloxone to anyone in need. Rural communities in Maine often have barriers to obtaining naloxone and other substance use treatments; increased access to naloxone has been shown to reduce the risk of fatal overdoses. Naloxone vending machines could serve as a strategy to increase naloxone access in high risk underserved populations.

(U) From July 2019 to November 2023, the Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative (MNDI) and the Maine Attorney General's Naloxone Distribution Program distributed over 448,000 doses of naloxone to communities throughout Maine. The [Maine Drug Data Hub](#) reports that during December 2023, there were an estimated 704 drug overdoses statewide, of which 47 were suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses. The remaining 657 were nonfatal overdoses broken down as follows: 322 emergency department visits, 183 EMS patients who were not transported to the emergency room, 129 reversals reported by community members to the MNDI, and an estimated 23 law enforcement reversals without EMS present. There were also an unknown number of nonfatal overdoses where 911 was not called and no reversal report was provided to the MNDI.

(U) For additional information on how to obtain naloxone in Maine, visit [Get Maine Naloxone](#), whether you are an individual seeking naloxone, an organization looking to have naloxone on hand for emergencies, an organization that wants to distribute naloxone, or an emergency first responder.



Fatal Overdoses in Maine by County December 2023

Of the 47 suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses in Maine for December 2023, Penobscot County had 10 fatal overdoses, the highest number of cases. Cumberland County had 6 fatal overdoses, the second highest number of cases. Three counties all had the third highest, including Aroostook County, with 5 fatal overdoses. These 5 counties accounted for 67% of the suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses in Maine for December 2023.

Data and Image Source: [December 2023 Monthly Overdose Report – Maine](#)

(U) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND NEWS

(U) Xylazine Awareness - Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Overdose Response Center

(U) The Delaware DHSS Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health has released an updated information bulletin on the risks, treatment and signs of use surrounding xylazine. The information bulletin discusses treatment provider awareness, such as harm reduction techniques and naloxone administration. Resources and care practices are provided for xylazine related health issues and wounds. Please use the following link for more information, [Xylazine Information Bulletin](#).

(U) Toxic Adulterant Alert: Medetomidine/Dexmedetomidine

(U) Medetomidine is a surgical anesthetic used in veterinary applications for both small and large animals. Dexmedetomidine, another form of the drug, is used in human medicine as well. It falls into the same class of drugs as xylazine, but studies have shown it to be more potent than xylazine. Medetomidine has been detected in several drug seizures and overdoses in many states since 2022. Indicators of medetomidine toxicity can be similar to those of opioids and xylazine, leading to depression in breathing, sedation, and more. For more information, please use the following link, [Toxic Adulterant Alert](#).

(U) First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act

(U) The First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act provides first responders and community members with resources on training, administering, and distributing naloxone. Those participating in the program will be expected to establish processes and protocols to help provide appropriate treatment, recovery, and harm reduction to those in need. For more information and to register, visit: [First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act](#).

(U) FY24 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program

(U) This program supports law enforcement-behavioral health collaboration to improve public health and safety. Part of the program is to provide funding to assist in the preparation, creation, expansion, and implementation of response plans. For more information, visit: [FY24 Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program](#).

Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/y5uboh4d>

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