



Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative

Maine Information and Analysis Center



Tracked by MIAC SINS: 04, 17

17 June 2024

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2024-0000599

(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 Maine Information Analysis Center (MIAC) welcomes the sharing of information that your agency believes may be beneficial to this report and to other agencies.*

(U) PUBLIC HEALTH RISK – MEDETOMIDINE

(U) Medetomidine, used by veterinarians as an animal tranquilizer, has been linked to recent overdose outbreaks in Chicago and Pittsburgh.¹ Multiple drug samples collected from the West Side of Chicago on 11 May 2024, tested positive for elevated levels of medetomidine.² Experts say the chemical is being mixed into counterfeit pills and powders and then sold on the street. It is impossible for drug users to detect and slows the human heart rate to dangerous levels. NPS Discovery, an open-access drug early warning system, shared "The numbers reported out of Philadelphia were 160 hospitalizations over a 3 or 4-day period." Public health advisories have now been issued in [Illinois](#) and [Pennsylvania](#). Medetomidine was previously detected in the illicit drug supply in 2022 but only rarely and in small amounts.¹

(U) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND NEWS

(U) Medetomidine Rapidly Proliferating Across USA – Implicated in Recreational Opioid Drug Supply & Causing Overdose Outbreaks The Center for Forensic Research Science & Education has notified public health, harm reduction, first responders, clinicians, medical examiners and coroners, forensic and clinical laboratories, and all other related communities about new information surrounding the emergent adulterant [medetomidine](#). For additional information, please visit, [Medetomidine Rapidly Proliferating Across USA – Implicated In Recreational Opioid Drug Supply & Causing Overdose Outbreaks \(cfsre.org\)](#)

(U) Governor Mills 6th Annual Opioid Response Summit Governor Janet Mills will host her 6th Annual Opioid Response Summit on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. The annual summit is part of the state's commitment to fighting the opioid epidemic and brings together leaders from around Maine and the country to collaborate and share best practices to help Maine people affected by the opioid crisis. For additional information, please visit, [Summary - Governor Mills 6th Annual Opioid Response Summit \(ME#801/880\) \(cvent.com\)](#)

(U) New CDC data shows drug overdose deaths decreased by 16 percent in Maine last year Maine was one of four states in the U.S. that had a decrease in drug overdoses last year. The 16 percent decrease is equal to 116 fewer people who lost their lives from overdoses last year, according to data from Maine Drug Data Hub. For additional information, please visit, [Drug overdose deaths decreased by 16 percent in Maine last year | newscentermaine.com](#)

(U) Maine Drug Data Hub The Maine Drug Data Hub is a collaboration between multiple state departments, the Governor's Office and the University of Maine. The collection of state and community information on the hub provides resources, data, and visualizations to inform Mainers about efforts to reduce drug use and drug overdose as well as to track progress towards reaching the goals outlined in [Maine's Opioid Response 2023 – 2025 Strategic Action Plan](#). For more information, please visit, [Maine Drug Data Hub](#).

(U) Togus Veterans Hospital in Augusta breaks ground on new inpatient substance use disorder unit Togus Veterans Hospital in Augusta held a groundbreaking ceremony in May for a new 12-bed inpatient facility to treat substance use disorder for veterans. For additional information, please visit, [Togus Veterans Hospital in Augusta breaks ground on new inpatient substance use disorder unit Saturday | Maine Public](#)

¹Mann, B. (2024, June 3). Gangs mix another potent sedative into U.S. street drugs causing 'mass overdoses.' NPR. Retrieved June 3, 2024, from Warnings of new deadly chemical in street drug supply : NPR.

²Chicago Department of Public Health. (2024, May 20). Health Alert: Medetomidine In Chicago's Drug Supply. Retrieved June 3, 2024, from Alert Detail - HAN (chicagohan.org).