

# MAINE MONTHLY OVERDOSE REPORT

For June 2025

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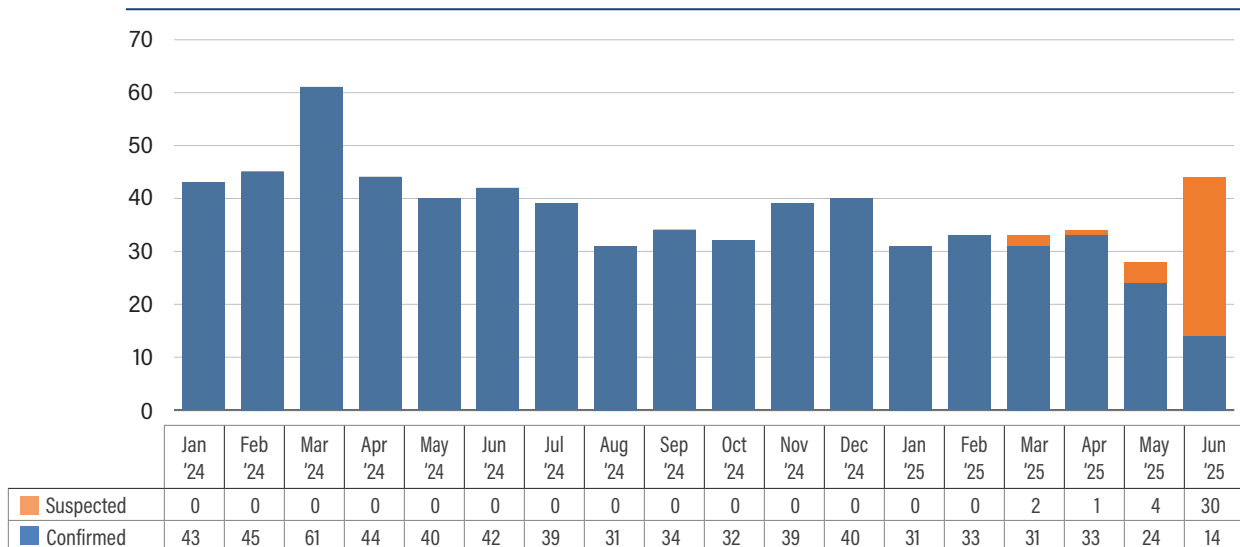
## Overview

This report documents suspected and confirmed fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses in Maine during June 2025 as well as for the period January 2024–June 2025 (Table 1). The total number of confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses during 2025 is 203, 26.2% lower than the total confirmed fatal overdoses for January–June 2024, 275. The total number of nonfatal overdoses during January–June 2025 is 3,609, 16.7% lower than the total reported nonfatal overdoses for January–June 2024, 4,333. Monthly proportions of 2025 fatalities from January to June averaged 5.4%. They ranged from a high of 6.1% in February to a low of 4.6% in March. During 2024, fatal overdoses constituted 5.8% of all overdoses, just slightly lower than 2023 (6.1%).

Data derived from multiple statewide sources were compiled and deduplicated to calculate fatal and nonfatal overdose totals (Table 1). These include nonfatal overdose incidents reported by hospital emergency departments (ED), nonfatal emergency medical service (EMS) responses without transport to the ED, overdose reversals reported by law enforcement in the absence of EMS, and overdose reversals reported by community members or agencies receiving state-supplied naloxone through the Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative. There are also an unknown number of private overdose reversals that were not reported and an unknown number of community-reported reversals that may have overlapped with emergency response by EMS or law enforcement. The total number of fatal overdoses in this report includes those that have been confirmed, as well as those that are suspected but not yet confirmed for March, April, May, and June 2025 (see Figure 1).

The total number of suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses and reported nonfatal overdoses for June 2025, 750, is displayed in Table 1. Of those 750, there were 44 (5.9%) confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses, 356 (47.5%) nonfatal emergency department visits, 233 (31.1%) nonfatal EMS responses not transported to the emergency department, 96 (12.8%) reported community overdose reversals, and 21 (2.8%) law enforcement reversals in incidents that did not include EMS.

Figure 1. Suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses, all drugs, January 2024 through June 2025



**Table 1:** Composite reported overdose totals, all drugs, January 2024–June 2025

	Nonfatal					Total confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses	Total overdoses
	Emergency Dept.	EMS not transported to emergency	Community reversals with naloxone	Law enforcement nonfatal overdose response without EMS	Total nonfatal overdoses		
January 2024	269	225	139	26	659	45	704
February 2024	305	242	136	28	711	43	754
March 2024	379	232	119	27	757	61	818
April 2024	253	205	190	14	662	44	706
May 2024	311	257	165	24	757	40	797
June 2024	344	232	202	12	790	42	832
July 2024	293	235	166	23	717	39	756
August 2024	287	215	119	10	631	31	662
September 2024	318	199	114	6	637	34	671
October 2024	299	198	86	17	600	32	632
November 2024	261	176	58	18	513	39	552
December 2024	353	190	49	12	604	40	644
2024 YTD total	3672	2606	1543	217	8038	490	8528
% of 2024 YTD total	43.0%	30.6%	18.1%	2.5%	94.3%	5.8%	100%
January 2025	234	193	53	15	495	31	526
February 2025	254	159	74	18	505	33	538
March 2025	376	200	71	31	678	33	711
April 2025	295	211	90	18	614	34	648
May 2025	309	201	88	13	611	28	639
June 2025	356	233	96	21	706	44	750
2025 YTD Total	1824	1197	472	116	3609	167	3812
% of 2025 YTD Total	47.8%	31.4%	12.4%	3.0%	94.7%	5.4%	100%

## Law Enforcement Response to Fatal and Nonfatal Overdose Incidents

Due to the method used to deduplicate nonfatal overdose incidents to derive a composite number of overdoses for the month, the total activity of both law enforcement officials and EMS agencies is underrepresented in Table 1 because of the overlap between them. The process used to deduplicate overdoses begins by removing fatal overdoses from the emergency department and EMS overdose incidents. Then the number of patients transported to emergency departments by Maine EMS are removed from the EMS overdose incidents. Finally, EMS involvement and fatal overdose incidents are removed from law enforcement responses.

Table 2 shows the public safety response to fatal and nonfatal overdose events in January–June 2025 as well as January–December 2024. During 2024, law enforcement officers responded to a reported 1,156 overdose incidents (451 fatal; 705 nonfatal), and Maine EMS responded to a reported 9,468 incidents (385 fatal; 9,083 nonfatal). During 2025, law enforcement officers responded to a reported 461 incidents (172 fatal; 289 nonfatal), and Maine EMS responded to a reported 4,619 incidents (134 fatal; 4,485 nonfatal).

**Table 2: Fatal and nonfatal overdose emergency response counts from law enforcement and EMS, including overlapping cases**

	Fatal overdose response Jan-Dec 2024	Nonfatal overdose response Jan-Dec 2024	Total overdose response Jan-Dec 2024	Fatal overdose response Jan-Jun 2025	Nonfatal overdose response Jan-Jun 2025	Total overdose response Jan-Jun 2025
Maine EMS	385	9083	9468	134	4885	4619
Law Enforcement	451	705	1156	172	289	461

\*Please note numbers will fluctuate from month to month as public safety agencies catch up their reporting. Due to methodological convention, alcohol-only cases are excluded from this table. However, we recognize that alcohol is a large part of substance misuse epidemic. Cases with both drugs and alcohol are included. Please note these numbers may fluctuate higher than the data in Table 1 because some EMS overdoses responses, once the patient is transported to the hospital, are deemed to be non-overdose emergencies such as cardiac arrest or diabetic coma.

### County Distribution of Suspected Nonfatal Overdoses with EMS Response

Table 3 shows the frequency distribution of nonfatal overdoses to which EMS responded at the county level. Overdose reversal totals reported by community partners and emergency departments are not reported by county; only EMS case data include county frequencies. The June 2025 monthly totals in the far right column can be compared to the percentage of the census population on the far left, or to the percentage of nonfatal overdoses for the year in 2025 or in 2024. Caution must be exercised viewing single counties, especially for a single month, due to small numbers. These may fluctuate randomly, without reflecting any statistically significant trend.

The 2025 percentage totals for most counties fall within 0 to 2 percentage points of the 2020 census distribution. Compared to the 2020 census proportion, Cumberland County is 6 percentage points higher, and Penobscot County and Androscoggin County are 3 percentage points higher. York County is 5 percentage points lower.

**Table 3: County of EMS incident among suspected and confirmed nonfatal overdoses**

	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Est. N = 9083	Jan-June 2025 Est. N = 4485	June 2025 Est. N = 834
Androscoggin	8%	913 10%	500 11%	90 11%
Aroostook	5%	479 5%	185 4%	42 5%
Cumberland	22%	2309 25%	1235 28%	230 28%
Franklin	2%	165 2%	78 2%	10 1%
Hancock	4%	241 3%	109 2%	29 3%
Kennebec	9%	902 10%	389 9%	74 9%
Knox	3%	262 3%	126 3%	14 2%
Lincoln	3%	171 2%	84 2%	21 3%
Oxford	4%	334 4%	174 4%	48 6%
Penobscot	11%	1139 13%	613 14%	109 13%
Piscataquis	1%	101 1%	50 1%	10 1%
Sagadahoc	3%	152 2%	67 1%	12 1%
Somerset	4%	399 4%	187 4%	28 3%
Waldo	3%	197 2%	100 2%	18 2%
Washington	2%	225 2%	114 3%	12 1%
York	16%	1094 12%	474 11%	87 10%

\*EMS nonfatal overdose counts include incidents where a patient may have died after admission to the ED. Please note numbers will fluctuate from month-to-month as public safety agencies catch up their reporting. Due to methodological convention, alcohol-only cases are excluded from this table. However, we recognize that alcohol is a large part of substance misuse epidemic. Cases with both drugs and alcohol are included.

## Age and Gender Distribution of Suspected Nonfatal Overdoses with EMS Response

Table 4 displays the age composition of individuals suspected of experiencing nonfatal overdoses involving EMS response in June 2025, 2025 year to date, and 2024. Overdose reversal totals reported by community partners and emergency departments are not categorized and reported by age; only EMS case data include monthly age frequencies. Age group totals can be compared to the 2020 census proportion in the far left column. Caution must be exercised as the small number of cases in each month is vulnerable to random fluctuation that may not reflect a significant statistical trend. The age distribution for both 2024 and 2025 year to date compared to the 2020 census proportion shows a disproportionately large impact of suspected nonfatal overdose victims with EMS involvement for those aged 25–54. This impact is illustrated by looking at the 25–54-year age groups, which constitute 36% of the population in the 2020 census compared to 63% of the nonfatal overdose population in 2025. In 2025, there are 14 percentage points fewer overdose victims among those under the age of 18 compared to the percentage of the census population in that age group. Similarly, there were 3 percentage points fewer overdose victims among those aged 55–64, and 11 percentage points fewer overdose victims among those 65 and older compared to the percentages of the census population for those age groups.

**Table 4:** Reported age group among suspected nonfatal overdose victims involving EMS response

	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Est. N = 9127	Jan-June 2025 Est. N = 4484	June 2025 Est. N = 829
< 18	18%	381 4%	193 4%	25 3%
18-24	7%	827 9%	350 8%	69 8%
25-34	12%	1776 19%	797 18%	137 17%
35-44	12%	2335 26%	1257 28%	231 28%
45-54	12%	1475 16%	768 17%	163 20%
55-64	16%	1228 13%	571 13%	99 12%
> 64	23%	1105 12%	548 12%	105 13%

Table 5 displays the reported gender of individuals experiencing nonfatal overdoses involving EMS response in June 2025, 2025 year to date, as well as 2024. Overdose reversal totals reported by community partners and emergency departments are not categorized by gender; only EMS case data include monthly gender categories. Gender group totals in the EMS data can be compared to the 2020 census proportion by gender in the far left column or the January–December 2024 totals in the center column. When comparing the January–June 2025 with 2024, as well as the census population proportion, caution must be exercised as the small number of cases in each month is vulnerable to random fluctuation that may not reflect a significant statistical trend. Males represent 49% of the 2020 estimated census population, 58% of the nonfatal overdose victims with EMS involvement in 2024, and 59% during January–June 2025.

**Table 5:** Reported gender among suspected nonfatal overdose victims involving EMS response

	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Est. N = 8776	Jan-June 2025 Est. N = 4317	June 2025 Est. N = 797
Male	49%	5098 58%	2555 59%	482 60%
Female	51%	3677 42%	1760 41%	315 40%
Transgender	Not collected	1 0.0%	2 0.05%	0 0%

### County Distribution of Suspected and Confirmed Fatal Overdoses

Table 6 shows the frequency distribution of fatal overdoses at the county level.<sup>1</sup> The June 2025 monthly totals in the far right column can be compared either to the percentage of the census population in the far left column, the percentage of county fatal overdoses for 2024, or the 2025 year-to-date percentages. Caution must be exercised when viewing single counties with small numbers for a single month. These may fluctuate randomly, without reflecting any significant statistical trend. The 2025 percentages for most counties fall within 0 to 2 percentage points of the 2020 census distribution. Compared to the 2020 census proportion, Penobscot County is 6 percentage points higher. Hancock County and Sagadahoc County are 3 percentage points lower.

**Table 6:** County of death among suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses

	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Est. N = 490	Jan-Jun 2025 Est. N = 203	June 2025 Est. N = 44
Androscoggin	8%	46 9%	19 9%	3 7%
Aroostook	5%	39 8%	14 7%	1 2%
Cumberland	22%	90 18%	46 23%	11 25%
Franklin	2%	6 1%	5 2%	1 2%
Hancock	4%	15 3%	3 1%	1 2%
Kennebec	9%	47 10%	14 7%	4 9%
Knox	3%	22 4%	7 3%	4 9%
Lincoln	3%	18 4%	2 1%	0 0%
Oxford	4%	20 4%	6 3%	2 5%
Penobscot	11%	64 13%	35 17%	8 18%
Piscataquis	1%	5 1%	2 1%	0 0%
Sagadahoc	3%	7 1%	0 0%	0 0%
Somerset	4%	22 4%	4 2%	0 0%
Waldo	3%	18 4%	8 4%	1 2%
Washington	2%	16 3%	8 4%	2 5%
York	16%	55 11%	30 15%	6 14%

### Age and Sex Distribution of Fatal Overdose Victims

Table 7 displays the age and sex composition<sup>2</sup> of the fatal overdose population for June 2025, 2025 year to date, and 2024, compared to the 2020 estimated census population. When comparing the June 2025 data with 2024 as well as with the census population proportion, caution must be exercised as the small number of cases in each month is vulnerable to random fluctuation that may not reflect a significant statistical trend.

The cumulative proportion of males is lower so far in 2025 (64%) compared to 2024 (66%) but higher than the census population (49%). The age distribution for 2025 compared to the 2020 census proportion shows a disproportionately large impact of fatal overdoses in those aged 35–64, as was true in 2024. That group includes 40% of the 2020 estimated census population, compared to 76% of the fatal overdose population in 2025 and 75% in 2024. Those ages 18–24 constitute 7% of the 2020 census population but 3% of 2025 fatal overdoses. Those 65 and older comprise 23% of the census population but only 9% of the 2025 fatal overdoses.

<sup>1</sup> This table reports the county of death rather than the county of residence.

<sup>2</sup> Note that death certificate reports sex as male or female without gender categories.

**Table 7:** Decedent reported age group and sex among suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses\*

	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Est. N = 490	Jan-June 2025 Est. N = 203	June 2025 Est. N = 44
Male	49%	322 66%	129 64%	23 52%
< 18	18%	5 1%	0 0%	0 0%
18-24	7%	13 3%	6 3%	0 0%
25-34	12%	65 13%	25 12%	4 9%
35-44	12%	143 29%	62 31%	7 16%
45-54	12%	126 26%	52 26%	19 43%
55-64	16%	98 20%	40 20%	9 20%
> 64	23%	40 8%	18 9%	5 11%

\*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 8 displays the reported race and ethnicity of confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses in June 2025, 2025 year to date, and 2024 compared to the 2020 estimated census population. Note that race and ethnicity are not finalized until the full death certificate is entered into Vital Records, and a small number of decedents’ records currently lack information about these variables. Out of 203 decedents for whom race was reported in 2025, 96% of the victims were identified as White, 2% as Black/African American, and <1% as American Indian/Alaska Native. Out of 203 decedents for whom Hispanic ethnicity status was reported, 1% were identified as Hispanic.

**Table 8:** Decedent race and ethnicity among suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses\*

A: Race	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Race N = 490	Jan-June 2025 Race N = 203	June 2025 Race N = 44
White alone	94%	452 92%	195 96%	42 95%
Black/African American alone	2%	19 4%	4 2%	1 2%
American Indian/Alaska Native alone	1%	10 2%	1 0%	0 0%
Other race and 2+ races combined	3%	9 2%	3 1%	1 2%
B: Ethnicity	% 2020 estimated Census population	Jan-Dec 2024 Ethnicity N = 483	Jan-June 2025 Ethnicity N = 203	June 2025 Ethnicity N = 44
Hispanic/Latinx alone	2%	9 2%	3 1%	1 2%

\*Race and ethnicity data for some cases are unavailable until drug deaths are confirmed. †Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

### Military Status and Housing Stability of Fatal Overdose Victims

Out of the 200 cases for which military background was reported in 2025, 12 (6%) were identified as having a military background. Out of the 42 cases in June 2025 where military background was reported, 4 (10%) were identified as having a military background.

Of the 203 total suspected and confirmed fatal overdose cases year to date in 2025, undomiciled or transient housing status was reported for 21 (10%) victims. Among those 21, the largest proportions of undomiciled persons were found in Androscoggin County (6, 29%) Cumberland County (6, 29%) and York County (3, 14%). In June 2025, 5 fatal overdose victims (11%) were identified as undomiciled.

### Basic Incident Patterns of Fatal Overdoses

Table 9 reports basic incident patterns for fatal overdoses. June 2025 can be compared to 2025 year to date or to 2024. Caution must be exercised interpreting a single month of data as numbers may fluctuate randomly and not reflect a statistically significant trend. In addition, data totals may change slightly as suspected cases are confirmed or eliminated.

Both EMS and police responded together to most fatal overdoses (53%) in 2025. Law enforcement was more likely to respond to a scene alone (31%) than EMS (12%). The overwhelming majority (91%) of confirmed fatal drug overdoses were ruled as, or suspected of being, accidental manner of death.

Of the 203 confirmed or suspected fatal overdoses in 2025, 45 (22%) had a reported history of prior overdose, fewer than in 2024 (30%).

Although most cases had bystanders or witnesses present at the scene by the time first responders arrived, the details about who was present at the time of the overdose were frequently unclear. However, responding family and friends or other bystanders administered naloxone for 19 (9%) of the 2025 fatal overdoses, lower than the proportion in 2024 (13%). Often, EMS and/or law enforcement administered naloxone in addition to bystanders or witnesses. During 2025, 26% of suspected and confirmed fatal overdose cases had naloxone administered at the scene by EMS, bystanders, and/or law enforcement, the same as in 2024 (26%).

Of the 134 suspected or confirmed drug death cases with EMS involvement during 2025, 55 (41%) victims were already deceased when EMS arrived. In the remaining 79 (59%) cases, resuscitation was attempted either at the scene or presumably in the ambulance during transport to the emergency room. One case had an unreported response once EMS arrived. Of those 79 who were still alive when EMS arrived, 32 (41%) were transported, and 47 (59%) did not survive to be transported. Thus, out of 134 ultimately fatal cases with EMS response, only 32 (24%) remained alive long enough to be transported but died during transport or at the emergency room. This outcome is likely due to a combination of the high number of cases with fentanyl as a cause of death and individuals using alone. Fentanyl acts more quickly than other opioids, and there is less time for bystanders to find an overdose victim alive, administer naloxone, and call 911.

**Table 9:** Incident characteristics among suspected and confirmed fatal overdoses

	2024 Jan-Dec Est. N = 490	Jan-June 2025 Est. N = 203	June 2025 Est. N = 44
EMS response alone	35 7%	24 12%	9 20%
Law enforcement alone	96 20%	62 31%	14 32%
EMS and law enforcement	350 71%	107 53%	20 45%
Private transport to Emergency Dept.	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Naloxone administration reported at the scene	125 26%	53 26%	9 20%
Bystander only administered	48 10%	9 4%	0 0%
Law enforcement only administered	9 2%	4 2%	1 2%
EMS only administered	41 8%	24 12%	4 9%
EMS and law enforcement administered	2 0%	5 2%	0 0%
EMS and bystander administered	12 2%	6 3%	2 5%
Law enforcement and bystander administered	4 1%	2 1%	1 2%
EMS, bystander, and law enforcement administered	1 0%	2 1%	1 2%
Naloxone administered by unspecified person	2 0%	0 0%	0 0%
History of prior overdose	145 30%	45 22%	9 20%

Table 10 displays the frequencies of the most prominent drug categories causing death among confirmed drug deaths. As expected, within the confirmed drug death cases so far in 2025, nonpharmaceutical fentanyl was the most frequent cause of death, mentioned on the death certificate of 104 (63%) victims. The small number of confirmed cases in 2025 makes analysis based on single drug categories less meaningful; totals may fluctuate greatly as toxicology results are confirmed.

Fentanyl is nearly always found in combination with multiple other drugs. Heroin involvement, declining rapidly in recent years, was reported as a cause of death in 7 (4%) of 2025 deaths, 12 (2%) of 2024 deaths, and 12 (2%) of 2023 deaths. Xylazine was identified as a co-intoxicant with fentanyl for the first time in 2021. Among 166 confirmed deaths in 2025, there were 21 cases (13%) with xylazine listed in addition to fentanyl as a cause of death.

Stimulants continue to increase as a cause of death, usually in combination with other drugs, particularly fentanyl. Cocaine-involved fatalities constituted 72 (43%) of confirmed cases so far in 2025, the same as 2024 (43%) and an increase from 37% in 2023. Fentanyl is mentioned as a cause in combination with cocaine in 47 cases, 65% of 2025 year-to-date cocaine cases. Methamphetamine was cited as a cause of death in 67 (40%) of the confirmed fatal overdoses so far in 2025, higher than in 2024 (38%); 48 (72%) of the methamphetamine deaths also involved fentanyl as a co-intoxicant cause of death. Cocaine and methamphetamine are named together on 19 (11%) death certificates in 2025, in most of those cases (16, 84%) as co-intoxicants of fentanyl.

**Table 10: Key drug categories and combinations causing death among confirmed overdoses**

Cause of death (alone or in combination with other drugs) Sample size for confirmed cases only	Jan–Dec 2024 Est. N = 490	Jan–June 2025 Est. N = 166	June 2025 Est. N = 14
Fentanyl or fentanyl analogs	339 69%	104 63%	10 71%
Heroin	12 2%	7 4%	0 0%
Cocaine	213 43%	72 43%	9 64%
Methamphetamine	184 38%	67 40%	7 50%
Pharmaceutical opioids**	84 17%	29 17%	2 14%
Fentanyl and heroin	12 2%	7 4%	0 0%
Fentanyl and cocaine	161 33%	47 28%	4 29%
Fentanyl and methamphetamine	137 28%	48 29%	7 50%
Fentanyl and xylazine	72 15%	21 13%	4 29%
Fentanyl and tramadol	1 0%	0 0%	0 0%

\*\*Nonpharmaceutical tramadol is now being combined with fentanyl in pills and powders for illicit drug use. When found in combination with fentanyl, and in the absence of a known prescription, tramadol is categorized as a nonpharmaceutical opioid.

## Highlight of the Month

### Governor Mills' Hosts 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Opioid Response Summit

The Augusta Civic Center was filled with over 1000 attendees on July 10, 2025, for Governor Janet T. Mills' 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Opioid Response Summit. The theme of the Summit was *Sustaining Progress Through Prevention, Perseverance and Passion*. The first such summit was held in June 2019 during the first year of the governor's first term and was highlighted by keynote presentations by author Sam Quinones (*Dreamland* and *The Least of Us*) and White House Director of Drug Control Policy Michael Botticelli. Governor Mills and the Director of Opioid Response in her office, Gordon Smith, J.D., have hosted a Summit each year since and a final 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit has been scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2026, in Bangor at the Cross Insurance Center.

This year's summit featured keynote presentations by noted author and recovery advocate Ryan Hampton and epidemiologist Nabarun Dasgupta, PhD, from the University of North Carolina Drug Lab. Other speakers included Governor Mills, Attorney General Aaron Frey, Office of Behavioral Health Director Sarah Squirrell, MaineCare Director Michelle Probert, and Director of the Maine CDC Puthiery Va, D.O. Dr. Erik Steele provided attendees with an update on the 1000 Lives Campaign, designed to save 1000 Mainers from fatal overdose over a five-year period. The campaign, organized by health professionals and the Maine Medical Association, is in its second year. In addition to the plenary talks, which were live streamed, 24 breakout sessions were offered and over 50 organizations offered tables with resources and information.

Before the lunchtime break, Points North Institute introduced a new short documentary film in the Recovery in Maine series featuring healing and recovery among Maine's native population. The film will be shown at numerous community events between now and the end of the year.

The topics featured in the breakout sessions were spread over the broad areas of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support. Director Smith moderated a discussion amongst colleagues from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, comparing the opioid response activities in each of the states. Additional sessions included

- The state's Child Safety and Well-Being Plan
- A Re-Entry Simulation Exercise
- The OPTIONS program featuring some of the 32 behavioral health liaisons and the 7 recovery coaches supporting their work
- "Healing a Village: A Practical Guide to Building Recovery Ready Communities", featuring author Mark Lefebvre. The first 800 registrants received a free copy of this recently published book.
- A presentation by scientists from The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor on the latest research on addiction taking place at the Lab.

A recording of all plenary sessions and two of the breakout sessions noted above are available free of charge on the [ADEPT ME website](#).

## Background Information about this Report

*This report, funded jointly by the Maine Office of Attorney General and the Office of Behavioral Health,<sup>1</sup> provides an overview of statistics regarding suspected and confirmed fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses each month. Data for the fatal overdoses were collected at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner and data regarding nonfatal overdoses were contributed by the Maine CDC, Maine Emergency Medical Services, Maine ODMAP initiative, Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative, and Office of Attorney General Naloxone Distribution. Year-to-date numbers are updated as medical examiner cases are finalized, and their overdose status is confirmed or ruled out, and as occasional lagged EMS, ED, and ODMAP data totals are finalized. The totals are expected to shift as case completion occurs. In addition, due to the small sample size in each month, expect totals to fluctuate from month to month because of random variation. Monthly reports are posted on [mainedrugdata.org](http://mainedrugdata.org).*

*A “drug death” is confirmed when one or more drugs are mentioned on the death certificate as a cause or significant contributing factor for the death. Most drug-induced fatalities are accidents related primarily to drug lethality, the unique vulnerability of the drug user, such as underlying medical conditions, and the circumstances surrounding drug use during that moment.*

*A “suspected” drug fatality is identified by physiological signs of overdose as well as physical signs at the scene and witness information. To be confirmed as a drug death, the medical examiner must have issued a final death certificate which includes the names of the specific drugs. A forensic toxicology exam must also have been done, which includes a minimum of two toxicology tests, one to screen for drugs present, and another that will quantify the levels of drugs in the decedent’s system. All cases receive a thorough external examination and comprehensive toxicology tests. In some cases, a complete autopsy is also done. Additional data, such as medical records and police incident reports are also collected. Normally cases are completed within one month; however, due to recent problems being experienced by our national toxicology testing service, completion of cases is occurring at about 6–8 weeks after death, and occasionally longer.*

*By highlighting drug deaths at the monthly level, this report brings attention to the often-dramatic shifts in totals that can occur from month to month. These fluctuations are common with small numbers and will tend toward an average over time. Whereas the overall number of overdose deaths are a critical indicator of individual and societal stress, this metric itself can be quite resistant to public policy interventions due to its complexity. Overdose fatalities occur because of multiple unique and interacting factors, as mentioned above. For that reason, these reports will seek to monitor components that can be directly affected by specific public health education and harm reduction interventions. The statistics in this report reflect both suspected and confirmed “occurrent” deaths, that is, deaths that occur in the State of Maine, even though they may not be Maine residents. These totals also do not include Maine residents who die in other states. For these reasons, totals will differ slightly from the statistics reported by the National Center for Health Statistics, which reports only confirmed “resident” deaths. In addition, due to recently reported updates of toxicology results and newly confirmed or eliminated drug death cases, the 2024 statistics have changed slightly from those reported in the previous monthly report.*

1 The Office of Attorney General supports ongoing research on fatal overdoses by the University of Maine. Additionally, the Overdose Data to Action cooperative agreement from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention also provides funding to the State of Maine’s Office of Behavioral Health and Maine Center for Disease Control, which also supports University programs involving fatal and nonfatal overdoses surveillance and enables the collection of nonfatal metrics included in this report. The conclusions in this report do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.