



Maine Drug Monitoring Initiative

Maine Information and Analysis Center



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MIAC.MSP@maine.gov

(207) 624-7280

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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) PUBLIC HEALTH AWARENESS

(U) Cocaine Trends

(U) Cocaine is an addictive stimulant drug made from the leaves of the coca plant which is native to South America. It produces a rapid, intense euphoria ("high"), increased energy, heightened alertness, and elevated confidence, often followed by agitation, anxiety, irritability, and strong cravings. It can be snorted, smoked, injected, or ingested.³

(U) According to the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment, Mexico-based cartels continue to traffic multi-ton shipments from South America and smuggle it via sea, air, or overland through Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean for subsequent movement into the United States. Once in the United States (U.S.), U.S. based criminal groups and street gangs distribute the cocaine, some of which is converted to crack at the local level.¹

(U) Forensic testing shows frequent contamination of cocaine with fentanyl and fentanyl related compounds, increasing the risk of unintentional opioid overdose.¹ The presence of fentanyl in the cocaine supply increases overdose risk among individuals who may not have opioid tolerance or who may not perceive themselves to be at risk for opioid overdose.¹² The National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) surveillance documented nearly 68,800 emergency medical services encounters throughout the U.S. for nonfatal cocaine related overdoses from January 2024 through July 2025, with 14,921 (21.7%) occurring in Northeastern states.²

(U) Overdose and forensic data in Maine indicate that cocaine remains a prominent contributor to overdose fatalities. In 2025, cocaine was cited as a cause of death in 163 confirmed overdoses (47%), a slightly higher percentage than in 2024 (43%), 100 (29%) of the cocaine deaths also involved fentanyl as a co-intoxicant.⁴ National overdose reporting from the CDC shows that cocaine involved fatalities increased in recent years and remain a contributor to psychostimulant and polysubstance death trends.⁵

(U) These patterns persistent supply, continued use, frequent co-intoxication with opioids, and high rates of emergency responses underscore cocaine's ongoing public health risk. Cocaine use is associated with cardiovascular complications, addiction potential, and increased overdose threat. The risk of fatal overdose is further amplified when cocaine is used in combination with opioids, particularly fentanyl, as demonstrated in both state and national data.⁴⁵ These trends reinforce the need for public health interventions including continued naloxone access, early intervention, and expanded treatment services.

(U) Recent Law Enforcement Drug Seizures in Maine: December 2025 – January 2026

(U) Through December 2025 and January 2026, Maine law enforcement conducted multiple operations resulting in substantial drug seizures across several Maine counties. In Androscoggin

County (Livermore Falls), 166 grams of cocaine and 143 grams of crack cocaine were seized, with a separate search uncovering \$30,000 in cocaine and crack cocaine.⁹¹⁰ In Piscataquis County (Abbot), authorities seized more than 280 grams of cocaine and 40 grams of fentanyl.¹¹ Operations in Aroostook County (Fort Fairfield) seized approximately 7.8 grams of fentanyl,¹² while in Knox County (Rockland), cocaine and fentanyl were recovered.¹³ A search in Penobscot County (Enfield) led to multiple arrests and drug seizures.¹⁴ In Kennebec County (Waterville), 16 pounds of methamphetamine were seized after a months-long investigation,¹⁵ and raids in Somerset County (Pittsfield) yielded nearly 2 pounds of combined fentanyl and cocaine with a street value of \$78,000.¹⁶

(U) These seizures reflect coordinated multi-agency efforts including Maine State Police, local law enforcement, the Maine DEA, and federal partners—to disrupt high-potency and high-volume trafficking throughout the state.

(U) Additional Information and News

(U) Maine Drug Data Hub Monthly Overdose Data

(U) The most recent monthly overdose report available from the Maine Drug Data Hub reports that fatal overdoses in Maine continue to decline. The total number of confirmed and suspected fatal overdoses during 2025 is 390, 20.4% lower than the total confirmed fatal overdoses for 2024. For additional information, please visit [Maine Monthly Overdose Report for December 2025](#)

(U) Governor Mills Monthly Opioid Response Seminar Series

(U) Governor Mills' Monthly Opioid Response Webinar Series will continue on 6 March 2026 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. The webinars are held on the first Friday of every month. For additional information, please visit [Governor Mills Opioid Response Summit & Seminars –](#)

(U) 2025 World Drug Report Released

(U) The World Drug Report for 2025 was recently released. The report examines drug market patterns and trends from around the world and aims to anticipate and address drug threats. Key findings and patterns are presented across different drugs and include examination of drug demand, consequences, and drug policy updates. For additional information, please visit [World Drug Report 2025](#)

(U) 2026 Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Seizures

(U) To date in 2026, DEA national drug seizures include 2.3 million fentanyl pills, 832 pounds of fentanyl powder, 50,300 methamphetamine pills, 6,018 pounds of methamphetamine powder, and 4,985 pounds of cocaine powder. For additional information, please visit [Home | DEA.gov](#)

(U) Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Trends, Analysis and Threats Webinar

(U) The ORS Trends, Analysis & Threats webinars are a bi-monthly series delivering briefings on current and emerging drug trends from experts with leading forensic and toxicology labs. These webinars are open to any interested professionals throughout the country working in public safety, public health, or other disciplines to prevent overdoses. The next webinar will be held on 4 March 2026 from 2:00-3:00pm EST. For additional information or to register, please visit [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

(U) Millennium Health Signals Alert® - Stimulant use soars, effective interventions desperately needed

(U) The latest Signals Alert, published by Millennium Health and NDEWS Community Based Health Expert Dr. Levi Bolin, highlights continued increases in stimulant positivity in urine drug tests across the US, with particularly sharp rises in methamphetamine detection. Nationally, methamphetamine positivity remains more than double pre-pandemic levels, while cocaine positivity continues to appear frequently in polysubstance combinations. For additional information, please visit <https://www.millenniumhealth.com/signalsalert/stimulants/>

(U) Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative (MNDI)

(U) The MNDI is a public health and public safety effort that aims to combat opioid overdoses by distributing naloxone, a life-saving medication, to community organizations and individuals throughout the state. To read the 2025 quarter three policy brief and for additional information, please visit [Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative Project-To-Date Totals through September 30, 2025](#)

(U) Rx and Illicit Drug Summit 2026: 15 Years Strong: Turning the Tide Together

(U) The 2026 Rx Summit will take place in April 2026 in Nashville, TN. For fifteen years, the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit has been a leading force in the fight against the opioid and addiction crisis. It remains the most influential gathering of stakeholders, where groundbreaking ideas are exchanged, strategies are forged, and action takes root. For additional information, please visit [Home | Rx Summit 2026 | Opioid and Addiction Conference in Nashville](#)

(U) DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

(U) The next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be held Saturday, 25 April 2026 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. For sixteen years, the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day has helped Americans safely dispose of unneeded medications to prevent drug misuse. Take Back Day offers free and anonymous disposal of unneeded medications at nearly 4,500 [drop-off locations nationwide](#). For additional information, please visit www.deatakeback.com

(U) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA's) Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit

(U) SAMHSA's updated Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit provides guidance to a wide range of individuals on preventing and responding to an overdose. The toolkit, designed to augment overdose prevention and reversal training, provides guidance on the role of opioid overdose reversal medications, including naloxone and nalmefene and how to respond to an overdose. For additional information, please visit [SAMHSA Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit](#)

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