

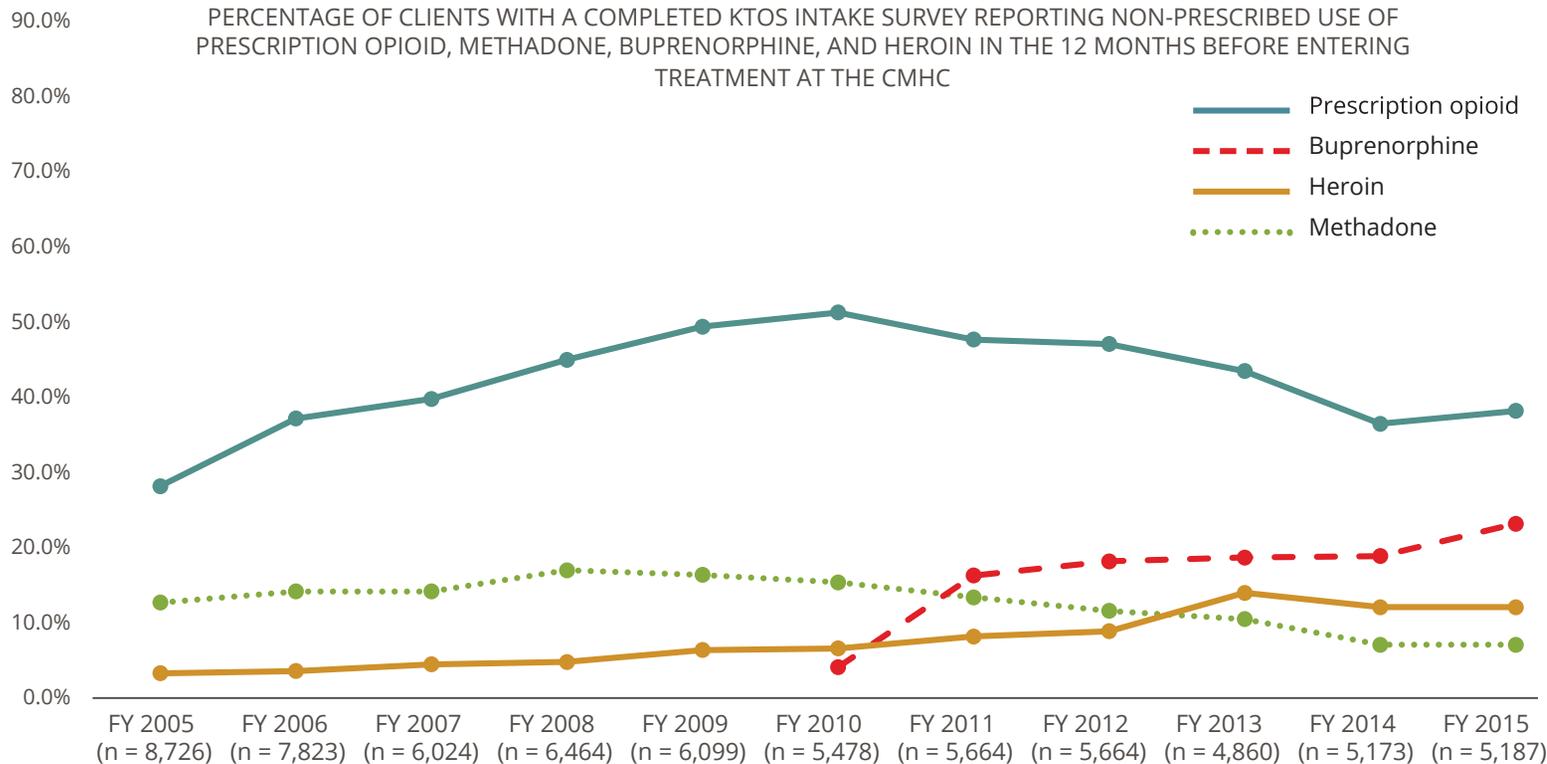


# Kentucky Treatment Outcome Study Trends in Heroin and Prescription Opioid Use

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In 2012, the state legislature passed House Bill 1 which requires physicians to use the KASPER prescription drug monitoring system in order to track how often and how much controlled substances are being prescribed. As a result of this recent drug control policy change, prescription opioids are more difficult to obtain. However, while heroin use has remained relatively low over the past several years, it is widely presumed that heroin is making a resurgence in many areas of the state because of its ease of access. The following are data from clients entering substance abuse treatment in Kentucky's Community Mental Health Centers.

PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WITH A COMPLETED KTOS INTAKE SURVEY REPORTING NON-PREScribed USE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOID, METHADONE, BUPRENORPHINE, AND HEROIN IN THE 12 MONTHS BEFORE ENTERING TREATMENT AT THE CMHC



An average of **42%** of clients reported **prescription opioid misuse**

An average of **17%** of clients reported **non-prescription buprenorphine use**

An average of **8%** of clients reported **heroin use**

An average of **13%** of clients reported **non-prescription methadone use**



Non-medical use of prescription drugs is a continuing health concern for the United States and especially for areas like Kentucky. In fact, **Kentucky ranks third in the U.S. for the highest rate of deaths from drug overdose** (24.1 per 100,000<sup>a,b</sup>), the majority stemming opioids.

Of the 1,330 drug overdose deaths for which toxicology data is available in 2016<sup>c</sup>:

Morphine was detected in **45%**

Heroin was detected in **34%**

Oxycodone was detected in **19%**

<sup>a</sup> Rates include drug overdose deaths, for 2012-2014, a three-year average.

<sup>b</sup> America's Health Rankings 2016 Annual Report: A call to action for individuals and their communities. Retrieved February 24, 2017 from <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/learn/reports/2016-annual-report>

<sup>c</sup> Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy. (2017). 2016 Overdose Fatality Report. Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Retrieved October 3, 2017 from <https://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/The-Heroin-Epidemic.aspx>

Note: Clients who reported being in a controlled environment all 12 months before entering treatment are not included in this analysis; Buprenorphine was added to the assessment in FY 10; therefore, only 1,633 were asked about buprenorphine use..

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