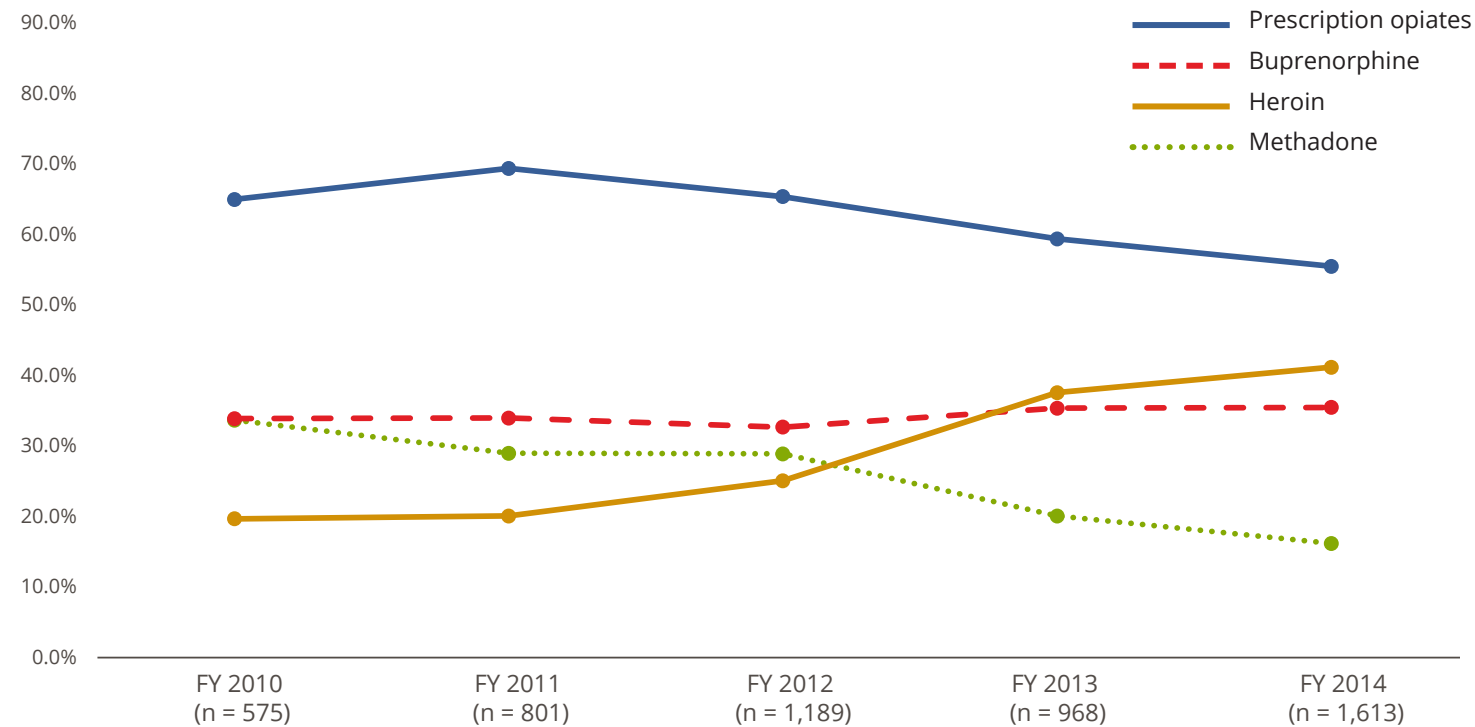




# Trends in Heroin and Prescription Opiate Use

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 opiates 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.

PERCENTAGE OF CLIENTS WITH A COMPLETED INTAKE SURVEY REPORTING NON-PREScribed USE OF PRESCRIPTION OPIATES, METHADONE, BUPRENORPHINE, AND HEROIN IN THE 6 OR 12 MONTHS BEFORE ENTERING THE RECOVERY CENTER



An average of **63%** of clients reported **prescription opiate misuse**

An average of **34%** of clients reported **non-prescription buprenorphine use**

An average of **29%** of clients reported **heroin use**

An average of **26%** 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 is tied for second in the U.S. for the highest rate of deaths from drug overdose** (24.6 per 100,000<sup>a,b</sup>), the majority stemming opioids.

Of the 765 drug-related death cases autopsied by the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office in 2014<sup>c</sup>:

- Morphine was detected in **41%**
- Heroin was detected in **29%**
- Hydrocodone was detected in **21%**

<sup>a</sup> Rates include drug overdose deaths, for 2011-2013, a three-year average.

<sup>b</sup> Trust for America's Health. (June 2015). The Facts Hurt: A State-by-State Injury Prevention Policy Report. Retrieved August 22, 2016 from <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/injuryprevention15/>

<sup>c</sup> Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy. (2014). 2014 Overdose Fatality Report. Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Retrieved August 22, 2016 from <http://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/Overdose-Fatality-Report.aspx>

Note: Clients who reported being in a controlled environment all 6 or 12 months before entering the recovery center are not included in this analysis; Buprenorphine was added to the assessment in 2010; therefore, only 127 clients in FY2010 and 795 clients in FY2011 were asked about buprenorphine use; FY2013 and FY2014 are 6-month measures, while FY2010, FY2011, and FY2012 are 12-month measures.

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