

WI DOC OFFENDER OPIOID OVERDOSE HOSPITALIZATIONS 2013-2017

PERCENT INCREASE IN HOSPITALIZATIONS

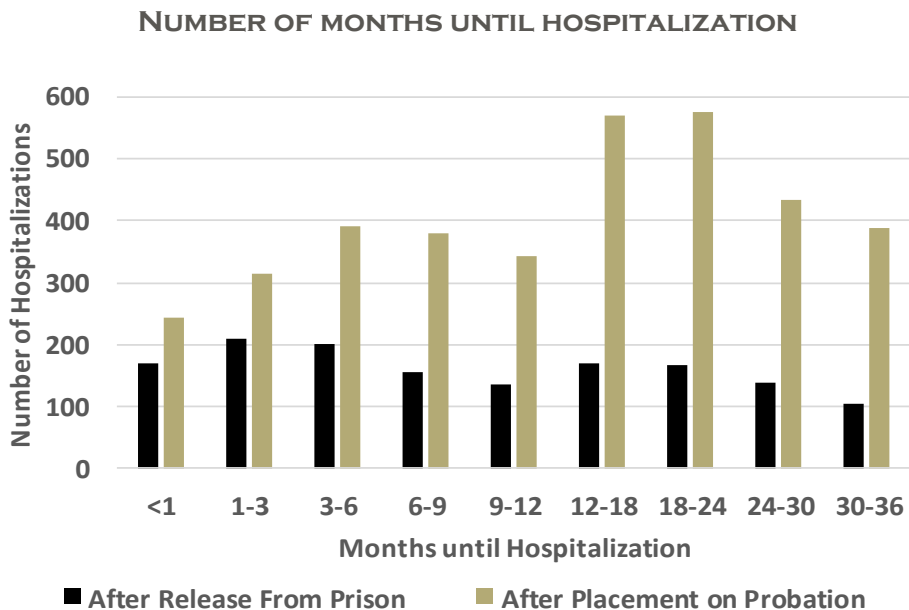


Opioid Overdose Deaths and Hospitalizations



Office of the Secretary
Research and Policy Unit

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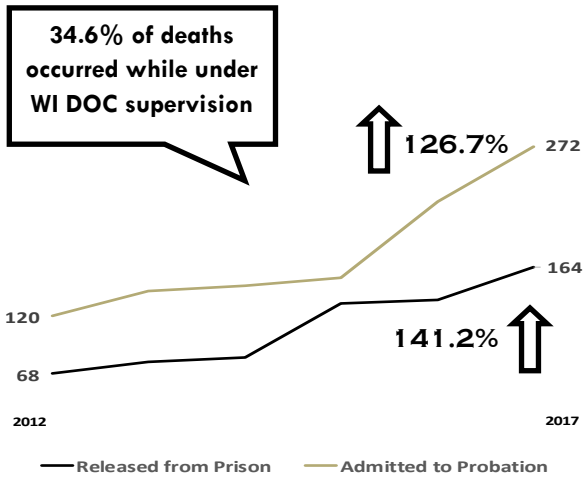


In order to address the current opioid public health crisis, the WI Department of Corrections (WI DOC) examined opioid-related deaths and hospitalizations within corrections populations. Vital Records and Wisconsin Hospital Association data were matched to two separate DOC populations: offenders who had spent time in a WI DOC prison (including those who were admitted for holds and alternatives to revocations) and had been released between 1998 and 2017, and offenders who had begun probation with WI DOC between 1998 and 2017. Only deaths occurring between 2012 and 2017 and hospitalizations occurring between 2013 and 2017 are reported here. Data from offenders who died or who were hospitalized from an opioid overdose was compared to the population of offenders who were released from prison or admitted to probation during the respective timeframe, but were not reported as having died or having been hospitalized due to an opioid overdose.

Inquiries can be directed to the Research and Policy Unit at WIDOCDataandResearchInquiries@wisconsin.gov.

OPIOID DEATHS BY YEAR:

Deaths from opioid overdoses have **increased** among WI DOC offenders between 2012 and 2017.



75.9% increase in opioid overdose deaths among WI residents statewide (2012 to 2017)

WI DOC OFFENDER OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS 2012-2017



DEATHS BY SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT NEED:

Offenders are identified as having a substance use treatment need by considering history of drug use and treatment.

94%



94% of offenders who died after release from prison had a substance use need.

77% of all other offenders released from prison had a substance use need.

90%



90% of offenders who died after admission to probation had a substance use need.

70% of all other offenders admitted to probation had a substance use need.

DEATHS BY RISK LEVEL:

Offenders who died after admission to probation were comprised of more **high** and **medium** risk offenders than all other admissions to probation, as shown below.

Died After Admission to Probation

Did Not Die After Admission to Probation



■ Low ■ Medium ■ High

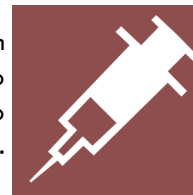
DEATHS BY OPIOID & HEROIN OFFENSES:

Offenders who died after admission to probation were **more likely** to have had opioid- or heroin-related convictions than all other offenders admitted to probation.



Opioid offenses were almost **2.7x** higher in offenders who died after admission to probation than in all other admissions to probation.

Heroin offenses were almost **2.3x** higher in offenders who died after admission to probation than in all other admissions to probation.



WHO IS DYING FROM OPIOID OVERDOSES?

Age

More than **50%** of offenders who died were between the ages of 20 and 39.



Gender

Female offenders were overrepresented in deaths.

◇ **9.9%** of offenders released from prison were female.

◇ **14.3%** of deaths after release from prison were female.

◇ **27.5%** of offenders admitted to probation were female.

◇ **30.8%** of deaths after admission to probation were female.



Race

White offenders were overrepresented in deaths.

◇ **54.4%** of offenders released from prison were white and **40.9%** were black.

◇ **79.5%** of deaths after release from prison were white and **17.7%** were black.

◇ **76.4%** of offenders admitted to probation were white and **17.7%** were black.

◇ **89.4%** of deaths after admission to probation were white and **7.1%** were black.

WHAT IS WI DOC DOING TO HELP?

The state criminal justice system is an important point of intervention in the opioid epidemic. WI DOC has already begun to address addiction and overdose through a program in which offenders receive monthly injections of the opioid-blocking drug naltrexone in conjunction with intensive substance use programming. Additionally, probation and parole agents and correctional officers receive training in the identification of opioid overdoses and in the use of naloxone to counteract acute overdoses. We are committed to being an active partner in Wisconsin's efforts to prevent the harm caused by opioid addiction.