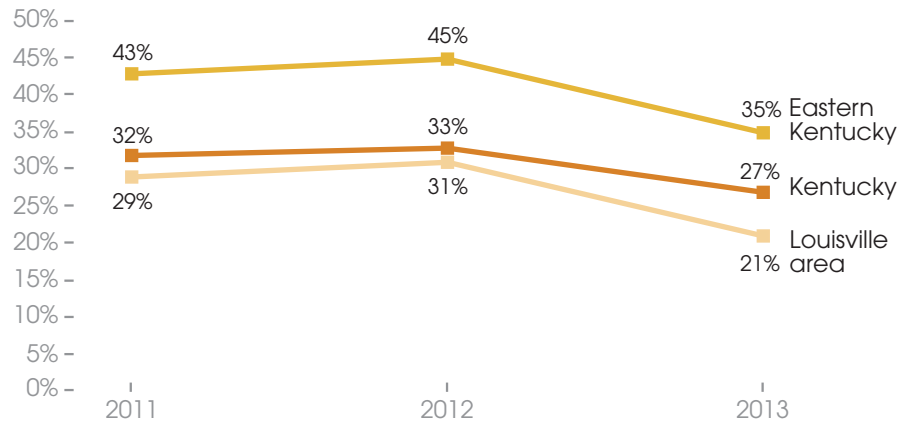




# Misuse of prescription and illegal drugs in Kentucky

Kentucky ranks third in the nation for drug overdose deaths, behind only West Virginia and New Mexico.<sup>1</sup> Drug overdose deaths per capita have quadrupled since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of accidental death in Kentucky.<sup>2</sup> Preliminary overdose fatality data released by the Kentucky Injury and Prevention Center (KIPC) show 1,031 deaths in 2012 and 1,022 deaths in 2011.<sup>3</sup> KIPC reported that heroin contributed to 129 overdose deaths in 2012, up 207% from 42 deaths in 2011.<sup>4</sup>

**Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers?\*** (Includes only the state and regions with significant changes.)



\*KHIP asked "Thinking about your friends and family ... have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine?" Graph shows only those who said yes.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2010, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Retrieved Jan. 6, 2014, from <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html%0D>

<sup>2</sup> In Trust for America's Health. (Oct. 7, 2013). Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic. Retrieved Jan. 2, 2014, from <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH-2013RxDrugAbuseRptFINAL.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. (Jan. 2014). Drug Overdose Deaths, Hospitalizations, and Emergency Department Visits in Kentucky, 2000-2012. Retrieved Feb. 3, 2014, from [www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/PDF/Drug-Overdose-Report-final-27Jan2014.pdf](http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/PDF/Drug-Overdose-Report-final-27Jan2014.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

The 2013 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked Kentucky adults several questions about the influence of drug misuse on their family members or friends.

## Misuse of prescription pain relievers declines

More than 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (27%) reported having family members or friends who have experienced problems as a result of

**Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers? (2013 only)**

Kentucky 27%

### By region

Eastern Kentucky 35%

Lexington area 31%

Northern Kentucky 27%

Western Kentucky 23%

Louisville area 21%

**Continued on back**

These findings unless otherwise noted are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Oct. 25-Nov. 26, 2013, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati.

A random sample of 1,551 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 951 landline interviews and 600 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to  $\pm 2.5\%$ . There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, please visit [www.healthy-ky.org](http://www.healthy-ky.org) or [www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

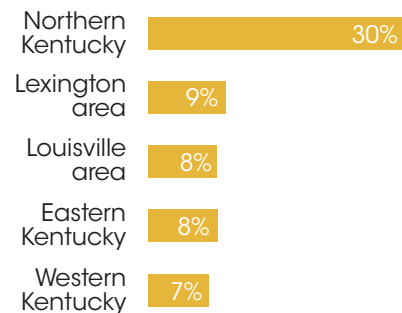
abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine. This is down from previous years.

Fewer adults than in previous years in each region of the state reported having friends or family members who had experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers. However, only the results in the Louisville area and Eastern Kentucky are statistically significant.

## Problems because of heroin use

Fewer than 1 in 10 Kentucky adults (9%) reported knowing friends or family members who had experienced problems as a result of using heroin. However, 3 in 10 Northern Kentucky adults (30%) reported knowing friends or family members who have experienced problems as a result of using heroin.<sup>5</sup>

**Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of using heroin?** (Graph shows only those who said yes.)



<sup>5</sup> Cross-sector advocates in Northern Kentucky mobilized in September 2012 to look at the problem of heroin and released a 2013 report titled "Northern Kentucky's Collective Response to the Heroin Epidemic: Our Plan for Recovery." The report can be found at <http://drugfreenky.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Northern-Kentuckys-Collective-Response-Final.pdf>.

## Problems because of methamphetamine use

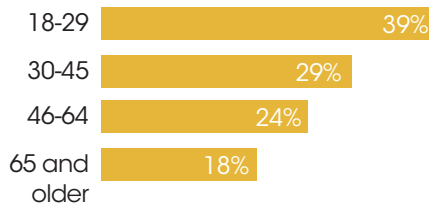
Fewer than 1 in 6 Kentucky adults (15%) reported knowing friends or family members who have experienced problems as a result of using methamphetamine.<sup>6</sup>

## Young adults more likely to know of drug-use problems

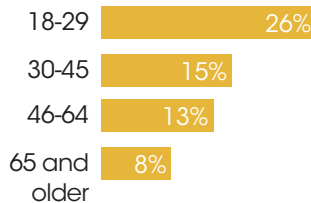
Young adults ages 18-29 were more likely than older adults to report knowing a family member or friend who has experienced problems as a result of drug use.

**Percentage who reported having family members or friends who experienced problems as a result of:**

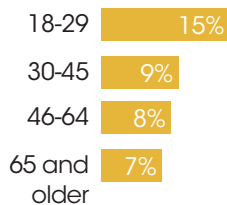
### Abusing prescription pain relievers



### Methamphetamine



### Heroin



<sup>6</sup> KHIP asked, "Thinking about your friends and family ... have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of using methamphetamine?"