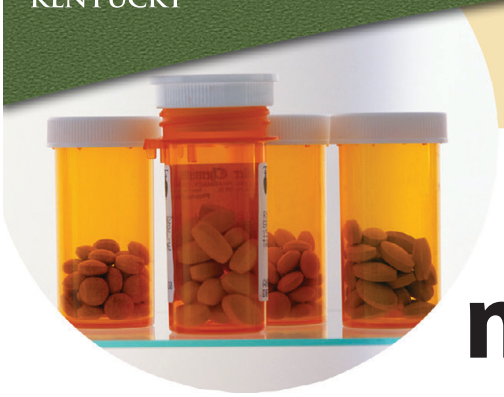
FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KENTUCKY

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

KHIP Kentucky Health Issues Poll 2012



Prescription drug misuse in Kentucky

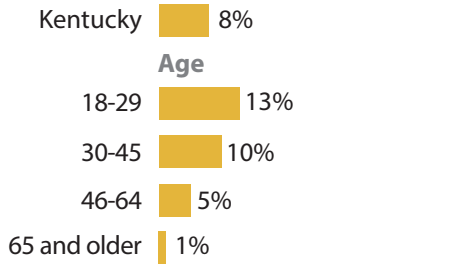
Kentucky ranks sixth in the nation for overdose deaths involving prescription pain relievers; in 2008, its rate was 17.9 deaths per 100,000 residents.[1] These drug overdose deaths correspond to a steep increase in the sales of opioid prescription pain relievers (which include OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet and codeine). Kentucky is in the top quarter of states in the rate of prescription pain relievers sold per capita.[2]

To understand prescription pain reliever use in Kentucky, the 2012 ***Kentucky Health Issues Poll*** **(KHIP)** asked several questions about prescription pain reliever use and misuse.

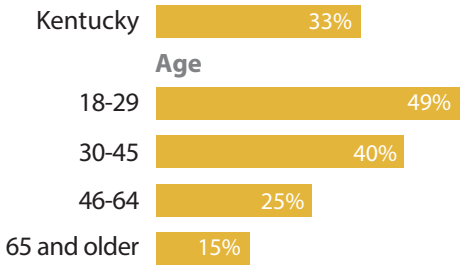
Majority has been prescribed pain drug in last five years

More than half of Kentucky adults (54%) reported being prescribed a pain reliever that could not be bought over the counter, such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine, in the last five years.

Have you ever used a pain reliever when not prescribed or for the feeling it caused?



Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers?



One in 3 knows someone who has had problems because of abusing pain drug

Kentucky adults were asked if they had ever, even once, used a pain reliever such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine when not prescribed or for the experience or feeling it caused. About 1 in 14 (8%) said they had done so. However, 1 in 3 Kentuckians (33%) said they have friends or family members who have experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers.

Eastern Kentucky residents at greater risk of misuse

Nearly half (45%) of Eastern Kentucky residents reported having friends or family members who had experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers, much higher than other regions of the state.

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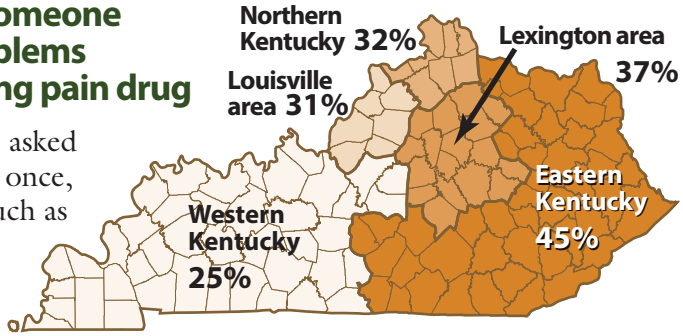
Percentage of Kentucky adults who know someone who has experienced problems because of prescription drug misuse by region



[1] Leonard J. Paulozzi, MD, Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, Karin A. Mack, PhD, Rose A. Rudd, MSPH, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Nov.4, 2011. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6043a4.htm?s_cid=mm6043a4_w

[2] Ibid

These findings unless otherwise noted are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Sept. 20-Oct. 14, 2012, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,680 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,360 landline interviews and 320 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ± 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 or www.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll.

JANUARY 2013

Reported drug misuse more likely among young adults

Young adults are more likely to have reported misusing prescription pain relievers or know someone who experienced problems because of misuse. About 1 in 7 young adults ages 18-29 (13%) reported misusing a prescription pain reliever, compared with fewer than 1% of adults older than 65. Nearly half (49%) of Kentuckians ages 18 to 29 reported knowing friends or family members who have experienced problems because of abusing prescription pain relievers, compared with 15% of adults ages 65 and older.

Rates of misuse steady

KHIP has asked the same questions about prescription pain reliever misuse two years in a row. Reported rates of misuse in 2012 were similar to 2011.