

Delaware DATA

Delaware Drug and Alcohol Tracking Alliance

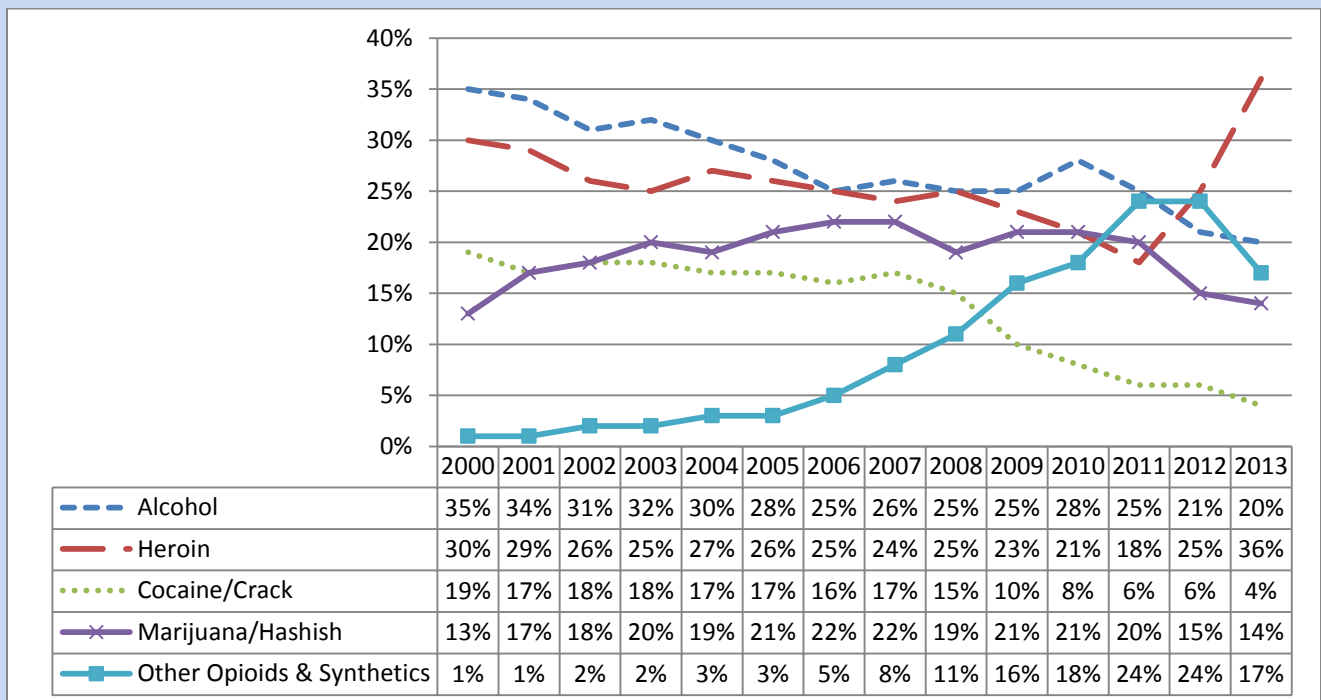
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Treatment Numbers in Delaware Show Shift to Heroin from Other Opioids

Those in treatment in Delaware are asked to identify their primary substance of abuse. Traditionally, more treatment resources have been used in Delaware for alcohol than for any other individual drug. Heroin was a close second from the 1990s through 2005. But by 2005 the combined total of heroin and prescription opiates began to exceed alcohol. By 2013 the total of heroin and other opiates as the primary substance of abuse was more than 250% that of alcohol. Abuse of prescription opioids rose with the increased availability of pain killers and the promotion of their use by the pharmaceutical industry to both doctors and patients themselves. Abuse of Rx opiates led to tightening of regulations and increased monitoring of sales beginning in 2011-2012. This led to a sharp decline in those treated for prescription opiates but a concomittant increase in heroin treatment in 2013. It appears that those newly addicted to Rx opiates switched to cheaper, readily available heroin, which in 2013 accounted for more than a third of all state-funded treatment.



Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/health/2014/10/20/addiction-delaware-addicted/17622573/>

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