



# **Northwoods Coalition**

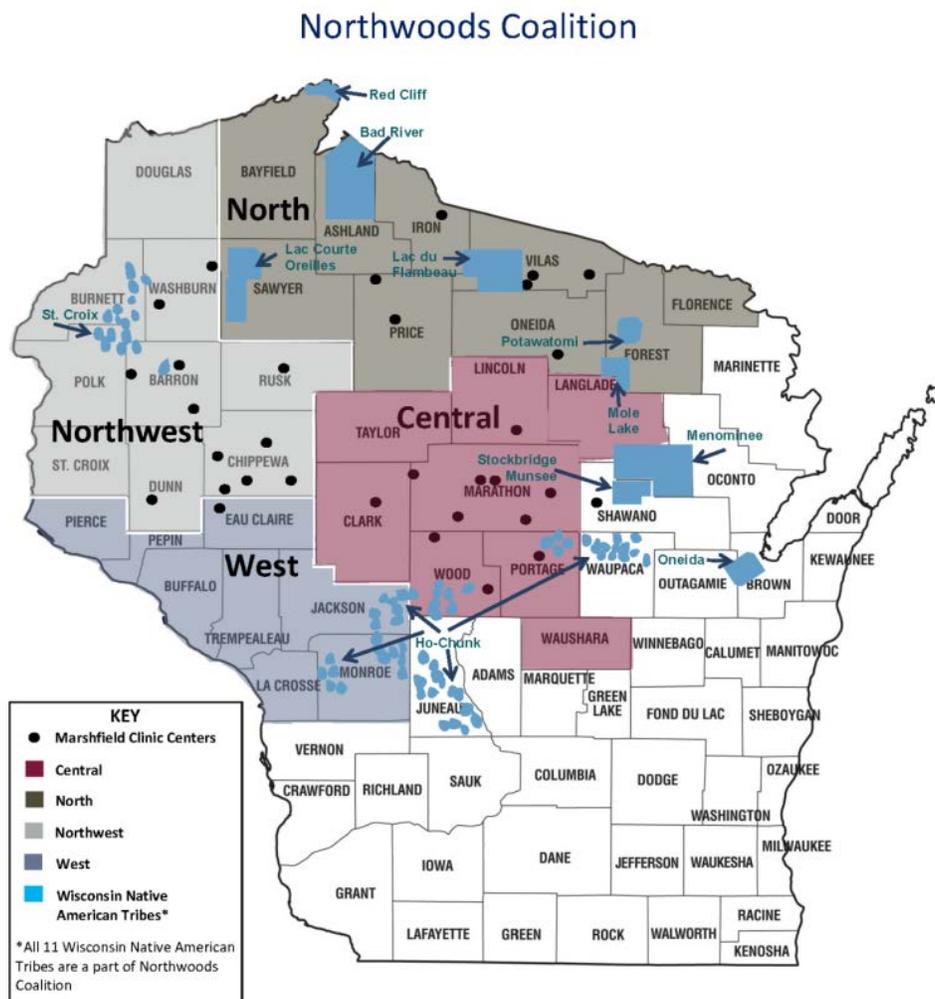
**Epidemiological Profile on  
Alcohol and Other Drugs**

**2017**

## Background Information

Formed through a partnership between Marshfield Clinic and several community coalitions in 1995, Northwoods Coalition is the largest and oldest coalition dedicated to substance abuse prevention in Wisconsin. Representatives from over 50 coalitions in a 35-county region, including the 11 Wisconsin Tribal Nations, serve on a non-governing advisory board to help shape policies, practices and programs to address public health issues arising from use of alcohol and other drugs. Marshfield Clinic staff provide support including education, training, technical assistance and other resources to members of Northwoods Coalition.

Since 2007, through a contract with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Marshfield Clinic has served as the Northern and Western Regional Prevention Center for the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth. The purpose of the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth is to enhance and support the capacity of coalitions in substance abuse prevention and youth development. Over 100 Wisconsin coalitions are members of the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth, including those belonging to Northwoods Coalition.



## Acknowledgements

Northwoods Coalition, Marshfield Clinic and the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth would like to thank coalitions, law enforcement, human services and healthcare agencies that provided data to their local substance abuse prevention coalitions and the following for their contributions in developing this report:

Action Alliance, Inc. (Langlade)  
Barron County Community Coalition  
Burnett County Prevention Coalition  
Chequamegon Coalition on Emerging Drugs (Ashland)  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Milwaukee Field Division – Field Intelligence Group  
Lincoln County Drug Free Coalition  
Marshfield Area Coalition for Youth (Wood)  
Northwoods Coalition Board of Directors  
Pierce County Partnership for Youth  
Price County AODA/Mental Health Coalition  
Restorative Justice of Northwest Wisconsin, Inc. (Burnett)  
Southeast Wisconsin Threat Analysis Center  
Taylor County Drug Opposition Partners  
University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, School of Medicine and Public Health  
Waushara Prevention Council, Inc.  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Division of Care and Treatment Services  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center

This report is available online at <http://northwoodscoalition.org/otherresources/>

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## Executive Summary

Northwoods Coalition, Marshfield Clinic and the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth are committed to promoting *strong coalitions and healthy communities by working together to promote effective substance abuse prevention through networking, advocacy, mentoring and leadership*. One important aspect of prevention is the ability to track needs of communities through epidemiological factors.

This report, *Northwoods Coalition Epidemiological Profile on Alcohol and Other Drugs, 2017*, summarizes the most current data available on alcohol, prescription drugs, heroin, methamphetamine and other drug use and abuse across northwestern Wisconsin. Data from 35 counties and available Wisconsin Native American Tribal data have been included in this report and are compared to Northwoods Coalition (northwestern Wisconsin) and Wisconsin.

### **Alcohol**

In 2015, Wisconsin had the second highest rate of adult binge drinking in the nation. Out of the 35 counties in northwestern Wisconsin, Pierce County had the highest rate of adult binge drinking (30%) while Florence County had the highest rate of current alcohol use among adults (73%) between 2012 and 2014.

### **Prescription Drugs and Heroin**

Between September 25, 2010 and October 22, 2016, northwestern Wisconsin disposed of about 93,300 pounds (46.65 tons) of unwanted or expired medication. Marathon County disposed of the most unwanted or expired medication in northwestern Wisconsin with a total of 15,975 pounds (7.99 tons).

### **Methamphetamine**

In northwestern Wisconsin, Methamphetamine cases analyzed by the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories drastically increased from 346 cases in 2012 to 764 cases in 2016. Polk County had the highest number of cases in the state with a total of 415 cases from 2012-2016.

### **Multiple Substances and Other Drugs**

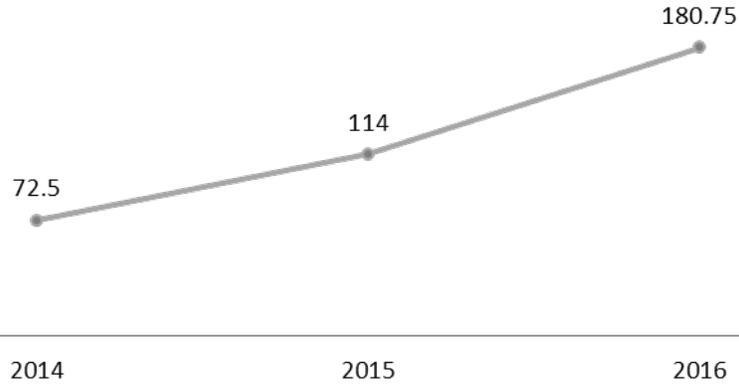
In 2015, 149 people were killed in drug-related crashes in Wisconsin. 31 of the total people were in northwestern Wisconsin. Of the 35 counties in northwestern Wisconsin, Lincoln and Wood counties had the highest number of people killed with four deaths per county. Between 2014 and 2015 there was a slight increase in the number of Hepatitis C cases from 617 to 713 cases in northwestern Wisconsin. A few counties saw large increases in the number of cases including Pierce County whose total number of cases more than tripled.

A compilation of northwestern Wisconsin data is provided on the succeeding pages followed by individual county profiles.



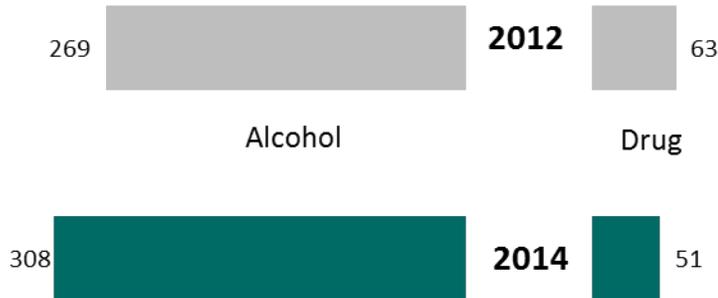
Population estimates (2010)<sup>5</sup>: 28,743

## Medications Disposed (pounds)

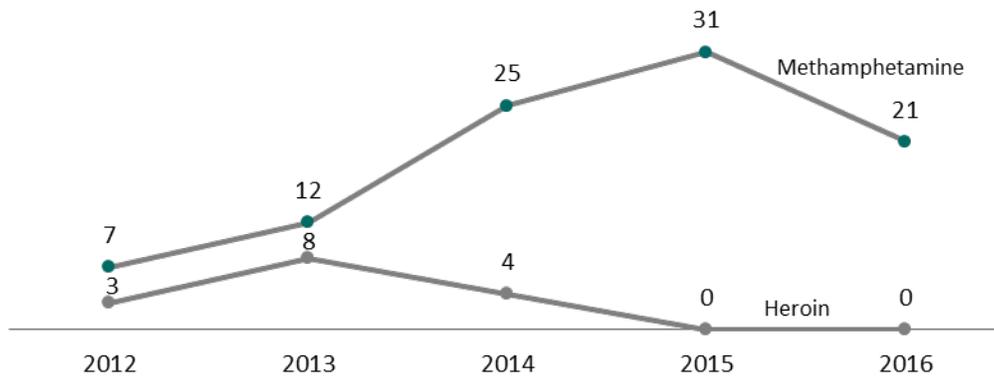


**61%**  
current  
alcohol use  
among adults  
(2012-2014)

## Alcohol & Drug Related Hospitalizations



## Cases Submitted to the State Crime Lab



## Alcohol

	Lincoln	Northwoods Coalition	Wisconsin
Annual economic cost of excessive alcohol use (2013) <sup>2</sup>	\$35,300,000	\$1,476,500,000	\$6,800,000,000
Cost of excessive alcohol use per resident (2013) <sup>2</sup>	\$1,229.51	\$1,217	\$1,200
Alcohol licenses issued (2014-2015) <sup>10</sup>	151	5,267	16,934
Alcohol licenses per 500 population (2014-2015) <sup>10</sup>	2.6	N/A	1.5
Class A licenses issued (2014-2015) <sup>10</sup>	34	1,311	4,470
Class B licenses issued (2014-2015) <sup>10</sup>	118	3,968	12,839
Prevalence of excessive alcohol consumption among adults (2006-2012) <sup>6</sup>	23%	N/A	24%
Prevalence of current alcohol use among adults (2012-2014) <sup>10</sup>	61%	N/A	65%
Prevalence of binge drinking among adults (2012-2014) <sup>10</sup>	20%	N/A	23%
OWI arrests per 100,000 population (2014) <sup>10</sup>	237	N/A	431
Liquor law arrests per 100,000 population (2014) <sup>10</sup>	52	N/A	300
Alcohol-related hospitalizations (2014) <sup>10</sup>	308	9,938	46,532
Persons killed in alcohol-related crashes (2015) <sup>16</sup>	4	60	190
Persons injured in alcohol-related crashes (2015) <sup>16</sup>	10	709	2,872
Alcohol-related suspensions and expulsions in public schools (2013-2014) <sup>10</sup>	7	110	528

## Prescription Drugs & Heroin

	Lincoln	Northwoods Coalition	Wisconsin
Doses of prescription drugs dispensed per county population (July 1-September 30, 2015) <sup>15</sup>	29.4	25.03	28.43
Doses of prescription drugs dispensed per county population (July 1-September 30, 2016) <sup>15</sup>	26.61	23.08	26.38
Opioid prescriptions dispensed (2016) <sup>12</sup>	26,808	901,975	4,268,385
Controlled substance prescriptions written per 1,000 population (January-June 2013) <sup>8</sup>	501	N/A	572
Proportion of prescriptions written for narcotics (January-June 2013) <sup>8</sup>	55%	56%	55%
Proportion of prescriptions written for sedatives (January-June 2013) <sup>8</sup>	11%	10%	10%
Proportion of prescriptions written for stimulants (January-June 2013) <sup>8</sup>	16%	15%	15%
Proportion of prescriptions written for tranquilizers (January-June 2013) <sup>8</sup>	18%	19%	20%
Total pounds of medications disposed (2012-2016) <sup>3,4,7</sup>	367.25	86,442.95	455,962
Heroin crime lab cases (2012-2016) <sup>14</sup>	15	945	5,151
Heroin overdose deaths (2012-2013) <sup>1</sup>	2	50	433
Opioid-related hospitalizations per 1,000 population (2013-2014) <sup>10</sup>	1.3	N/A	1.5

## Methamphetamine

	Lincoln	Northwoods Coalition	Wisconsin
Methamphetamine crime lab cases (2012-2016) <sup>13</sup>	96	3,103	4,000
Methamphetamine laboratory recovery sites (2013-2016) <sup>13</sup>	2	56	144
Grams of methamphetamine seized (2014-2016) <sup>4</sup>	997.35	N/A	N/A
Methamphetamine arrests including paraphernalia, possession and intent to deliver (2014-2016) <sup>4</sup>	230	N/A	N/A

## Multiple Substances and Other Drugs

	Lincoln	Northwoods Coalition	Wisconsin
Reported property crimes (2014) <sup>10</sup>	273	20,638	118,277
Reported violent crimes (2014) <sup>10</sup>	42	1,508	16,099
Emergency room visits due to poisonings (2014) <sup>11</sup>	81	2,382	11,649
Drug law arrests per 100,000 population (2014) <sup>10</sup>	390	N/A	439
Disorderly conduct arrests per 100,000 population (2014) <sup>10</sup>	369	N/A	671
Drug-related hospitalizations (2014) <sup>10</sup>	51	2,889	14,710
Persons killed in drug-related crashes (2015) <sup>16</sup>	4	31	149
Persons injured in drug-related crashes (2015) <sup>16</sup>	5	116	582
Drug-related suspensions and expulsions in public schools (2013-2014) <sup>10</sup>	21	548	2,754
Hepatitis C cases (2015) <sup>9</sup>	15	713	3,490

## Appendix A: Glossary

**Alcohol Outlet:** A place where alcohol can be legally sold for the buyer to drink on-premises (such as bars or restaurants) and off-premises (such as convenience stores).

**Alcohol Outlet Density:** The number of alcohol outlets in a given area.

**Binge Drinking:** Having 4 or more (women) or 5 or more (men) alcohol beverages on one occasion, at least once in the past 30 days.

**Class A Liquor Licenses:** Include all Class “A” beer (off-sale), Class “A” liquor (off-sale), and Class “A” beer/Class “A” liquor (includes wine) (off-sale) only.

**Class B Liquor Licenses:** Include all Class “B” beer only (on/off-sale), Class “B” liquor only (winery), and “Class B” beer and “Class B” liquor.

**Current Alcohol Use:** Having at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days.

**Excessive Alcohol Use:** Adults who reported drinking 8 or more drinks per week (women) or 15 or more drinks per week (men) in the past 30 days; reported drinking 4 or more drinks (women) or 5 or more drinks (men) or during an occasion on at least 1 day in the past 30 days; reported any drinking (adults aged 18–20) in the past 30 days and not included in the category of binge drinking; or reported any alcohol consumption and pregnancy (women) in the past 30 days.

**Narcotics:** A drug (such as opium or morphine) that in moderate doses dulls the senses, relieves pain, and induces profound sleep, but in excessive doses causes stupor, coma or convulsions.

**Opioids:** A class of drugs that includes the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine and many others.

**Prescription Drugs:** Medications prescribed by doctors to treat health conditions.

**Sedatives:** Depressants prescribed for anxiety or insomnia and include barbiturates, which include, Phenobarbital (Nembutal®), Secobarbital (Seconal® and Tuinal®) and Mephobarbital (Mebaral®).

**Stimulants:** Prescribed to treat ADHD, narcolepsy and sometimes depression and include amphetamines (e.g., Adderall®) and methylphenidate (e.g., Ritalin® and Concerta®).

**Tranquilizers:** Depressants prescribed for anxiety or insomnia and include benzodiazepines, which include, Lorazepam (Ativan®), Diazepam (Valium®), Clonazepam (Klonopin®) and Alprazolam (Xanax®).

## Appendix B: Data Discrepancies

Marshfield Clinic has made every attempt to portray the data provided correctly. If you notice any errors please report them to Marshfield Clinic. The following discrepancies have been noted on the county by county profile sheets.

<b>Data Collected</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Potential Reasons for Discrepancies</b>
Crime lab cases analyzed	Wisconsin Department of Justice	Not all cases are submitted to Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories (i.e. if offender pleads guilty).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grams seized by law enforcement related to methamphetamine</li> <li>• Number of arrests including paraphernalia, possession and intent to deliver related to methamphetamine</li> </ul>	ACISS/ law enforcement	Not all agencies use a consistent database, however many use ACISS. Also, for arrests typically there are multiple offenses per individual.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) cases related to methamphetamine</li> <li>• Number of out of home placements related to methamphetamine</li> <li>• Number of Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) cases related to methamphetamine</li> </ul>	County human services	Cases can include multiple substances, not just methamphetamine.
Number of local hospitalizations related to methamphetamine	Local hospital	Many hospitals do not have a specific code for methamphetamine use and can include other drugs. Also, in some instances the data is from patients who tested positive for methamphetamine and the data was not specific to hospital or emergency room.
Percent of high school students who have reported using methamphetamines in their lifetime	Youth Risk Behavior Survey	Not all students in each school participate in the survey.
Prescription Drug Take-Back events and permanent disposal site summary	Members of Northwoods Coalition	Not every site or take-back event is reported to Marshfield Clinic.

## Appendix C: References

### References

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