

Who is switching from prescription opioids to heroin in Tennessee?

During 2015, 30% of people entered state-funded substance abuse treatment for opioids and 6% for heroin. While the number of people switching is small, it is increasing at a rapid rate. People using heroin are at higher risk of injection drug use and overdose death. Early intervention is critical to prevent opioid users from switching to heroin: 736 out of 18,769 people (4%) switched from prescription opioids to heroin in state-funded substance abuse treatment from July 2011-December 2015.

Significant *risk factors* for making the switch from opioids to heroin:

- ❖ ***Injection drug use = 4.2x (more likely to switch)***
489 out of 6,085 (8%) injection drugs users switched.
- ❖ ***Starting opioid use after the age of 18 = 1.6x***
197 out of 7,165 (3%) opioids user switched.
- ❖ ***Age 25-34 = 1.5x***
410 out of 8,712 (5%) people age 25-34 switched.
- ❖ ***Multiple previous treatment admissions = 1.4x***
400 out of 8,558 (5%) people with prior admissions switched.



Data Source: TN-WITS

State funded treatment is for individuals at or below 133% of the federal poverty line.

Explanation of odds ratios on the back.