



An Angel's Wing Newsletter NO. 2

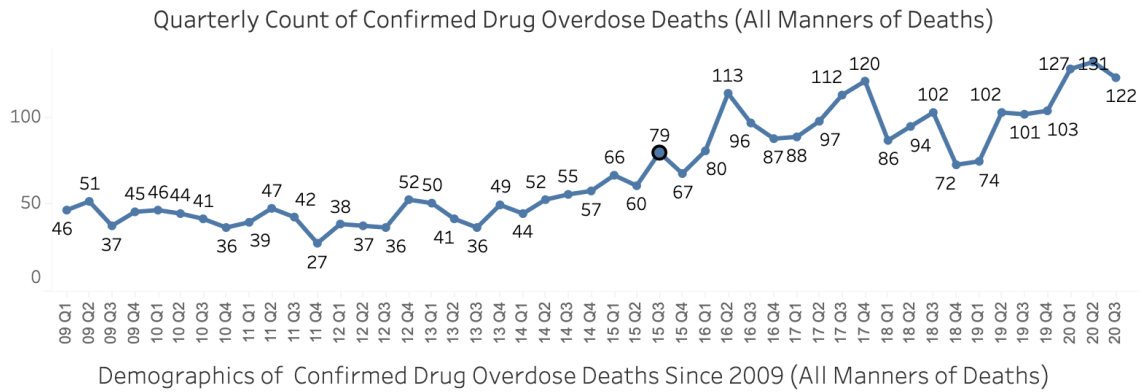
Hello and welcome back to our newsletter!



We were so happy to receive such positive feedback regarding our first newsletter. It is truly special knowing so many people share our dedication in helping individuals recover from Substance Use Disorder. We will continue to use our newsletters as a resource to educate, promote, and keep you updated on what we are doing as an organization!

Maine and the U.S. Overdose Statistics

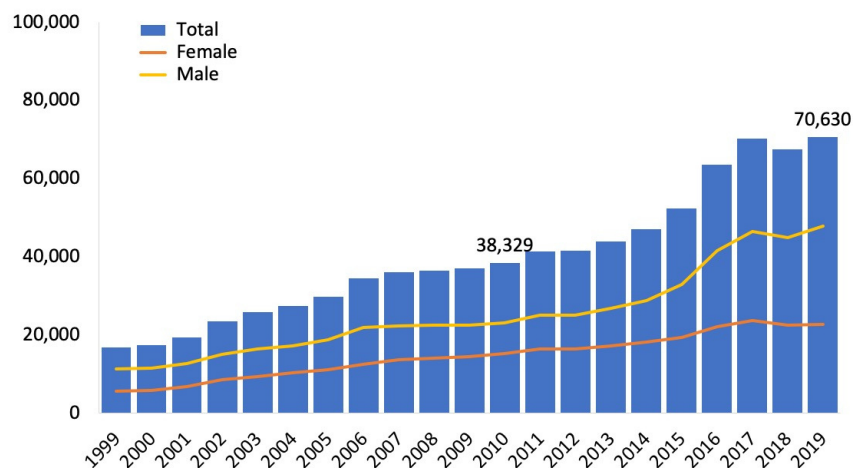
Last issue of our newsletter, we covered how Maine overdose deaths continue to increase from the pandemic, according to Maine.gov. Unfortunately, this trend has continued as we have seen an upward trend on Maine's Quarterly Count of Confirmed Drug Overdose Deaths since 2011:



From Maine.gov

However, this upward trend in overdose deaths is replicated for the US as a whole. The below graph is a record of the total number of overdose deaths among all demographic groups between the years 1999-2019. According to the CDC, September 2019 through September 2020 saw a 27 percent increase in total overdose deaths. If the total U.S. overdose deaths follow Maine's upward trend as it has in the past, we can expect the 2020 data to increase significantly more as well.

**Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2019**



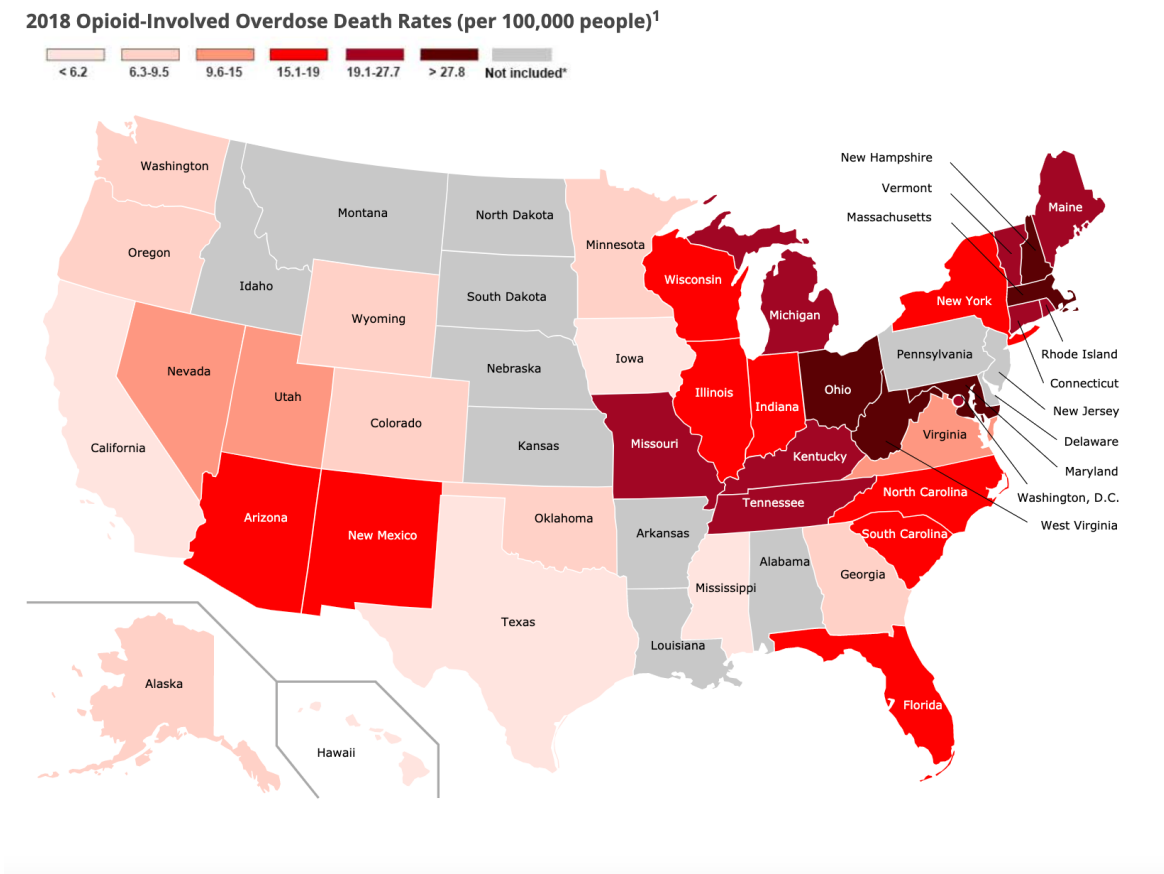
*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2019 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2020.

From CDC.gov

How is Maine Doing Comparitively?

With drug abuse on an upward trend in the U.S, this raises the question of how Maine is handling Substance Use Disorder compared to other states?

Below is a graph depicting opioid-related overdose death rates (per 100,000 people) for the entire U.S. When looking at Maine, one can see how it is rated in the 4th highest tier involving 19.1-27.7 deaths on average per 100,000 people every year. There is still a lot of work left to be done to address the struggle many Americans are facing today with SUD and this visual represents just that.



From [drugabuse.gov](https://www.drugabuse.gov)

Maine overdose statistics have been continuing their upward trend throughout the pandemic, but as the data has just shown, Substance Use Disorder is a national problem, not just a problem in Maine. That makes what we do at An Angel's Wing that much more important as we continue to supply resources for individuals battling through Substance Use Disorder

It's Official!

We are thrilled to announce our 4th Annual Gala will be held October 23rd, 2021 at the Hilton Garden located in Auburn, Maine! Our Annual Gala is a very important event for our organization because we use it as a platform to spread awareness of individuals suffering from SUD, gather support from our sponsors, and use the funds generated from this event to provide support to individuals seeking recovery.

If you are a part of a local business, organization, or an individual looking to help in our effort to make this our most successful Gala to date, here is a list of items we need support in:

- Sponsor our annual Gala
- Purchase Tickets to our annual Gala
 - \$75.00 each, or table sponsorships are available (see below)
- Volunteer with An Angel's Wing through our board or board committees
- Donate cash and/or in-kind services (website development, accounting, law services, any other expertise you think we could use!)
- Donate items (physical and experiential) for our silent auction at our gala
 - Donate items for our Gala Goody Bags (please ensure there will be 90 of the same/similar items for all our guests)
- Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/anangelswing
- Most important of all... care



For additional information, here is our [2021 Gala packet](#). Any additional questions can be directed to anangelswing@yahoo.com.

Meet the Team!

In this newsletter, we will be highlighting a new addition to our board, Stephanie Gelinas, and our founder, Debra York. Stephanie has just recently joined our board of directors but has already become a vital resource for our organization. In addition to Stephanie, we also wanted to highlight Debra this week because without her, An Angel's Wing would only be an idea and there would be more individuals in the state of Maine without the help they need. If you are interested in our organization and would like more information of how to get involved, please visit our [Contact Us](#) section on our website.

Stephanie Gelinas



Debra York



Stephanie Gelinas

In January of 2021, Stephanie Gelinas joined the board of directors for An Angel's Wing with hopes of bringing an increased awareness of Substance Use Disorder to others. Before Stephanie joined AAW, she unfortunately lost her son, Kristopher, to a fatal overdose at the age of 28. After losing her loved one, Stephanie was driven to make a change. She was attracted to Debra's vision for AAW and wanted to be a part of that process.

Along with being on our board of directors, Stephanie Gelinas is the founder and executive director of Sandcastle Clinical and Educational Services and LA Hearing Center in Lewiston. She has been practicing in the field of speech and language pathology for 37 years. Born and raised in Lewiston, Stephanie is proud of and engaged in the community where she still resides. She is currently serving as the Ward 7 City Councilor for the great City of Lewiston. Stephanie's community involvement also includes the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce and the LA Rotary Club.

Debra York

Debra York is the Executive Director at An Angel's Wing! Being the leader of the organization, she oversees a wide variety of duties but some of examples are working closely with the chairman of the board to ensure we are on target with our mission statement and finding different ways to drive the organization forward financially. She is always working with our current partners as well as expanding her network to develop new ones.

Debra has been a part of AAW since its inception in 2017. She founded AAW because she saw first-hand how there is a significant lack of resources for someone wanting to recover from Substance Use Disorder. When searching for any kind of help or rehabilitation center for her son, she found that whether you have good insurance, or a \$15-30 thousand budget, you are put on an ever-increasing waitlist. At this moment in her life, Debra started to form AAW, "Well, after I realized that I couldn't help my son, I sat on the couch trying to figure out where the system fails everyone. I formed the idea of AAW and started working on a plan. I recruited help. That plan has brought us where we are today."

Debra is very excited for our 4th Annual Gala come October! In the meantime, she is eager to work with Healthy Androscoggin and local businesses to put on Androscoggin Counties first ever "Rally for Recovery".

When asked what are some resources we need most right now as an organization, Debra noted grant writing, fundraising, and financial management. If you are an individual that feel you can help in any of these areas, please reach out to Debra at her phone number (207) 513-6051.

Thank You to Our Partners!

To conclude our second newsletter, we would first like to thank all of the businesses below who have either helped us through donations or in collaboration:

Shankman & Associates



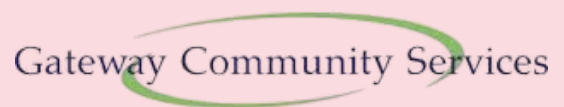
Liberty Bay Recovery



Dunkin Donuts - Lewiston, ME



Gateway Community Services



Cote Corporation, Auburn



CleanCo Commercial Cleaning, Inc.





This wraps up our second newsletter! We want to emphasize how any help you can provide to us through volunteerism, partnerships, donations, or support is much appreciated. Throughout this year we have continued to grow as an organization and have strived to continue our fight for the greater good of helping individuals overcome substance use disorder. Any feedback you have regarding our newsletter is much appreciated! Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and thank you for caring.



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