



An Angel's Wing Newsletter NO. 3

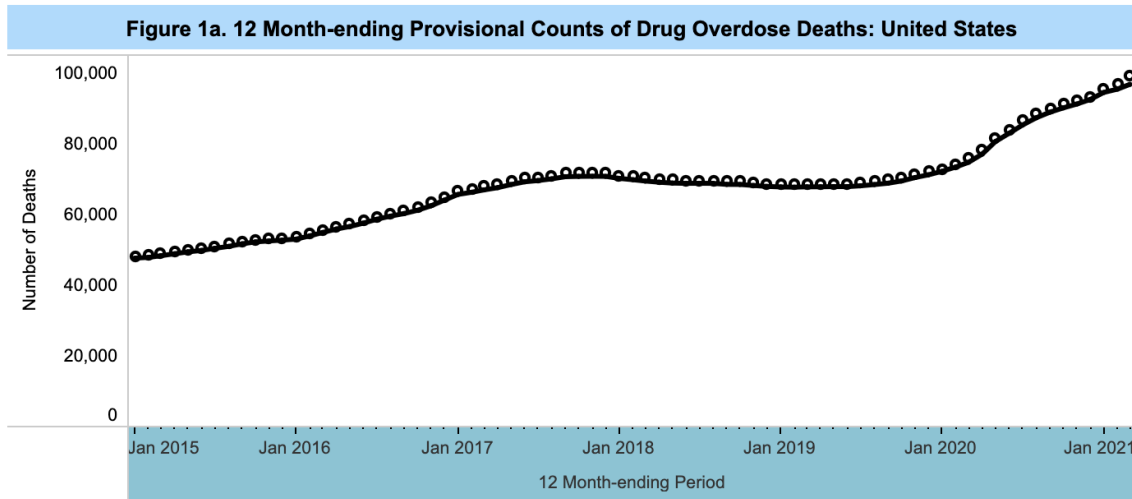
Hello and welcome back to our newsletter!



We were so happy to receive such positive feedback regarding our second 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!

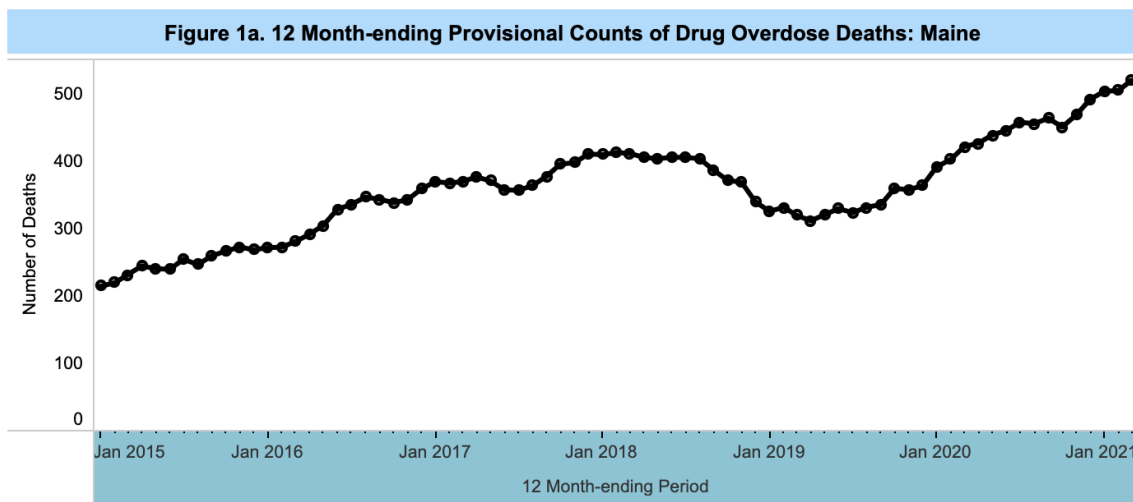
Maine and the U.S. Overdose Statistics

On October 3rd of this year, the CDC released new data revealing the number of drug overdose deaths in the United States ending March 2021. According to the data, the U.S. experienced 96,779 overdose deaths in the given time period. As the graph depicts, there has been an increase in overall overdose deaths throughout the last 5-6 years where the pandemic created more obstacles for individuals battling SUD..



Source: [CDC](#)

Similar to the trend seen for the U.S., as a state, Maine has continued to see an upward trend of its overdose deaths throughout the pandemic. For the 12 month period ending March 2021, Maine experienced 518 deaths. Compared to the 12 month period ending in March 2015, which saw 230 overdose deaths. This results in having a 125% increase in that 6 year time span.



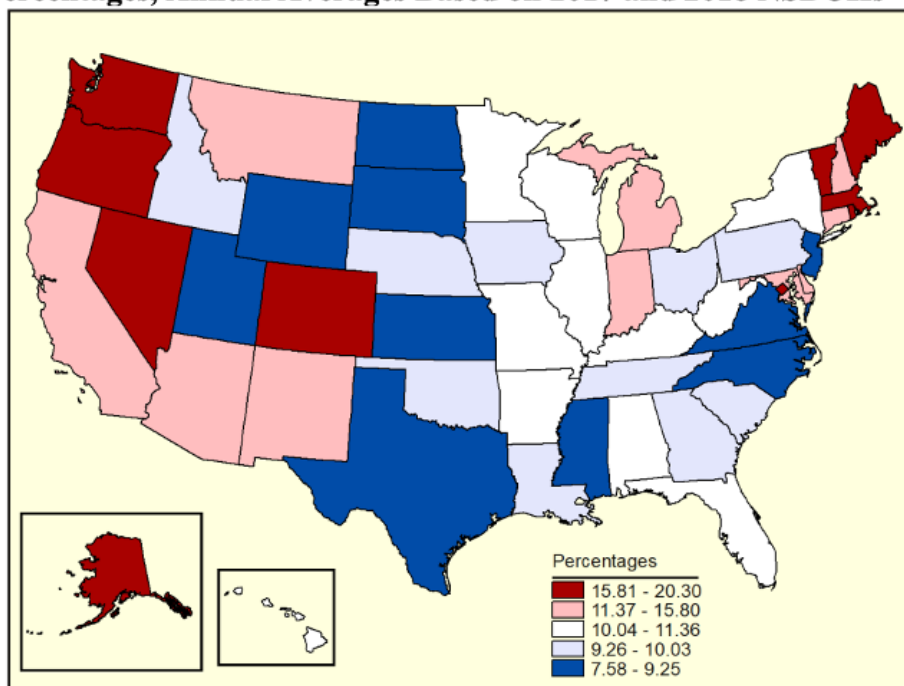
Source: [CDC](#)

The story portrayed by the updated data provided by the CDC is clear; Maine and the U.S. as a whole continues to have limited resources and recovery vehicles ready to help individuals recover from SUD.

State Substance Use Estimates

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), released information regarding substance use estimates by states a few years back. Through their findings, they determined which states are suffering the most in the U.S. with controlling illegal substance use among different age groups. When considering the United States, Maine was found to be one of the hardest hit areas. It's important to remember illegal substance use has gotten worse since the study was published, as seen by Maine's rising overdose deaths.

Figure 1a *Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month among Individuals Aged 12 or Older, by State: Percentages, Annual Averages Based on 2017 and 2018 NSDUHs*



Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, NSDUH, 2017 and 2018.

Source: [SAMHSA Report](#)

The graph above found in the same report by SAMHSA categorized Maine as being one of the highest rated amount of illegal substance use per capita in the U.S.. Maine fell within 15.81-20.30% of the population has used an illegal substance in the past year. Even though this data is from a few years back, this symbolizes the dire need Maine has for more resources and individuals to join the effort to reduce these statistics. The situation in Maine has not gotten better and the serious problem of Maine's Substance Use Disorders can be seen in this [report](#) by SAMHSA and the overdose statistics reported above.

The Services We Provided in 2021

As an organization, we have seen first hand the devastation of substance use disorder on recovering individuals and their families affected by it. We have been continuing to grow our operations to help more individuals every year. Below are some of the services we were able to provide in 2021:

- Assisted numerous individuals into either detox, rehabilitation, or counseling and sober living care.
- Partnered with PAL and assisted with clothing, boots and shoes for local children
- Donated household items for sober living homes for people in recovery and in need.
- Assisted to help pay funeral expenses for 2 lost community members.
- Partnered with community agencies such as Gateway, Ascentria, Blue Sky, Androscoggin Home Health, Common Ties, Crossroads, Health Affiliates of Maine, Lewiston Area Public Health Committee, and Homeless Outreach to provide warm clothing and household items.
- Assisted fire victims with replacement clothing and household items.
- Helped over 100 local children and families with Christmas last holiday season. This year will prove to be even bigger with more people in need.
- Several referrals for community volunteerism through prisoner reentry and court systems.
- Nar-Anon meetings every Thursday in the store at 6pm for families affected by SUD.
- Distributed Narcan/Naloxone to the community

We forecast 2022 to be an even bigger year for us as we continue to help individuals through the new year and expand our operations to continue our growth in the community.

Additionally, Santa is coming to AAW December 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th (10am to 2pm) where we will be assisting families in need once again. Our store address is 1567 Lisbon St, Lewiston, ME 04240. We hope to see everybody there!



Looking Back at Gala 2021!

Our organization has acknowledged how limited recovery resources has led to this drastic upward trend in substance use and overdose deaths. Through continuing our efforts to help individuals in need, we were able to host our annual Gala to commemorate the ones we lost and fund our efforts in upcoming projects!

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Gala event! It was a wonderful night full of glitz and glamor where the community was able to come together for a great cause.



Some highlights included the great food, keynote speakers, and the many giveaways our sponsors were able to donate for our fundraising efforts. Some of the live auction items included a North Country white water rafting trip, pieces from Day's Jewelers Diamond Professionals, and a Cape Cop trip!

Looking beyond the fabulous music, dress attire, and glamour; our Gala was an amazing source of fundraising for An Angel's Wing and provided another platform to project our mission statement. We look forward to holding more events this year and the next!



Thank You to Our Gala Sponsors!

Throughout the planning process of our Gala, we were able to come together as an organization and hold our most successful Gala to date. However, we weren't able to do all of this on our own. With the help of our sponsors, we were able to exceed all of our expectations for this event. Thank you to every business, office, and organization below who partnered with us and helped fund our Gala!

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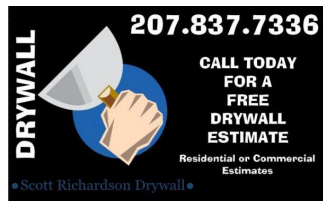
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An Angel's Wing Inc.

Meet the Team!

For our third newsletter, we will be highlighting two wonderful team members for An Angel's Wing. We will first be highlighting Lana Whittemore who has been assisting the L/A area for a number of years. Along with her work at AAW, she is the Development Director at Blue Sky Counseling where she continues to help locally with their new Lewiston office. We will also be introducing Danielle Shorey who is our amazing baker at our very own bakeshop! At AAW, we are always looking to diversify the ways we are able to fund our mission statement and with the help of Danielle and the bakery, we are able to do just that! If you are interested in our organization and would like more information on how to get involved, please visit our [Contact Us](#) section on our website.

Lana Whittemore



Danielle Shorey



Lana Whittemore

Lana has been involved in the helping profession in the L/A community for 15 years through her work with non profits or social work. Throughout her career, she has seen the need for assistance with SUD, especially when it comes to support with accessing detox and rehabilitation support. She joined AAW because of their overall mission of assisting people that need the appropriate help to be successful in their recovery efforts.

Along with her work at AAW, Lana is also the Development Director at Blue Sky Counseling. Through her work at both organizations, she has been able to stay local and network with key players in the community to spread awareness of how organizations can support individuals in need of Medication Assisted Treatment and collaborate as a community to connect them to the right resources. With Blue Sky recently opening an office in Lewiston, they are immediately open to helping individuals and families with substance use disorders.

Lana supported the planning committee for our annual Gala because she felt it is a great event to assist the organization with both funding and visibility. Looking in the future, Lana is excited to see additional store sites, expand staff and board members, increase awareness and support programming, and continue our journey in becoming a valuable resource for individuals battling SUD.

When asked what makes AAW so special, Lana expressed, "I feel like AAW is a great program, with the right motivation and people that really care about the unique needs and support that people seeking recovery need."

Danielle Shorey

In 2018, Danielle was introduced to An Angel's Wing when our beloved store was in the process of being remodeled to be opened in the coming months. She was able to see firsthand the help and involvement numerous volunteers gave in this process and she wanted to help. From people around being affected by SUD, this pushed her further into the question of, "What can I do to help?"

When Danielle went to college for Culinary Arts, she enjoyed cooking, but baking was always her passion. She immediately started researching how to integrate our thrift store and a bakery together. With the help of Debra and the construction background of Josh, An Angel's Wing Bakery was born. The bakery serves as another branch of our organization in which all the proceeds are used to fund our mission. An Angel's Wing bakery also has involvement in local craft fairs and community events to spread continued awareness.

A short term goal Danielle has includes a successful giving event that we hold every holiday season. Every few weekends in December, families in need are allowed to come to our store and fill a bag of clothing and toys for Christmas. She would love to see more families come for this holiday season after a rough year for many. Looking ahead, Danielle is excited to see the growth of An Angel's Wing and she is hopeful to have another store in the near future! She also would love to see a camp designed for children affected by SUD. With the help of all the volunteers An Angel's Wing has, she can't wait to see where this organization heads to next!



This concludes our third newsletter! Thank you so much for your continuous support in our efforts of making sure every individual's battle of Substance Use Disorder has the necessary resources to guide them through the recovery process. Some ways you can show your support for our organization include volunteerism, partnerships, donations, or supporting our thrift store and bakery! Any feedback you have is always greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and thank you so much for caring.



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