



# **Marathon County Medication Assessment Survey, 2017**

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Staff and students working for the Survey Research Center at UW-River Falls were instrumental in the completion of this study. We would like to thank Denise Parks, James Janke, Aaron Leiby, David Jacobson, Rachel Shamro, Beth Zimmer and Jennifer Pflum. We gratefully acknowledge their hard work and dedication.

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The survey used for this study was originally designed by the Strategic Research Institute at St. Norbert College and used with the permission of the author.

Finally, we would like to thank the Marathon County residents who took the time to complete their questionnaires.

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## **Executive Summary**

For the first time since 2013 when the Survey Research Center began collecting these data, there is evidence in 2017 that efforts to raise awareness of and combat prescription drug abuse in the Wausau metro area have moved the needle in positive directions.

### **Survey Purpose and Design**

The purpose of this study was to gather information from Wausau area residents with respect to the prevalence of medication misuse, perception of prescription drug availability through households or health care providers, perception of risk associated with such misuse, as well as local medication diversion and disposal efforts. In 2017, the SRC drew two samples of households, one from within the Wausau metro area (comprising the city of Wausau, Schofield, Rothschild, Weston and Rib Mountain) and a second from outside of the Wausau metro area as “controls” to see if efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse problems have had a measurable impact on behaviors and knowledge.

Between mid-September and late October 2017, the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls mailed surveys to a stratified randomly sample of 1,900 households in in the Wausau metro area and 1,000 surveys to a random sample of households in Marathon County located outside the metro area. In both populations, the SRC over-sampled those 35 and younger, both because this age group tends to participate in surveys at much lower levels and are often at greater risk of abusing prescription drugs. This was the fourth time this set of data has been collected. The medication assessment survey was first conducted by telephone in 2011 for the Marathon County Health Department by the Strategic Research Institute at St. Norbert College. Comparable mail surveys were done by the SRC in 2013 and 2015.

In 2017, the SRC received 394 completed surveys from the target communities of Wausau, Rib Mountain, Rothschild, Schofield, and Weston. The Census estimates that there are 52,539 adults in the target communities. With 394 completed surveys, the results provided in this report are expected to be accurate to within plus/minus 4.9 percent with 95 percent confidence.

The SRC received 317 completed surveys from communities in Marathon County outside the Wausau metro area. The 2011-2015 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census estimates that there were 50,655 adults in Marathon County who live outside the Wausau metro area. Our estimates for this population are expect to be accurate to within plus/minus 5.5 percent with 95 percent confidence.

In this report, we:

- summarize the 2017 results
- note any significant differences across demographic groups
- compare the metro area respondents and those from elsewhere in Marathon County, and
- compare the 2017 results to those of 2011, 2013 and 2015

## **Quality of Life in the Wausau Area**

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the quality of life in the Wausau area on a scale of 1 (not satisfied) to 10 (very satisfied). The average score that metro area residents in 2017 gave to the overall quality of life in Wausau was 7.8. Respondents over 45 and those from higher income households rated the quality of life in the Wausau metro area significantly higher. Marathon County residents living outside of the metro area rated the quality of life in their communities slightly higher (an average of 8.0), but the difference was not significant. In addition, there has been little change over the 2011 – 2017 period in the average quality of life ratings in the metro area (Figure 1).

Most metro residents think that the quality of life in Wausau has remained the same (40%) or improved (31%) over the past two years. A bit less than one-third (29%), however, feel the quality of life in the metro area has deteriorated in the past two years. Long-term residents and those without a tertiary educational degree were significantly more negative about recent changes in the quality of life in the Wausau metro area. A significantly higher proportion of non-metro residents (67%) said the quality of life in their community was unchanged over the past two years. Compared to surveys done in 2013 and 2015, metro-area respondents were significantly more positive about changes in the quality of life in the 2017 survey (Figure 2).

## **Respondents' Personal Health Assessment**

A large majority of metro-area residents in 2017 rated their overall health as good (61%) or excellent (22%) (Table 1). Non-metro residents reported slightly, though not significantly, worse overall health. Significantly better overall health was reported by metro-area residents who were under 45, had at least a 2-year college degree, came from higher income households, and those who reported being either self-employed or a full-time employee. Since 2011, there has been a slow, but steady decline in the proportion of Wausau-area residents reporting their overall health as poor or fair and their assessment of their overall health was significantly better in 2017 compared to prior years (Figure 3).

## **Opinions about Seriousness of Community Health Issues**

Respondents were asked to rate the seriousness of five community health-related issues: smoking, prescription drug abuse, obesity, alcohol abuse, and illegal drug use. Only about one-in-five respondents said that smoking is a very serious problem, nearly half said prescription drug abuse, obesity and alcohol abuse are very serious issues and two-thirds said illegal drug use is a very serious issue for the metro area (Table 2). Smoking was a significantly greater concern to metro residents over 45, those with less than a 2-year college degree, and respondents from households with less than \$50,000 in annual income. Alcohol abuse was of significantly greater concern to metro respondents from higher income households and women. Women in the metro area were also significantly more concerned about both prescription and illegal drug abuse. Opinions about these community health issues in greater Marathon County aligned with those in the metro area. The metro-area's assessment of the seriousness of these community health issues

has grown since the first survey was done in 2011, particularly with respect to abuse of prescription and illegal drugs (Figure 4).

### **Use of Prescribed Medications**

Compared to the U.S. average of 49%, residents in the Wausau metro area appear to use prescription drugs at substantially higher rates; 68% said they are currently taking a prescription medication. Not surprisingly, significantly higher proportions of Wausau residents older than 45, longer-term residents and those who don't have a full-time job, a group dominated by retirees, reported being on medications at significantly higher rates. In addition, respondents with less than a 2-year college degree, whites, and those with less than \$50,000 in household income also reported significantly higher use of prescriptions. Prescription use by residents outside of the metro area (67%) was very similar to the metro (68%). Since the 2011 survey, there has been little change in the proportion of respondents saying they are currently taking a prescription medicine (Figure 5).

Respondents were also asked if they use prescriptions regularly for a chronic condition, occasionally for a temporary condition or don't use them at all. More than half (56%) said they regularly take prescription medications for a chronic condition (Figure 6). Demographic groups from the 2017 survey who regularly use medications for chronic conditions in higher proportions include those who are not working full time (mainly retirees), those older than 45, longer-term residents, those with less formal education, those from lower-income households and women. Non-metro households have patterns of prescription drug use very similar to metro households; 58% use them regularly for chronic conditions. The pattern of prescription drug use in 2017 was similar to previous years (Figure 7).

### **Prevalence of Prescription Drug Misuse**

Respondents were asked a series of questions about potential ways they might have used prescription drugs in ways other than as prescribed:

- Have you ever, even once, used a prescription that was not prescribed for you?
- Have you ever, even once, used a prescription medication for a reason other than what it was prescribed?
- In the past 12 months, have you used prescription medications but not used them exactly as the doctor prescribed?
- During the last 30 days, how many times have you used prescription medications, but not exactly as your doctor prescribed?

Relatively few metro-area respondents said they have used a prescription medicine that was not written for them; 87% said they had never done this. However, significantly higher proportions of the following groups admitted they had used someone else's prescription: those under 45, those with a 2-year college degree or more, and full-time workers. Residents of Marathon County outside of the Wausau metro area were slightly more likely to say they'd never used medications prescribed to someone else (89%). Though not statistically significant, there was a

slight decrease in the proportion of respondents who said they had used a prescription written for someone else in 2017 compared to 2015 (Figure 8).

In 2017, 94% of both Wausau metro and non-metro respondents said they have never used a prescription medicine for a reason other than for what it was prescribed. The proportion of metro area residents who say they've never used a prescription for a purpose other than its intended use (94%) has been consistent since the first survey in 2011 (Figure 9).

Similarly, 92% of both metro and non-metro respondents in 2017 said that, during the previous 12 months, they had not used a prescription medicine in ways other than exactly as prescribed. This proportion is similar to those reported in the 2013 and 2015 surveys (Figure 10). Ninety-four percent of respondents in both the metro and non-metro areas said that they had, during the previous thirty days, only used medicines exactly as prescribed (Table 3). This result is very similar to the proportions of 2013 and 2015 respondents who said they had only used their prescriptions exactly as intended (Figure 11).

### **Perception of Prescription Drug Availability**

Respondents were asked several questions about the availability of prescription drugs for the purpose of getting high or the feeling they experience from the drugs. Roughly half of all respondents (46% in the metro and 50% in the non-metro) said they were not sure about the availability of prescriptions for getting high. Of those who have an opinion, a significantly higher proportion (82%) of the metro respondents than non-metro respondents (73%) agree or strongly agree that prescriptions drugs are readily available in their communities to those who want to use them to get high (Table 4). The proportion of metro-area households who agree or strongly agree that prescription drugs are readily available for these purposes has increased each year the data have been gathered (Figure 12).

When asked how easy it is to get prescription drugs in order to get high from medical providers or friends and family, the highest proportion of metro-area respondents said they weren't sure about the ease of getting these drugs from either of these potential sources (Table 5). Many more feel family and friends are an easier route to acquiring such drugs (42% feel it is at least somewhat easy) than medical providers (27% feel it is at least somewhat easy). With respect to using medical providers to acquire prescription drugs in order to get high, metro residents who are younger, have full-time jobs outside the home, or are female are significantly more likely to see this as an easier path than their counterparts. In terms of getting these drugs from family and friends, significantly higher proportions of younger respondents, those with more formal education, those with full time jobs and women felt this was an easier way of getting these drugs. Slightly higher proportions of non-metro households thought it would be more difficult to get these drugs from either medical providers or family and friends. There is no apparent trend in how easy or difficult Wausau metro residents think it is to get prescription drugs from medical providers in order to get high (Figure 13). Over the 2013 – 2017 time frame, the trend is for more respondents to say it is easy to get prescription drugs for recreational purposes from family and friends (Figure 14).

Respondents were asked where they think people most often obtain prescription medicines that were not prescribed to them. Of those with an opinion, more than half (55%) said prescription drugs most often were obtained by “taking them from family, friends, or stealing from another source.” Nearly one-quarter (23%) believed that these drugs were most often bought on the street and another 14% believed they were given to users by a family member or friend. Stealing from family and friends has been the most frequently identified source of prescription drugs by abusers in all four years in which a survey has been done (Figure 15).

### **Perception of Risk Associated with Prescription Drug Abuse**

In 2017, three quarters of the respondents were either “very concerned” (32%) or “somewhat concerned” (42%) about prescription medication misuse or abuse in the Wausau metro area. Though the degree of concern was slightly lower in the non-metro population, the difference is not statistically significant (Table 6). Older, those not working full time, and white metro respondents were more concerned about the risk of prescription drug abuse. Further, the proportion of Wausau metro respondents who are very concerned about abuse of prescription medicines seems to be growing over time (Figure 16).

Metro and non-metro residents were also asked if they agreed that “it is safer to get high on prescription medications than street drugs” and if it is “OK to take more than the recommended dosage of a prescription medication.” Relatively few people in either the Wausau metro area or those residing elsewhere in Marathon County agree with either of these statements (Table 7). However, a substantial minority in both the metro and non-metro populations are not sure if getting high on prescription drugs is safer than doing so with street drugs like cocaine. The proportion of respondents who disagree with these statements has been fairly consistent in the four years the data have been collected (Figure 17).

In 2017, 76% of both the metro and non-metro respondents said the risk of not using medicines as prescribed posed a great or at least some risk (Table 8). Metro respondents were more adamant but the difference with the non-metro respondents is not statistically significant. Similar proportions, 17% for the metro and 16% for non-metro residents, said that the risk depends on the specific medication. The proportion of metro-area respondents who said there is great risk associated with not using prescription drugs exactly as prescribed has been slowly growing since 2011 (Figure 18).

### **Disposal Efforts**

In 2017, about 3 of 10 respondents in both the metro and non-metro populations said they currently have expired medicines in their home (Table 9). Surprisingly, younger respondents were significantly more likely to have expired medications in their homes than older ones. Following increases in the proportion of households with expired medications in the 2013 and 2015, this key indicator declined significantly in 2017 (Figure 19).

The proportion of Wausau metro area residents who said they know where they can safely dispose of expired medications (76%) was significantly higher in 2017 than in non-metro households (Table 10). Demographic groups that had significantly lower awareness of

medication disposal sites were those under 45, those who've lived in the metro area for less than 20 years, and those working full-time outside the home. Since 2011, there has been a steady and statistically significant decrease in the proportion of metro-area respondents who said they didn't know the location of sites in their community where they could dispose of expired medications (Figure 20).

There is little difference in the way households in the metro and non-metro areas say they dispose of their unneeded medications (Table 11). For both metro and non-metro households, about three-quarters of the responses were either that they take them to a disposal site (about 40%) or that they don't have any unused/un-needed medications (about one-third). However, nearly one in five, in both groups of households, either put them out with their trash or flush them down their toilets. Over time, preferred disposal practices (taking unused medications to a disposal site and/or not having any on hand in the house) appear to be increasing and those to be discouraged (putting them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet) are declining (Figure 21).

### **Awareness of Local Prevention Initiatives**

Respondents were asked if they are aware of the Marathon County Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Partnership (a local substance abuse coalition) and the Pushback Against Drug Abuse initiative (launched in May 2013). In 2017, nearly half (46%) of the metro-area respondents said they are aware of AOD, but only about half that proportion (26%) said they knew of Pushback (Table 12). Compared to non-metro households, significantly higher proportions of metro households are aware of both programs. Similar to lack of awareness of medication disposal sites, younger metro residents were significantly less aware of both programs. Though not statistically significant, the proportion of Wausau area residents who said they've not heard of the AOD program has shown a steady decline from 2013 – 2017 (Figure 22). Trends in the awareness of the Pushback program are less clear (Figure 23).

### **Demographic Profile of Respondents**

Compared to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey, the 2017 sample generally aligned fairly well. It includes somewhat lower proportions of younger respondents and higher proportions older ones than in the Census data, higher proportions of respondents with at least 4-year college degrees and fewer respondents from households with less than \$25,000 (Table 13).

Compared to earlier surveys, the 2017 sample generally aligns with the Census figures more closely (Figures 24 – 30).

## Survey Purpose

Between mid-September and late October, 2017 residents in the Wausau area and throughout Marathon County were asked about a number of issues associated with prescription drugs including:

- the prevalence of medication misuse
- their perception of prescription drug availability through households or health care providers
- their perception of risk associated with such misuse
- local medication diversion and disposal efforts.

We will refer to this as the 2017 survey to distinguish it from similar data-gathering efforts undertaken in 2011, 2013 and 2015. The current survey is similar to the original, 2011 survey, developed by the Strategic Research Institute at St. Norbert College. In 2013, the SRC added two questions to the survey. The Marathon County Health Department chose to work with the Survey Research Center (SRC) at UW–River Falls again for the current survey.

## Survey Methods

In 2017, the SRC drew two samples:

- 1,900 adults in the Wausau metro area, which is comprised of the city of Wausau, Schofield, Rothschild, Weston and Rib Mountain
- 1,000 adults living in Marathon County outside of the Wausau metro area

Adults 35 and under make up 29% of the metro adult population and 23% of the non-metro adult population. Because lower proportions of this age-group tend to respond to surveys and because prescription drug problems often affect them disproportionately, the SRC oversampled this age group. In the metro, those expected to be 35 and under made up 50 percent of those invited to participate in the survey and they represent 35% percent in the non-metro area.

The initial mailing to the metro and non-metro samples was sent in mid-September and contained a cover letter describing the purpose of the survey, a questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. The response from the metro area was so strong that the SRC, in consultation with the Marathon County Health Department decided to forego the postcard reminder. That reminder was sent to the non-metro sample. In early October, second questionnaires were sent to non-respondents in the metro and non-metro samples.

The SRC received 394 completed surveys from the target communities of Wausau, Rib Mountain, Rothschild, Schofield, and Weston. The Census estimates that there are 52,539 adults in the target communities. With 394 completed surveys, the results provided in this report are expected to be accurate to within plus/minus 4.9 percent with 95 percent confidence.

The SRC received 317 completed surveys from communities in Marathon County outside the Wausau metro area. The 2011-2015 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census estimates

that there were 50,655 adults in Marathon County who live outside the Wausau metro area. Our estimates for this population are expected to be accurate to within plus/minus 5.5 percent with 95 percent confidence.

Based upon a standard statistical analysis that is described in **Appendix A**, the Survey Research Center concludes that there is little evidence that non-response bias is a significant concern for this survey.

In addition to numeric data, respondents provided additional written answers. **Appendix B** contains the written responses.

**Appendix C** contains a copy of the survey questionnaire with a complete quantitative summary of responses by question for both the metro area population and the non-metro population.

## Summary of Results

In the analysis to follow, we will:

- summarize the 2017 results
- note any significant differences across demographic groups
- compare the metro area respondents and those from elsewhere in Marathon County, and
- compare the 2017 results to those of 2011, 2013 and 2015

The SRC used tests of statistical significance to compare the results of the surveys. A statistically significant difference simply means there is sufficient evidence that observed differences in average values are “real” and not simply some fluke that would not be observed if a different random sample of Wausau residents were chosen. Statistical significance is expressed as a probability that the difference is *not* real. A commonly used probability standard is .05 (5%). Statistical significance at the .05 level indicates that there is only a 5 in 100 probability that the means are actually the same. Statistical significance does not necessarily mean the difference between groups is large, important, or significant in the common meaning of the word.

To facilitate the analysis, the SRC made the following demographic groupings:

- those under 45 and those over 45
- those with at least a 2-year college degree and those with less formal education
- those classifying themselves as white and people of color
- those reporting household incomes of more than \$50,000 and those with less
- Those employed full time (including self-employed respondents) and those not employed full time
- Those who’ve resided in the Wausau area for 20 years or more vs. newer residents

## Quality of Life in the Wausau Area

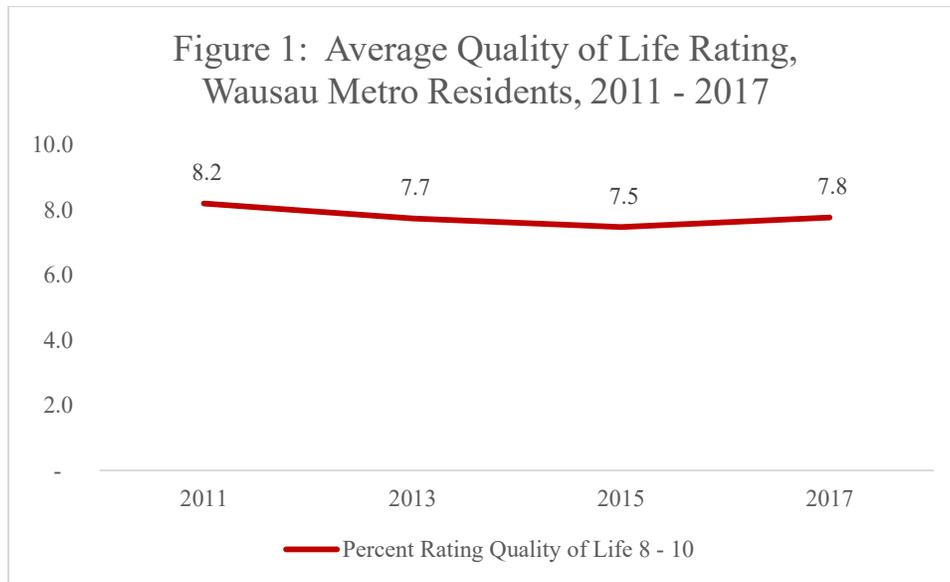
Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the quality of life in the Wausau area on a scale of 1 (not satisfied) to 10 (very satisfied). The average score that metro area residents in 2017 gave to the overall quality of life in Wausau was 7.8. Were this a college midterm exam score, in short, residents gave the Wausau metro area a grade of C+.

Statistically significant demographic differences included:

- older respondents rated the quality of life significantly higher than younger ones (72% of those over 45 gave Wausau a rating of eight or higher vs. only 55% of those under 45)
- Respondents from households earning \$50,000 or more rated the quality of life in Wausau higher than lower income households (73% of respondents from higher income households gave Wausau a rating of 8 or higher vs. only 57% of lower-income households)

Although non-Wausau residents of Marathon County rated their quality of life somewhat higher than metro residents (8.02 for non-metro vs. 7.76 for the metro), the difference is not statistically significant.

Figure 1 shows that the average quality of life rating over the 2011 to 2017 period has been fairly consistent. Though the average rating in 2017 was slightly higher than the previous two times that the SRC collected these data, the increase is not statistically significant



In a companion question, respondents were asked how the quality of life in the Wausau area had changed in the past two years. Answer options were that the Wausau metro area has become a worse place to live, has stayed about the same, has become a better place to live, or not sure. Ignoring those without an opinion about how the quality of life has changed in the Wausau metro area, nearly one-third (31%) felt it had improved, 40% felt it had remained the same and the remaining 29% felt it had gotten worse.

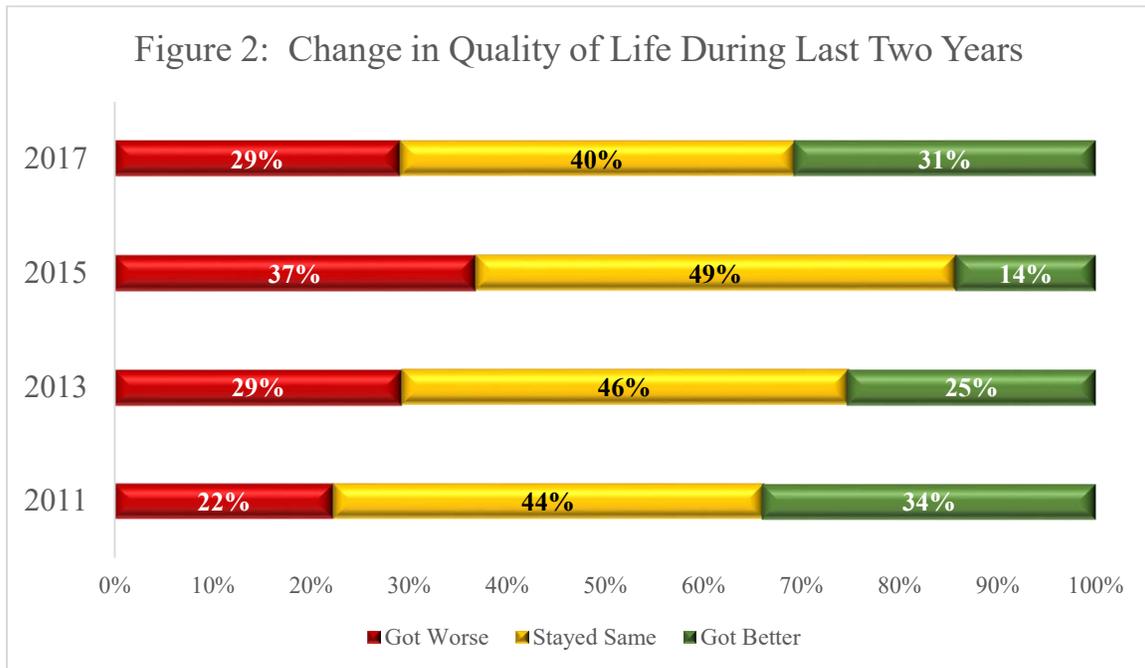
Comparing the opinions of different demographic groups:

- Those who've lived in the Wausau metro area for more than 20 years were significantly more likely to say that the city has become a worse place to live than newer residents (32% of 20+ year residents said things had gone downhill compared to 19% of newer residents)
- Respondents without a tertiary degree were also more pessimistic about changes in the quality of life in Wausau (32% felt it had declined compared to 22% of those with at least a 2-year college/tech degree)

Residents from outside the metro area were significantly more likely to say that there has been no change in the quality of life in their community (67% of non-metro respondents who had an

opinion said the quality of life in their community was about the same, compared to only 40% in Wausau).

Figure 2 indicates that metro residents in 2017 were more positive about the area than in 2013 and 2015 and had opinions similar to 2011. Metro residents’ assessment of changes in the quality of life in Wausau in 2017, compared to previous years, improved significantly.



### Personal Overall Health Rating

Respondents were asked for a self-assessment of their personal health. As Table 1 summarizes, more than 8 in 10 metro respondents reported their health as good (61%) or excellent (22%). The comparable proportions for non-metro respondents were slightly lower (79% good or excellent health)

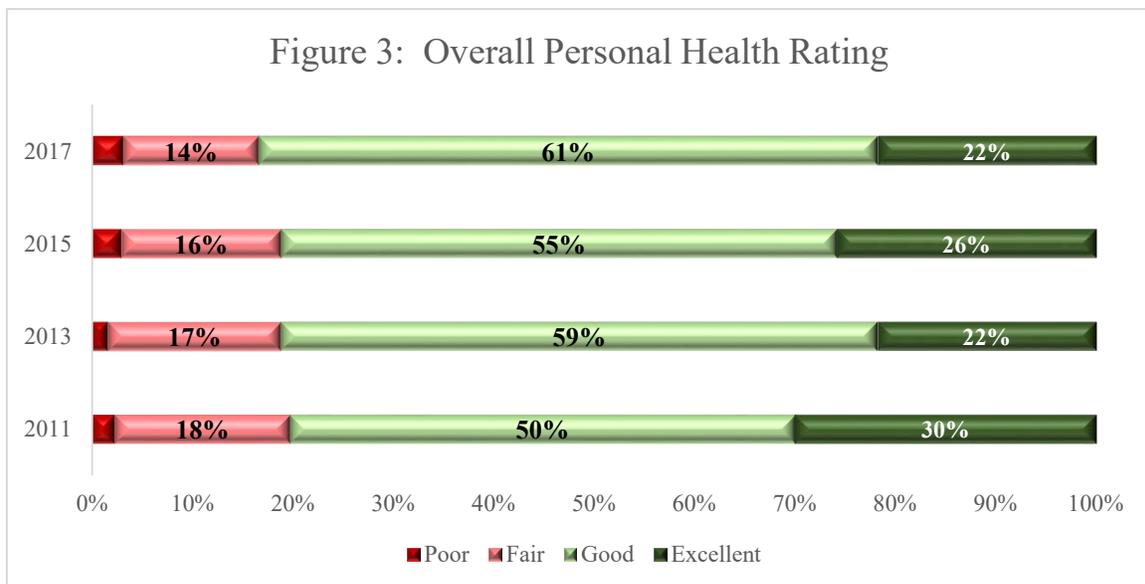
Table 1: Self-Assessed Overall Health, 2017				
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Metro	3%	14%	61%	22%
Non-Metro	3%	18%	59%	20%

There are statistically significant differences in how respondents rated their health based on their age, income, educational level, and employment category:

- As one might expect, those under 45 reported better health than older respondents (29% of those under 45 rated their current health as excellent compared to 18% of older respondents)

- Those with at least a 2-year college/tech degree rated their health better (28% said it was excellent compared to only 14% of those with less formal education)
- Respondents from higher income households said they were in better health than those from households earning less than \$50,000 (29% of those from higher income households said their health was excellent compared to 14% of those from lower income households)
- Those employed full-time or self-employed were healthier than those who worked part-time, were homemakers or retired (29% of those employed rated their health excellent compared to 15% of the other group)

Figure 3 shows a small but steady decrease in the proportion of respondents saying their health was poor or fair; 20% said their health was poor or fair in 2011 and that has fallen by 1 percent each subsequent survey. Compared to earlier years, the self-assessed current health status in 2017 was significantly better.



### Seriousness of Health Issues in Wausau Area

Respondents were asked to rate the seriousness of five community health-related issues: smoking, prescription drug abuse, obesity, alcohol abuse, and illegal drug use. Answer options included not serious, somewhat serious, moderately serious, very serious and not sure. Not sure responses were not included in our analysis.

As Table 3 indicates, the proportion of metro-area respondents who feel these are “very serious” issues for Wausau fall into three groups. Only about one-in-five respondents said that smoking is a very serious problem, nearly half said prescription drug abuse, obesity and alcohol abuse are very serious issues and two-thirds said illegal drug use is a very serious issue for the metro area. It should be noted that the SRC excluded those responding “not sure” to this question; nearly one-fifth of Wausau respondents were not sure about prescription drug abuse compared to under 5% for the other issues included in Table 2.

One factor should be mentioned that might have influenced the results of Table 2. The cover letter accompanying the survey stated that the purpose of the survey was “to learn more about medication abuse in the Wausau Metro area . . .” The cover letter may have inadvertently raised respondents’ awareness of prescription drug abuse in the Wausau metro area.

	<b>Smoking</b>	<b>Alcohol Abuse</b>	<b>Obesity</b>	<b>Prescription Drug Abuse</b>	<b>Illegal Drug Use</b>
Not Serious	16%	4%	3%	4%	2%
Somewhat Serious	28%	16%	14%	16%	10%
Moderately Serious	39%	32%	35%	35%	20%
Very Serious	17%	47%	48%	44%	67%

Different demographic groups view the seriousness of the issues in Table 2 somewhat differently:

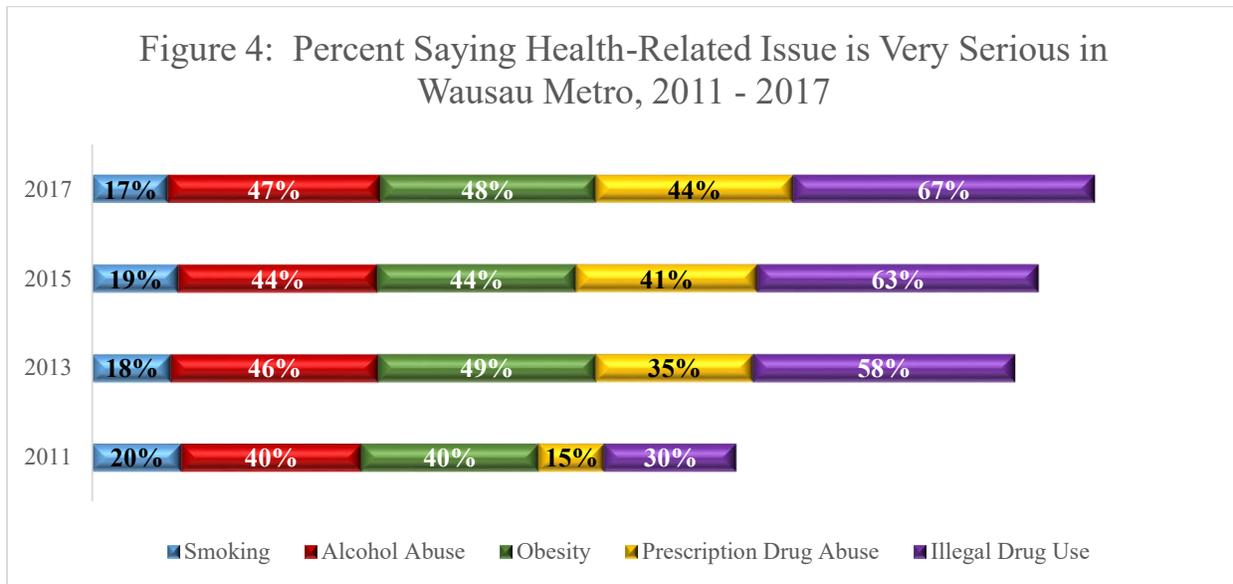
- Smoking – those 45 and older are more concerned than younger respondents (60% of those 55 and older said this was a moderately or very serious problem compared to 43% of younger respondents), those with less formal education are more concerned (23% said this was a very serious problem compared to 11% of those with at least a two-year degree), and lower income households felt smoking was more serious (24% said it is very serious compared to 8% of households earning at least \$50,000)
- Alcohol – higher proportions of low income respondents said alcohol was a very serious problem (55% vs. 40% of those from households reporting at least \$50,000 in annual income). Women (56%) were more likely to classify alcohol abuse as a very serious problem than were men (35%)
- Prescription Drugs – significantly higher proportions of women (43%) than men (30%) classified prescription drug abuse as a serious problem
- Illegal Drugs - women were also significantly more likely to say illegal drugs were a serious issue in the Wausau metro (63%) than were men (55%)

There were no significant differences across demographic groups with respect to how serious they view obesity to be in the Wausau metro area.

There were no statistically significant differences in the opinions in the Wausau metro area versus those who live elsewhere in Marathon County with respect to smoking, alcohol abuse, obesity, prescription drug abuse or illegal drug use.

Comparing the level of concern about these five health-related issues across time indicates that overall concern has grown (Figure 4). The proportion of respondents rating smoking as a very serious problem has been flat to slightly down over the 2011 – 2017 period. Concern about alcohol abuse and obesity jumped from 2011 to 2013 but have basically been flat since. The proportion of respondents saying both prescription and illegal drug abuse are serious problems jumped dramatically between 2011 and 2013 and have continued to increase in 2015 and 2017. The levels of concern about both prescription drugs and illegal drugs are significantly higher in 2017 than in earlier years. The increased media coverage of overdoses from illegal (fentanyl and heroin) and prescription (oxycodone, Percocet) drugs may be contributing to these results.

Whatever the reason, Wausau metro residents seem more concerned about these drug abuse issues than in previous years. The level of concern about obesity, prescription drug abuse and illegal drug abuse are all significantly greater in 2017 than over the 2011 – 2015 period.



## Use of Prescribed Medication

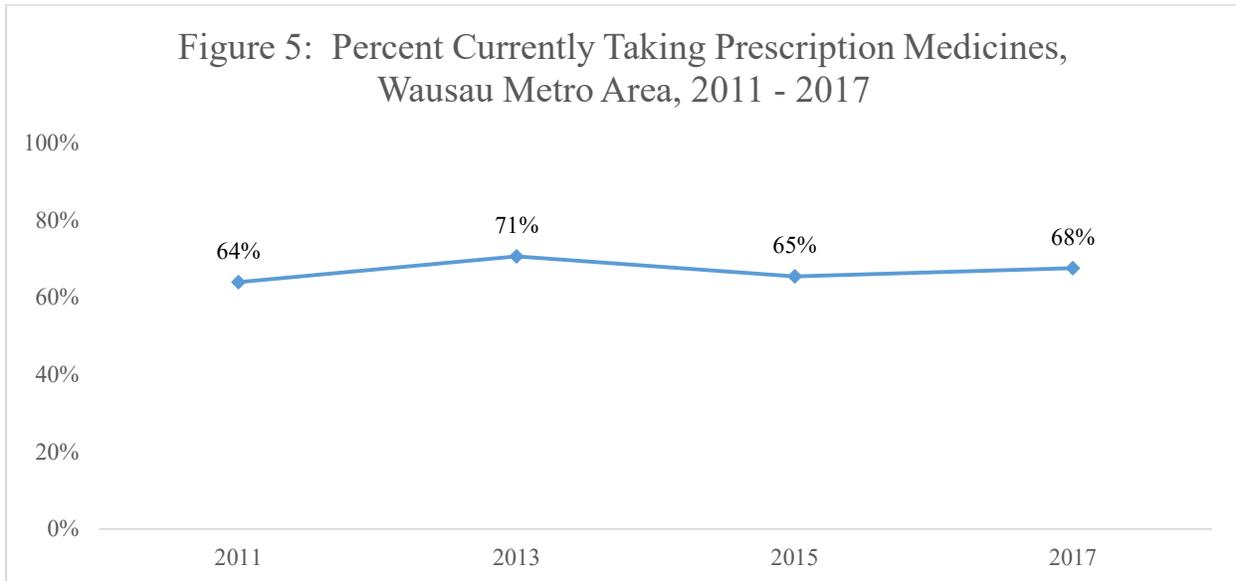
The Center for Disease Control reports that 48.9% of the US population was taking at least one prescription drug during the 2011-2014 time frame.<sup>1</sup> Excluding those who opted for the not applicable/don't choose to answer option, slightly more than two-thirds of the 2017 Wausau metro sample (68%) said they are currently taking a medication prescribed by their doctor. Prescription drug use in the Wausau metro area appears to be quite a bit higher than the national average.

The fact that older residents are over-represented in this dataset probably explains a good deal of this apparent higher usage of prescription drugs. Indeed, we found that respondents older than 45 were significantly more likely to say they are currently taking a prescription medicine (79%) than were those younger than that (44%). In addition, longer-term residents were more likely to be taking prescription drugs than were those who have lived in the metro area for under 20 years (75% vs. 56%), respondent with less formal education use more prescriptions than those with at least a two-year degree (74% vs. 61%), white respondents more than people of color (68% vs. 54%), lower income respondents compared to those from households earning at least \$50,000 (77% vs. 54%), and those without a full-time paying job compared to the self-employed and those working full-time (82% vs. 51%)

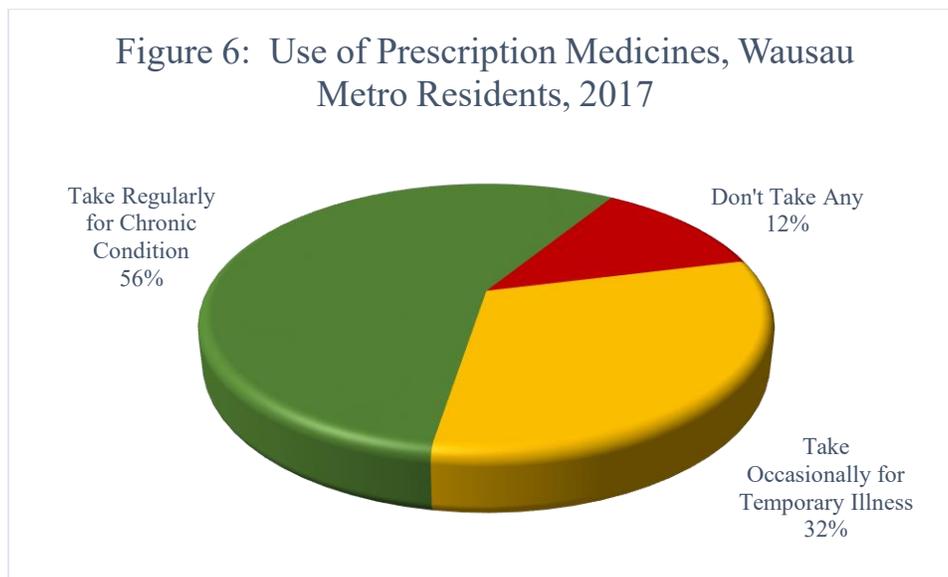
Similar proportion of Wausau metro (68%) and Marathon County residents outside of the metro area (67%) reported taking prescription drugs at the time these data were collected.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/drug-use-therapeutic.htm>

Figure 5 indicates that the proportion of respondents saying they are currently taking prescription drugs has been fairly steady over this eight-year time period.



A related question, later in the survey, asked respondents to select the option that best described their use of prescription drugs. Answer options were: I take prescription medicines occasionally when prescribed by a doctor for a temporary illness, I take prescription medication prescribed by a doctor regularly because of a chronic condition, or I do not take any prescription medications.



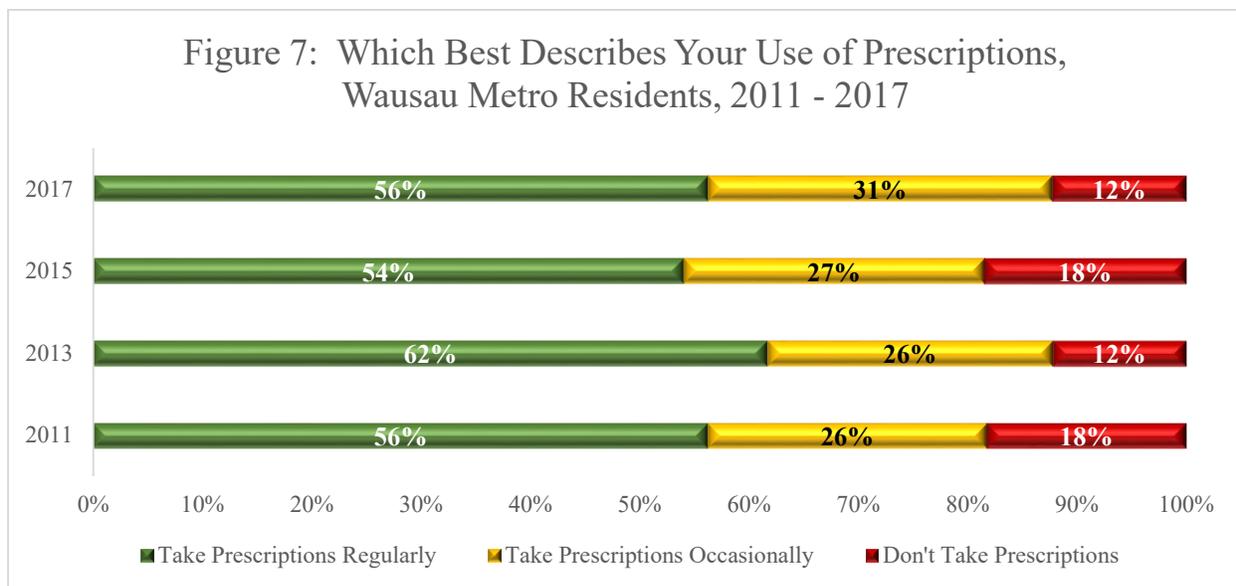
Twelve percent of respondents indicated they don't take any prescription medicines (Figure 6). More than half (56%) said they take prescriptions to deal with a chronic condition and about one-third (32%) take them occasionally for temporary illnesses.

Use of prescriptions to deal with a chronic condition is significantly higher among:

- Those who are not working full time (74% vs. 39% for full-time workers)
- Older respondents (69% of those over 45 take prescriptions regularly for a chronic condition vs. 33% of younger respondents)
- 20+ year residents of the metro area (62% vs. 48% of residents who've lived there for less than 20 years)
- Those with less formal education (64% vs. 51% of those with at least a 2-year degree)
- Those from lower income households (64% vs. 46% of those from households with \$50,000 or more in annual income)
- Women (59% vs. 54% of men)

Prescription drug use in the non-metro area was very similar to the Wausau metro area: 29% use them occasionally, 58% use them regularly for chronic conditions and 13% never use them.

Figure 7 indicates that there are no clear trends with respect to patterns of prescription medicine use in the Wausau metro area. More 2017 respondents said they occasionally take prescription medicines to deal with temporary illnesses than was the case in earlier years.



## Prevalence of Prescription Drug Misuse

Respondents were asked a series of questions about potential ways they might have used prescription drugs in ways other than as prescribed:

- Have you ever, even once, used a prescription that was not prescribed for you?
- Have you ever, even once, used a prescription medication for a reason other than what it was prescribed?
- In the past 12 months, have you used prescription medications but not used them exactly as the doctor prescribed?

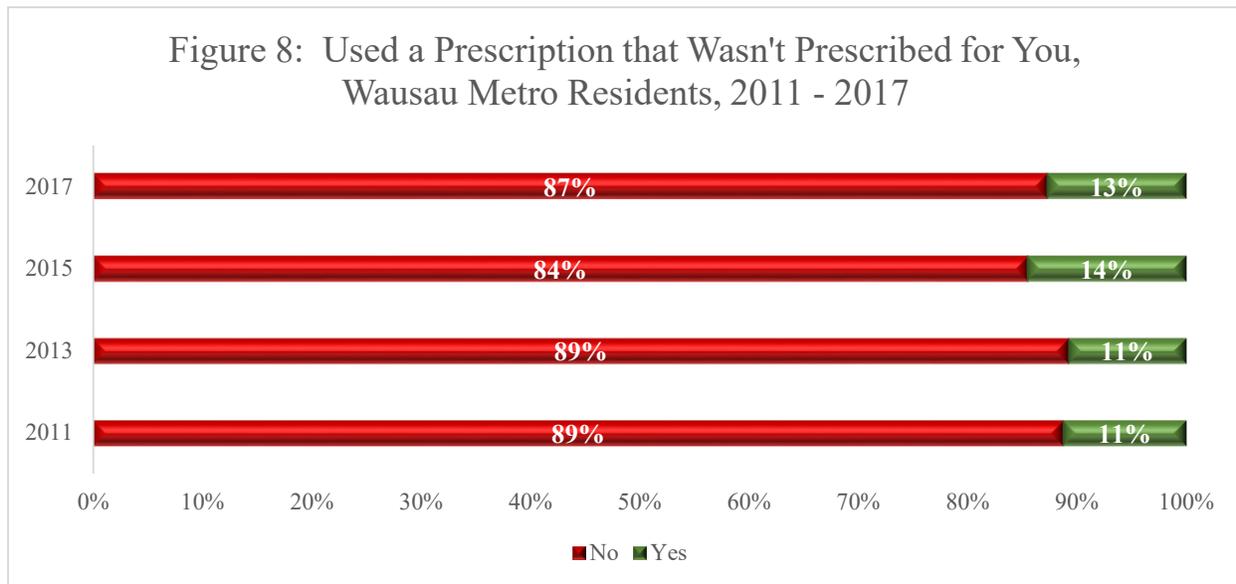
- During the last 30 days, how many times have you used prescription medications, but not exactly as your doctor prescribed?

The one percent of respondents who selected the “NA/Don’t Care to Answer” option were excluded from the following summary.

With respect to using a prescription that was not written for them, 87% of respondents in 2017 said they had never done so. Twice as many respondents under 45 (19%) said they’d used someone else’s prescription than was true for older respondents (9%). Significantly higher proportions of those with at least a 2-year degree (16%) said they’d used someone else’s prescription than those with less formal education (9%). Those employed full time (18%) were also more likely to have used a prescription meant for someone else than home-makers/retirees/part-time workers (8%).

Residents of Marathon County who live outside of the metro area were also unlikely to have used a medication that was not prescribed for them; 89% said they’d never done so.

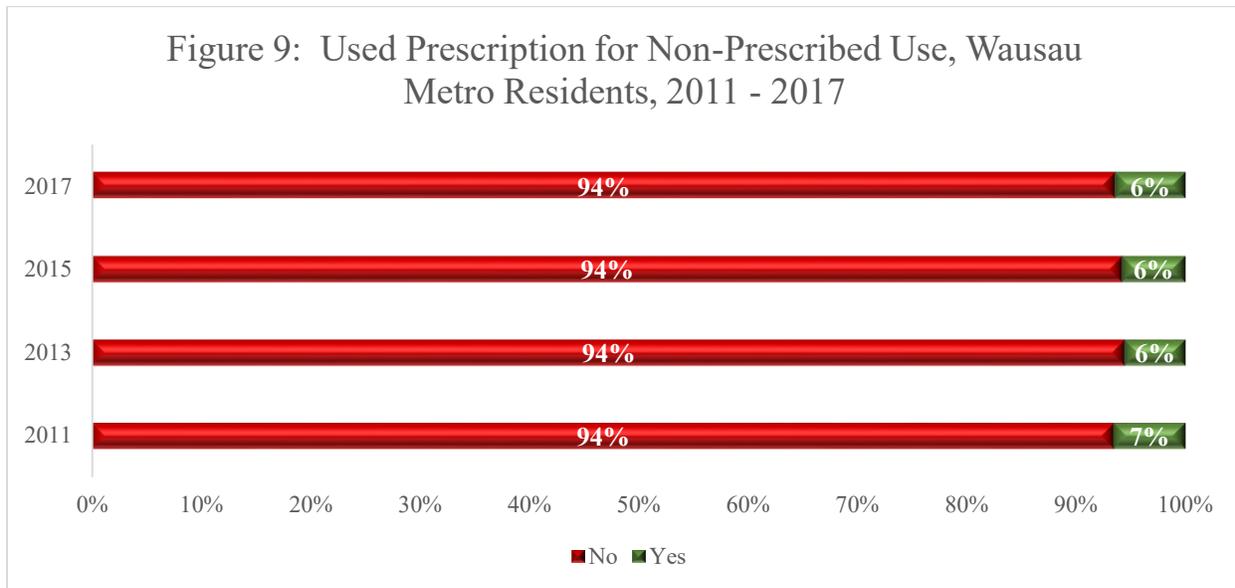
In 2015, we noted, with concern, the uptick in respondents who said they’d used a prescription that wasn’t written for them. Results in 2017 provide some reassurance that the 2015 was not the beginning of an adverse trend, though current figures are slightly higher than in 2013 and 2011 (Figure 8). The 2017 results are not significantly different that the 2011 - 2015 results.



In 2017, 94% of Wausau metro respondents said they have never used a prescription medicine for a reason other than for what it was prescribed (Figure 9, next page). There were no statistically significant differences across demographic groups with respect to using a prescription drug for some other reason.

Non-metro residents were also unlikely to report using a medicine for a purpose other than for which it was prescribed; like metro residents, 94% of non-metro said they had never done this.

Figure 9 indicates the proportion of respondents in the Wausau metro area who used medicines for non-prescribed reasons has been low and very consistent.



In 2017, 92% of both metro and non-metro respondents said that, during the previous 12 months, they had not used a prescription medicine in ways other than exactly as prescribed. There were no differences in this behavior across demographic groups in the metro area.

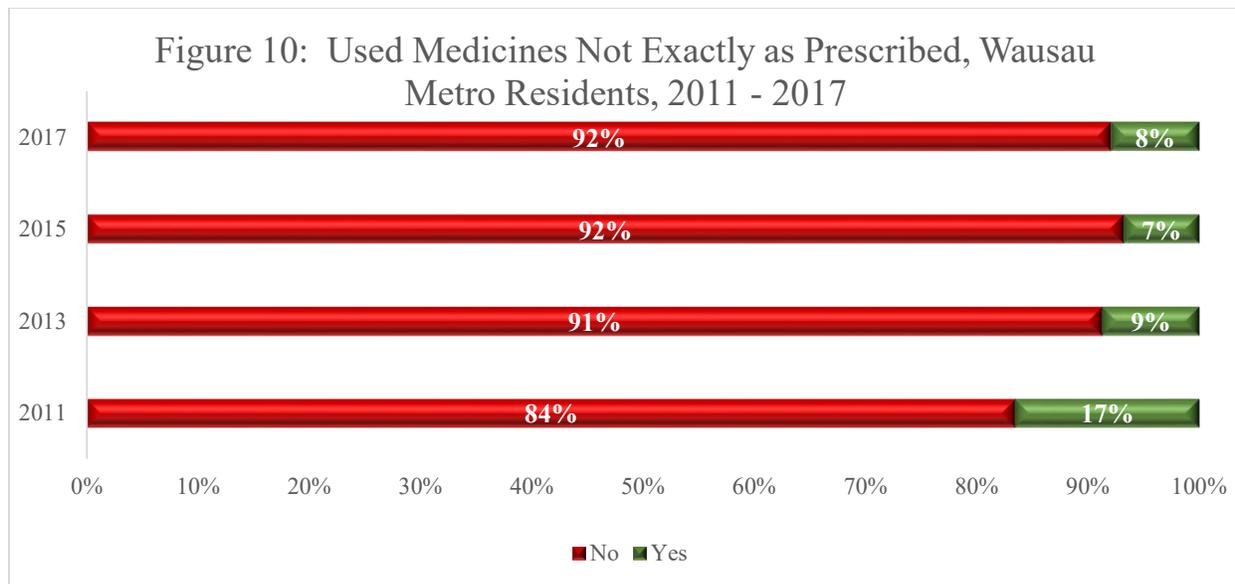


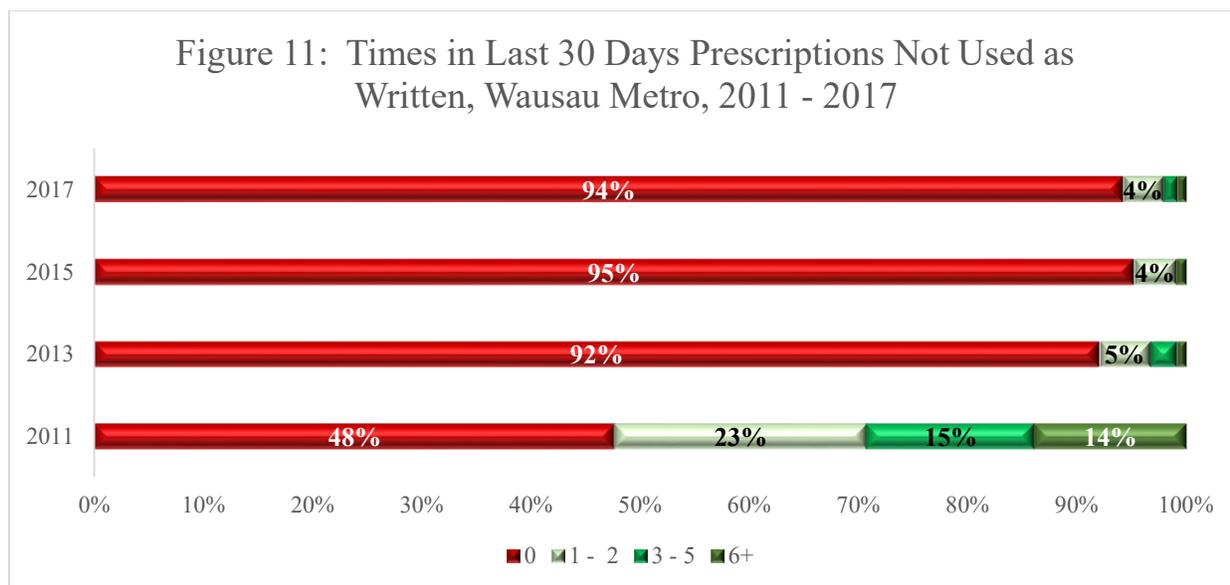
Figure 10 indicates that since 2013, the proportion of respondents in the Wausau metro region who report using medicines in ways other than exactly as prescribed has been fairly constant.

Finally, respondents were asked how many times during the previous 30 days they had used a prescription medicine in ways other than exactly as prescribed. Table 3 indicates that 94% of

metro and non-metro respondents said they had not done this even once in the previous month. The intensity of using prescriptions in ways other than intended was slightly higher in the non-metro area. There were no statistically significant differences in this behavior across metro-area demographic groups.

	<b>Zero</b>	<b>1 - 2</b>	<b>3 - 5</b>	<b>6+</b>
Wausau Metro	94%	4%	1%	1%
Non-Metro	94%	3%	1%	2%

Figure 11 indicates that, the results in 2011 with respect to using prescriptions in ways other than written, were significantly different than for the other three times these data have been collected. The SRC suspects that the data for this question from 2011, which were gathered using a phone survey, are not directly comparable to those collected in subsequent surveys. The 2013 – 2017 surveys gathered data via a mailed paper survey. The results over the 2013 – 2017 period are quite consistent.



## Perception of Prescription Drug Availability

Respondents were asked several questions about the availability of prescription drugs for the purpose of getting high or the feeling they experience from the drugs. One question simply asked if they agree that “prescription medications are readily available (in the Wausau Metro area or in your community for non-metro residents) to individuals who want to use them to get high.” Answer options included strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, not sure and not applicable. A high proportion of respondents (46% in the metro and 50% in the non-metro) said they were not sure about the availability of prescriptions for getting high. In the summary to follow, we excluded the not sure and not applicable answers. It is important to bear in mind,

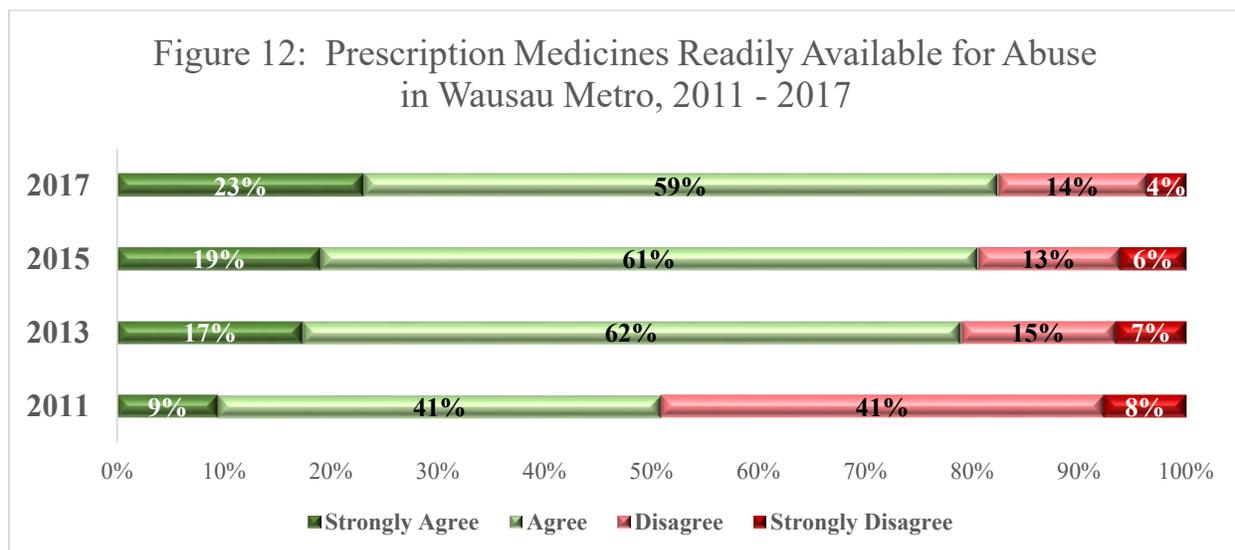
therefore, that these results reflect the views of the roughly 50% of respondents who have an opinion about prescription drug availability.

Table 4 indicates that of those who have an opinion, 82% of the metro respondents and 73% of the non-metro respondents agree or strongly agree that prescriptions drugs are readily available in their communities to those who want to use them to get high. The proportion in the metro area who agree that prescription drugs are readily available to abusers in their community is significantly greater than in the non-metro area.

There were no statistically significant differences of opinion about the availability of prescription drugs to those wanting to use them to get high across demographic groups in the Wausau metro area.

<b>Table 4: Prescription Drugs Readily Available For Those Who Want to Use to Get High, Wausau Metro and Non-Metro, 2017</b>				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Metro	23%	59%	14%	4%
Non-Metro	12%	61%	16%	11%

Figure 12 shows that opinion about the availability of prescription drugs in the Wausau metro area to those who want to use them to get high has been shifting over time. The proportion who agree or strongly agree that prescription drugs are readily available for these purposes has increased each year the data have been gathered. The figure also suggests that 2011 may not be directly comparable to the 2013-2017 data.



Respondents were also asked their opinion about how easy or difficult it is for people wanting to get high to get prescription medications from either a medical provider or from friends/family. As Table 5 indicates, the largest proportion of respondents were not sure how easy it is to obtain prescription medicines in order to get high from medical providers or family and friends. Many

more feel family and friends are an easier route to acquiring such drugs (42% feel it is at least somewhat easy) than medical providers (27% feel it is at least somewhat easy).

<b>Table 5: How Easy to Get Prescription Medicine to Get High, Wausau Metro Area, 2017</b>					
	<b>Very Difficult</b>	<b>Somewhat Difficult</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>Somewhat Easy</b>	<b>Very Easy</b>
From Medical Providers	12%	13%	47%	17%	10%
From Family/Friends	8%	7%	43%	21%	21%

With respect to using medical providers to get prescriptions for the purpose of getting high:

- Significantly more of those under 45 thought it was at least somewhat easy (35% vs 22% of those over 45)
- Significantly more of those fully employed outside the home (28%) think it is at least somewhat easy compared to those not fully employed outside the home (24%)
- Significantly more women (31%) felt it is at least somewhat easy to get these drugs from a medical provider than men (22%)

With respect to getting prescription drugs for recreational purposes from family and friends:

- More younger respondents (53%) felt this was at least somewhat easy compared to 35% of those over 45
- More of those with at least a 2-year degree (46%) felt this was at least somewhat easy compared to 36% of those with less formal education
- More of those fully employed outside the home (49%) felt this was at least somewhat easier than those not fully employed outside the home (33%)
- More women (48%) than men (34%) felt this was at least somewhat easy

Respondents from outside of the Wausau metro area thought it was slightly more difficult to get prescription drugs for purposes of getting high from medical providers or friends and family. For instance, 5% more non-metro respondents felt it was at least somewhat difficult to get prescriptions from medical providers and 7% more felt it was at least somewhat difficult to get them from family and friends than their metro counterparts. The differences, however, were not statistically significant.

There is no apparent trend in how easy or difficult Wausau metro residents think it is to get prescription drugs from medical providers in order to get high (Figure 13, next page). Figure 13 again suggests that 2011 results are so different that the validity of comparisons to the more recent datasets is questionable.

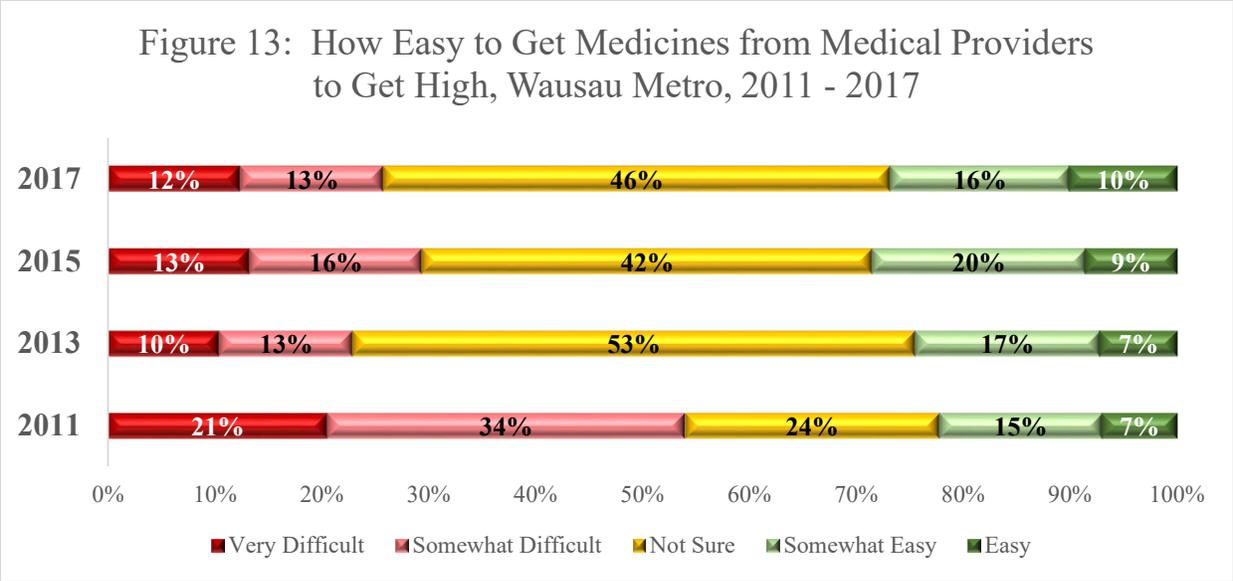
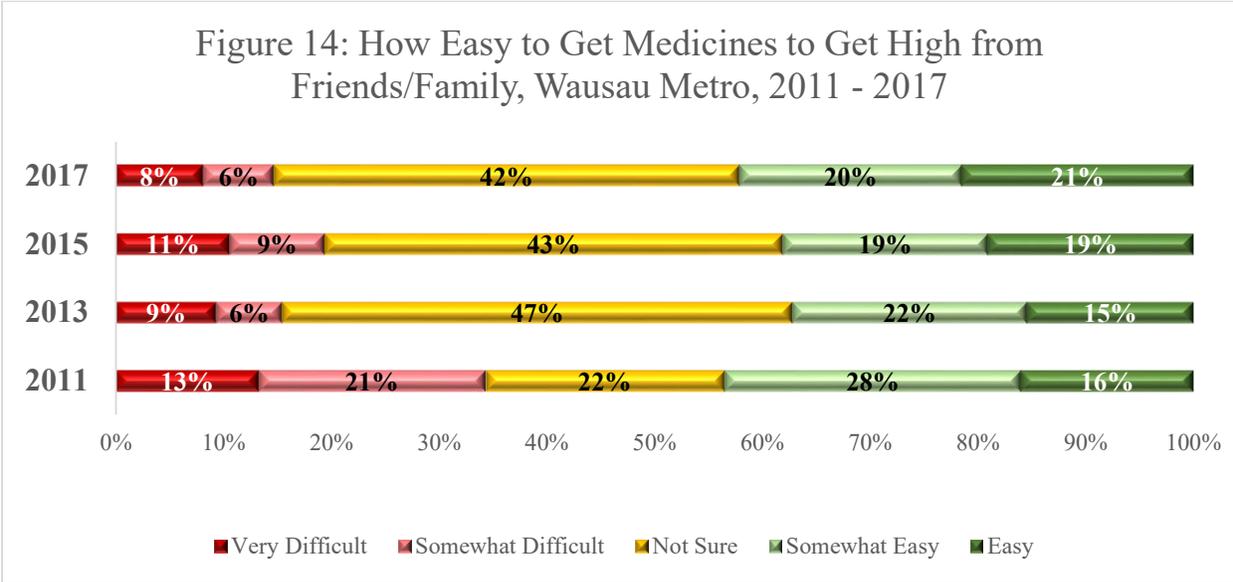


Figure 14 shows a trend over the 2013 – 2017 time frame toward more respondents saying it is easy to get prescription drugs for recreational purposes from family and friends.



Finally, respondents were asked where they think people most often obtain prescription medicines that were not prescribed to them. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents in 2017 said they were not sure how these prescriptions were obtained (21%) or didn't care to answer (2%). Of those with an opinion, more than half (55%) said prescription drugs most often were obtained by “taking them from family, friends, or stealing from another source.” Nearly one-quarter (23%) believed that these drugs were most often bought on the street and another 14% believed they were given to users by a family member or friend. Very few respondents felt the prescription drugs were most commonly obtained from medical providers (3%) or the internet (4%).

In terms of demographic group differences:

- Those under 45 were more likely to say these drugs were obtained by taking them from family and friends, buying them on the street, or being given to them by family or friends; older respondents were more likely to say they weren't sure where they were obtained
- Those employed full-time were more likely to believe these drugs were obtained by stealing them or being given to them by family or friends; those not fully-employed outside the home were more likely to be unsure where these drugs were obtained
- More men were unsure where these drugs were coming from and women were more likely to believe they were being stolen from family or friends or are purchased on the street

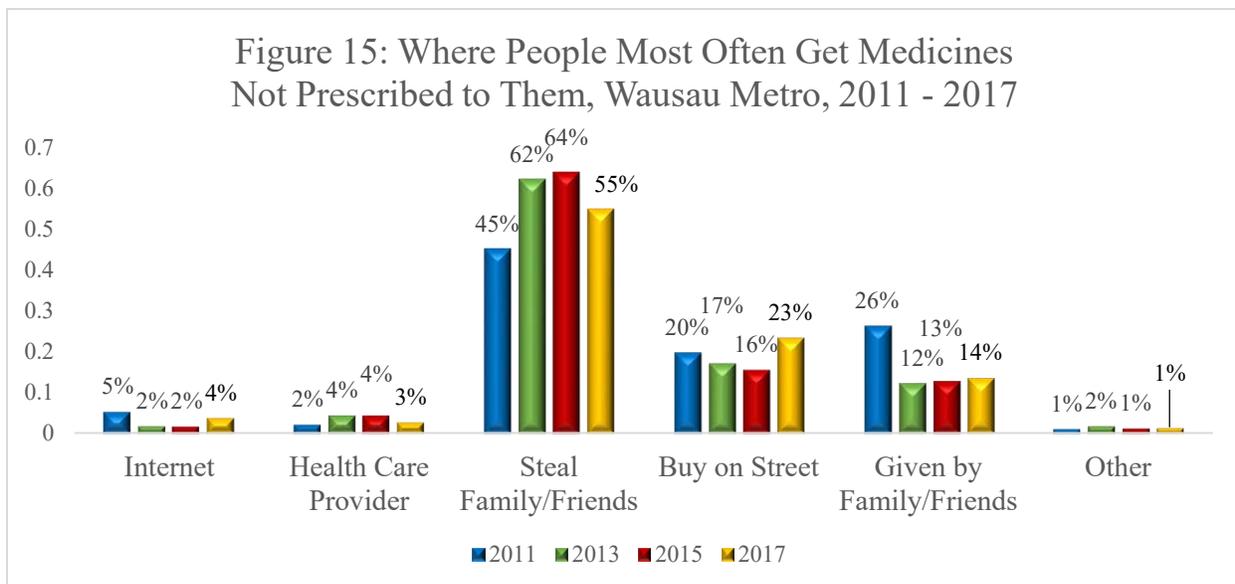


Figure 15 indicates that stealing from family and friends has been the most frequently identified source of prescription drugs for those using them to get high in all four years. Buying prescription drugs on the street and being given the drugs by family and friends are seen as the second and third most common sources. Again, the response pattern in 2011 is significantly different than in more recent years.

## Perception of Risk

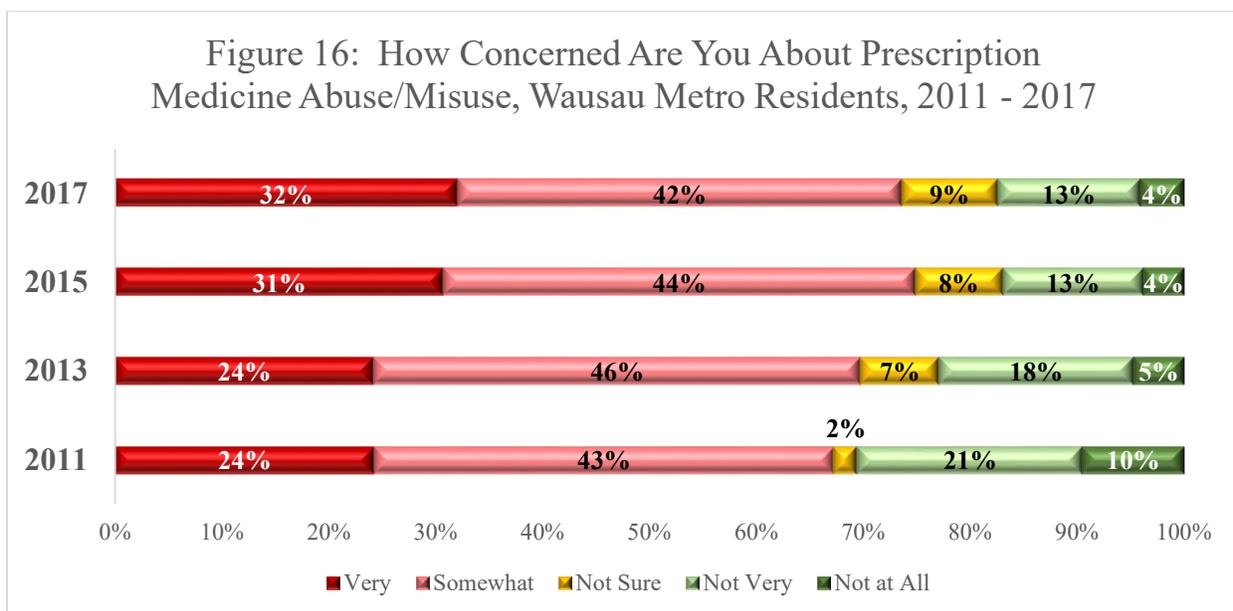
In 2017, three quarters of the respondents were either “very concerned” (32%) or “somewhat concerned” (42%) about prescription medication misuse or abuse in the Wausau metro area. Though the degree of concern seems slightly lower in the non-metro population, the difference is not statistically significant.

	Very	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at All	Not Sure
Metro	32%	42%	13%	4%	9%
Non-Metro	25%	44%	15%	6%	10%

In terms of differences in the level of concern about prescription drug abuse:

- Residents of Schofield appear less concerned than respondents from other Wausau metro communities
- Those older than 45 were more concerned than younger respondents (78% somewhat or very concerned vs. 68% of younger respondents)
- White respondents were more concerned than non-whites (74% of whites were somewhat or very concerned vs. 62% for people of color)
- Those not fully employed outside the home were more concerned than those fully employed (77% vs, 69%)

Figure 16 indicates that the proportion of Wausau metro respondents who are very concerned about abuse of prescription medicines has been growing. There was, however, no statistical difference between 2017 and earlier years. Frankly, given the amount of media coverage the problem of opioid addiction and overdoses has received in recent months, it is surprising that we did not see more of a jump in the level of concern about this issue in 2017.



Metro and non-metro residents were asked two parallel questions about the use/abuse of prescription drugs. One asked if they agreed that “it is safer to get high on prescription medications than street drugs” and the other if it is “OK to take more than the recommended dosage of a prescription medication.” Answer options ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree and included not sure and “N/A” options. The not applicable responses were dropped from the analysis.

Table 7 summarizes the responses to both questions for the metro and non-metro populations. Relatively few people in either the Wausau metro area or those residing elsewhere in Marathon County believe prescription drugs provide a safer high or that it is OK to take a higher dose than recommended. Though the proportion of metro area residents who disagree or strongly disagree that prescription drugs are safer and that it is OK to take higher-than-prescribed doses is higher than in the non-metro, the difference is not statistically significant.

Table 7 shows that a substantial proportion of the respondents in both the metro and non-metro areas were not sure if getting high by abusing prescription drugs is safer than by using street drugs like marijuana or cocaine. There was a relatively high level of certainty that taking a higher dose of prescription drugs is not a good idea.

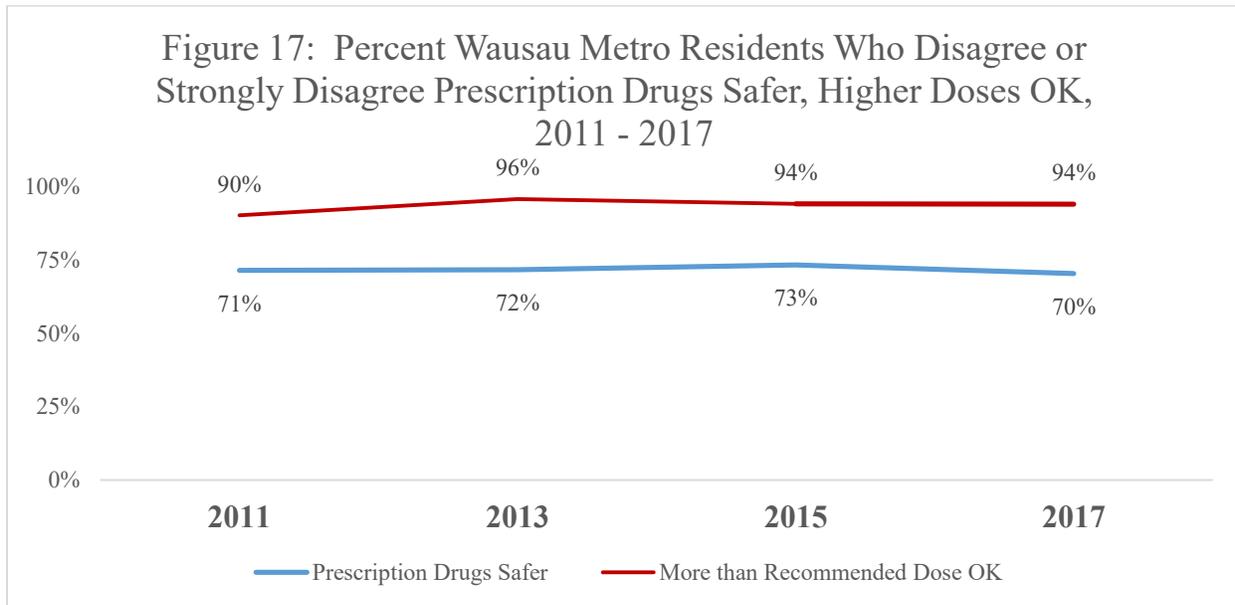
<b>Table 7: Prescription Drugs Safer and OK to Take More than Prescribed Dose, 2017</b>					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Metro Safer	2%	7%	32%	38%	21%
Non-Metro Safer	3%	7%	24%	37%	29%
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Metro Dosage	2%	2%	35%	59%	3%
Non-Metro Dosage	2%	2%	33%	55%	7%

With respect to differences of opinion across demographic groups in the metro area about the relative safety of prescription drugs compared to street drugs like marijuana or cocaine:

- Those under 45 disagreed more strongly (81% disagreed or strongly disagreed vs. 63% of those over 45); many more of those older than 45 were not sure (26% vs. 10%)
- Those with at least a 2-year college degree disagreed more strongly (75% disagreed or strongly disagreed vs. 62% of those with less formal education); those with less education were more than twice as likely to be unsure about this (29% vs. 14%)
- Those with a full-time job outside the home disagreed more strongly (77% disagreed or strongly disagreed vs. 61% of those without a full-time job); those not fully-employed were more likely to be unsure about this (26% vs. 16%)

There were no statistical differences across demographic groups with respect to whether it is OK to take more than the recommended dose of a prescription medicine.

In Figure 17, we have plotted the proportion of Wausau metro respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed that prescription drugs were safer than street drugs or that it is OK to take more than the recommended dose of prescription drugs. For both propositions, the level of disagreement has been fairly constant over the four data collection cycles. At least nine out of ten respondents disagree that it is OK to take higher than recommended doses of prescription drugs and slightly less than three-quarters disagree that prescription drugs are safer.



Respondents were asked to indicate their opinion about the level of risk associated with using medications not exactly as prescribed by their doctor or health care provider. Answer options ranged from great risk to no risk and included “depends on the medication”, not sure, and NA/Don’t care to answer. The NA/Don’t care to answer responses were dropped from the following analysis.

In 2017, 76% of both the metro and non-metro respondents said the risk of not using medicines as prescribed posed a great or at least some risk (Table 8). Metro respondents were more adamant but the difference with the non-metro respondents is not statistically significant. Similar proportions, 17% for the metro and 16% for non-metro residents, said that the risk depends on the specific medication.

There were no differences of opinion across metro area demographic categories with respect to this question.

<b>Table 8: Level of Risk Not Using Medications Exactly as Prescribed, 2017</b>						
	Great Risk	Some Risk	Little Risk	No Risk	Depends on the Med	Not Sure
Metro	49%	27%	2%	0%	17%	5%
Non-Metro	40%	36%	1%	0%	16%	7%

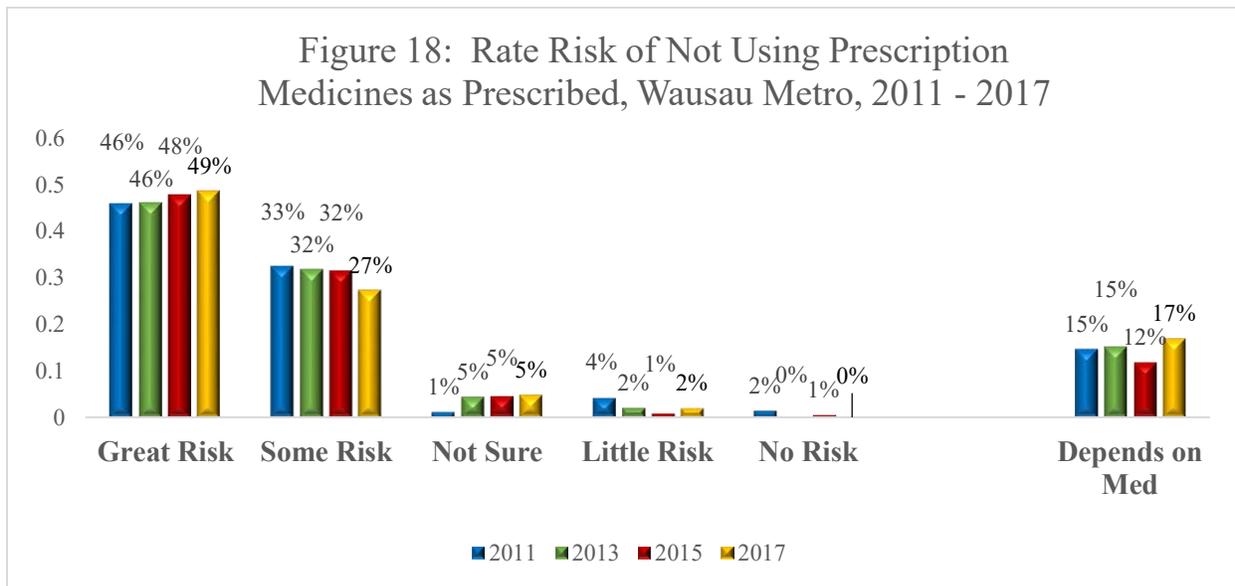


Figure 18 indicates that the proportion of metro-area respondents who said there is great risk associated with not using prescription drugs exactly as prescribed has been slowly growing since 2011. The average response in 2017 was not significantly different from previous years.

## Disposal Efforts

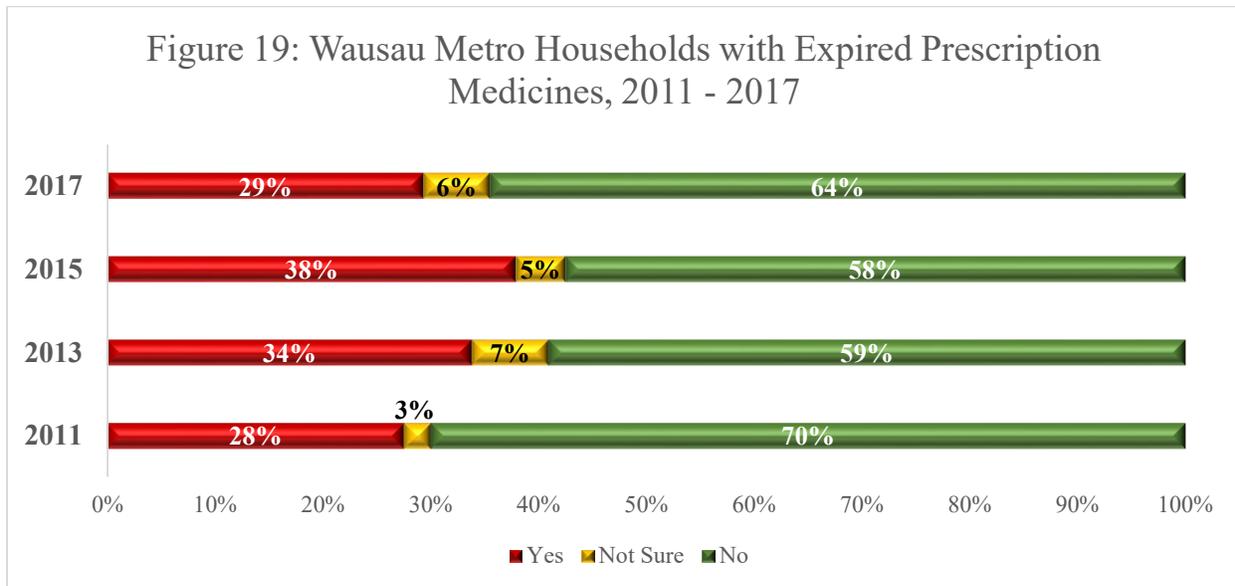
Given that respondents in the Wausau metro area believe the primary source of prescription drugs for use to get high is stealing them from family and friends, it is important to know what proportion of Wausau households have expired medicines in their homes. In 2017, about 3 of 10 respondents in both the metro and non-metro populations said they currently have expired medicines in their home. In 2015, metro households were significantly more likely to have expired medications in their homes than non-metro households. In 2017, there is not a significant difference between the two populations, but a lower proportion of metro households reported having expired medications in their homes.

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Metro	29%	64%	6%
Non-Metro	34%	61%	5%

In terms of statistically significant differences in the proportion of Wausau metro households with expired medicines:

- Surprisingly, respondents younger than 45 (34%) were more likely than older respondents (27%) to have expired medications

Following increases in the proportion of households with expired medications in the 2013 and 2015, this key indicator declined significantly in 2017 (Figure 19). The decline in the proportion of homes with expired medicines in 2017 is a positive development.



A related question asked respondents if they are aware of sites in their community where they can dispose of expired prescription medicines they no longer use. The proportion of Wausau metro area residents who said they know where they can safely dispose of expired prescription medications (76%) was significantly higher in 2017 than in non-metro households.

**Table 10: Know Where Prescription Medication Disposal Site Is, 2017**

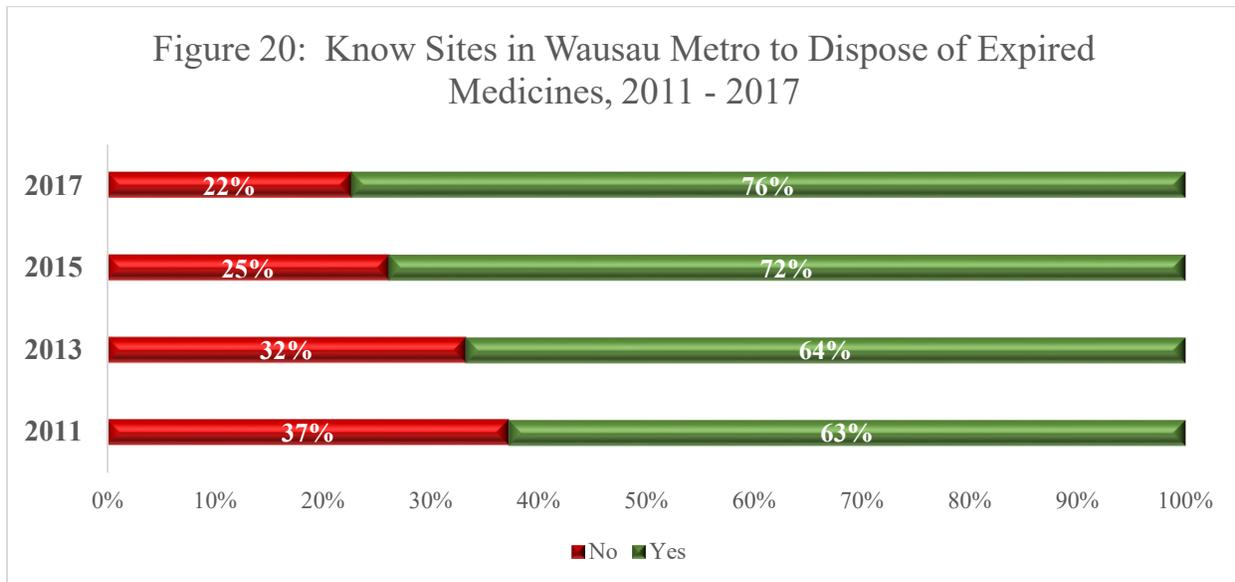
	Yes	Not Sure	No
Metro	76%	2%	22%
Non-Metro	68%	2%	31%

Demographically, there is a significant difference in the awareness of disposal sites for unneeded prescription medicines based on:

- the age of the respondent (84% of those over 45 were aware vs. 61% of younger respondents)
- length of residence in the Wausau metro area (81% of 20+ year residents said they know where to take their expired medications vs. 69% of those who'd been in Wausau a shorter period)
- those without full-time employment outside the home (retirees, homemakers, etc.) were more aware (82%) than those with full-time employment (70%)

Figure 20 depicts a steady decrease in the proportion of metro-area respondents who said they didn't know the location of sites in their community where they could dispose of expired

medications. These differences are statistically significant, meaning that there is a real increase in awareness in Wausau metro area households of where they should take their expired medications for safe disposal.



Both the metro and non-metro populations were asked how they currently dispose of unused or unwanted medications. Answer options were: put them in the trash, flush them down the toilet, take them to a disposal site, other, I don't have any, not sure and don't care to answer. Table 11 shows there is little difference in the way households in these two parts of Marathon County say they dispose of their expired or unneeded medications. For both metro and non-metro households, about three-quarters of the responses were either that they take them to a disposal site (about 40%) or that they don't have any unused/un-needed medications (about one-third). Table 11 also indicates that much work remains in terms of proper disposal of these drugs as nearly one in five either put them out with their trash or flush them down their toilets. Both of these means of disposal have potentially serious, negative environmental consequences.

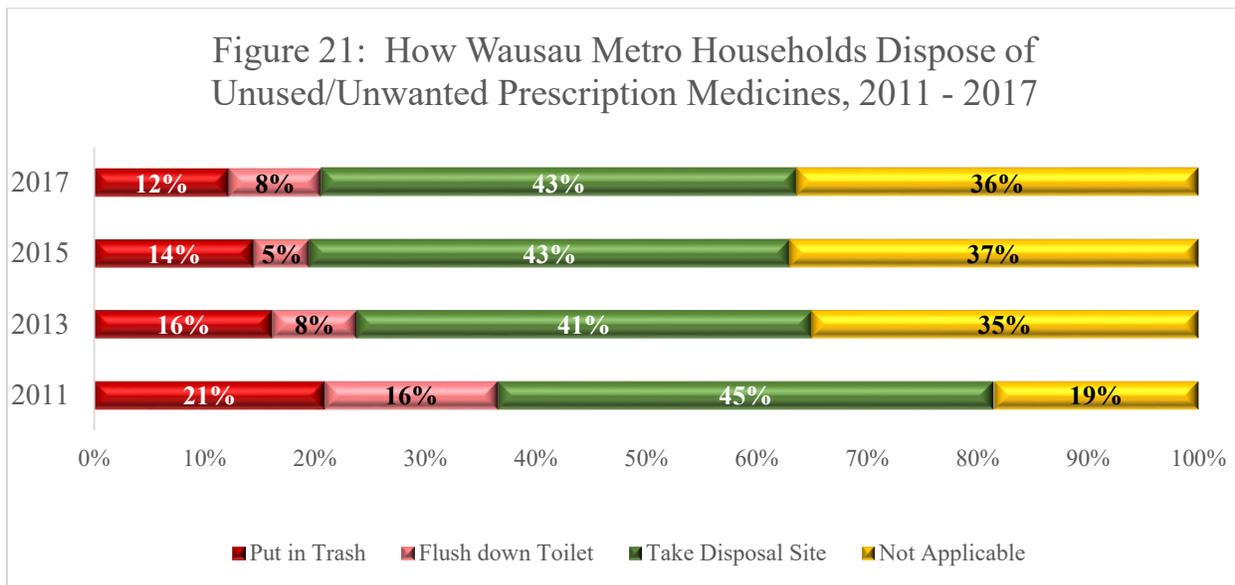
<b>Table 11: Methods Used by Metro and Non-Metro Households to Dispose of Expired or Unneeded Medications, 2017</b>							
	Trash	Toilet	Disposal Site	Other	Not Applicable	Not Sure	Don't Care to Answer
Metro	11%	8%	40%	4%	34%	2%	2%
Non-Metro	12%	6%	39%	5%	32%	5%	1%

Demographically, significant differences in methods used to dispose of unused or un-needed medications include:

- Those under 45 were significantly more likely to put these medications in the trash (19% vs. 8% for those over 45) or flush them down the toilet (13% vs 5%) and less likely to take them to a disposal site (31% vs. 45% for those over 45) or say that they don't have any to dispose of (26% vs. 38%)

- Higher proportions of respondents with at least a 2-year degree said they put unused medications in their trash (16% vs. 5% for those with less formal education) and less likely to say they don't have unused medications to dispose of (28% vs. 41%)

To track changes over time, we have excluded the Other, Not Sure and Don't Care to Answer options. Figure 21 is, basically, a good news story. The preferred practices (taking unused medications to a disposal site and/or not having any on hand in the house) appear to be increasing and those to be discouraged (putting them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet) declining. Thus, it appears that Wausau area residents are becoming more responsible with respect to how they get rid of expired and unwanted medications.



## Awareness of Local Prevention Initiatives

Respondents were asked if they are aware of the Marathon County Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Partnership (a local substance abuse coalition) and the Pushback Against Drug Abuse initiative (launched in May 2013). In 2017, nearly half (46%) of the metro-area respondents said they are aware of AOD, but only about half that proportion (26%) said they knew of Pushback. Compared to non-metro households, significantly higher proportions of metro households are aware of both programs.

	Yes	Not Sure	No
Metro - AOD	46%	6%	48%
Non-Metro - AOD	32%	12%	56%
	Yes	Not Sure	No
Metro - Pushback	26%	7%	66%
Non-Metro - Pushback	19%	10%	72%

With respect to awareness of AOD by different Wausau metro demographic groups:

- Those older than 45 were significantly more aware of the program than were younger residents (52% for those over 45 vs. 34% for younger respondents)
- 20+ year residents were significantly more aware of the program (54% vs. 34% for newer residents)

With respect to awareness of the Pushback program by different Wausau metro demographic groups:

- Those older than 45 were significantly more aware of the program than were younger residents (30% for those over 45 vs. 19% for younger respondents)

Figure 22 (next page) shows a slow, but steady, decline from 2013 to 2017 in the proportion of Wausau area residents who said they've not heard of the AOD program. The observed differences are not quite statistically significant. Still, the trend toward greater awareness of this program is encouraging.

Trends in the awareness of the Pushback program are less clear (Figure 23, next page). In 2017, 26% of respondents in the Wausau metro area said they were aware of the Pushback program, which is an all-time high. But, the improvement in awareness is not statistically significant. Further, two-thirds of the respondents said they were unaware of the Pushback program.

Figure 22: Percent Wausau Metro Households Heard of AOD Partnership, 2013 - 2017

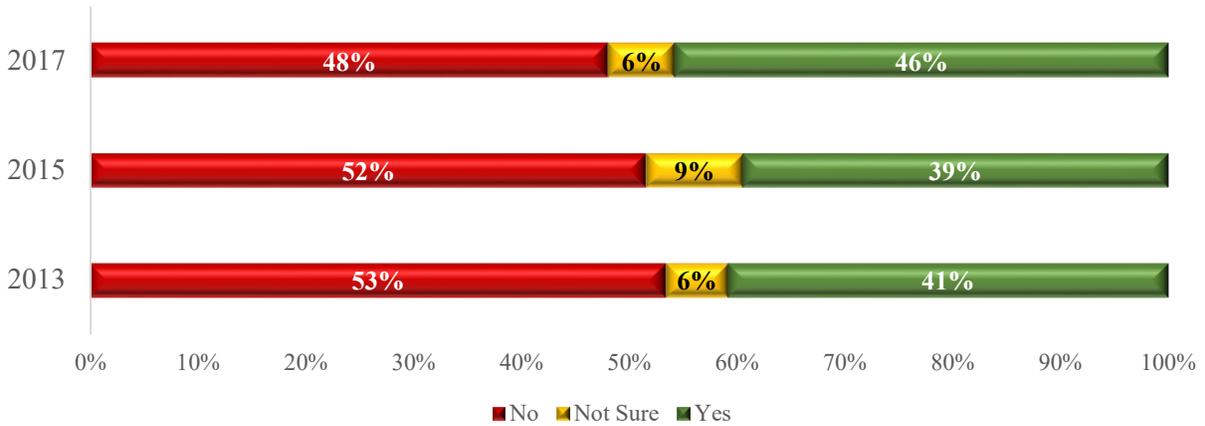
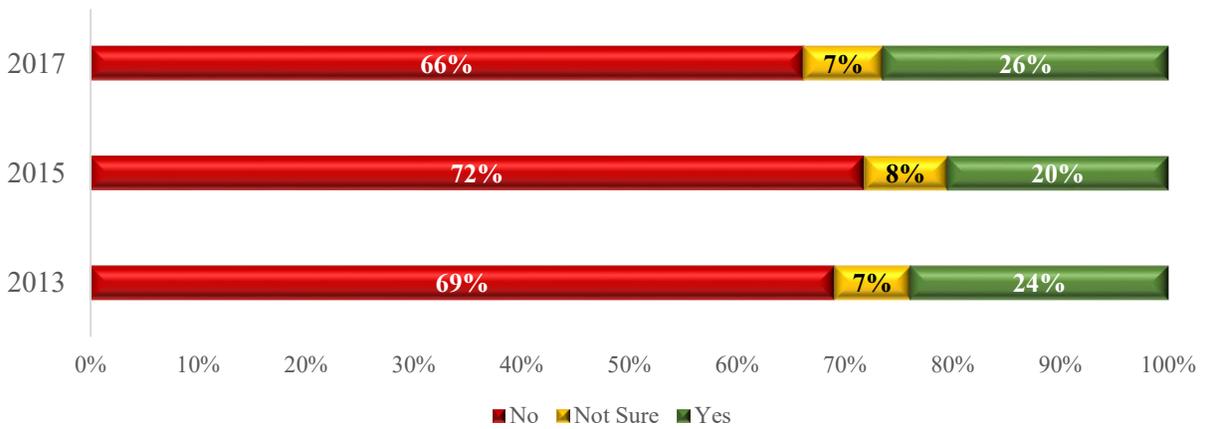


Figure 23: Percent Wausau Metro Households Heard of Pushback Campaign, 2013 - 2017



## Profile of Respondents

Table 13 summarizes the demographic profile of the metro and non-metro samples. The SRC utilized the 2011-2015 five-year estimates from the US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) to compare the demographic profile of respondents in the metro and non-metro areas to the overall profile of adults in those areas.

<b>Table 13. Demographic Profile, 2017 Marathon County Medication Survey, Metro and Non-Metro Populations</b>							
<b>Residence (Age 18+)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Wausau</b>	<b>Schofield</b>	<b>Rothschild</b>	<b>Weston</b>	<b>Rib Mtn</b>	
Metro Sample	391	55%	6%	8%	18%	12%	
Census – Metro	52,539	57%	3%	8%	22%	10%	
Non-Metro Sample	317						
Census – Non-Metro	50,655						
<b>Gender (Age 18+)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>				
Metro Sample	391	47%	53%				
Census – Metro	52,539	48%	52%				
Non-Metro Sample	316	49%	49%				
Census – Non-Metro	50,655	51%	49%				
<b>Age 18+</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>18 – 24</b>	<b>25 – 34</b>	<b>35 – 44</b>	<b>45 – 54</b>	<b>55 – 64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Metro Sample	392	4%	21%	10%	9%	20%	36%
Census – Metro	52,539	11%	18%	15%	18%	16%	21%
Non-Metro Sample	311	2%	9%	13%	14%	22%	41%
Census – Non-Metro	50,655	10%	14%	17%	21%	19%	19%
<b>Employment Status<sup>2</sup> (Age 16+)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Self</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	<b>Part Time</b>	<b>Unemp.</b>	<b>Retired</b>	<b>Home-maker and Other</b>
Metro Sample	387	4%	44%	7%	4%	37%	3%
Census – Metro	53,576		62%		5%	33%	
Non-Metro Sample	313	8%	40%	8%	2%	40%	2%
Census – Non-Metro	53,513		68%		3%	28%	

<sup>2</sup> Not asked in the 2011 survey

**Table 13. Demographic Profile of Respondents – 2017 Marathon County Medication Survey  
(Continued)**

<b>Highest Level of Education (Age 25+)</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Less than High School</b>	<b>High School Diploma</b>	<b>Some College/ Tech</b>	<b>2-Year/ 4-Yr Degree</b>	<b>Grad/ Professional Degree</b>	
Metro Sample	391	1%	19%	24%	39%	16%	
Census – Metro	45,885	9%	33%	20%	29%	9%	
Non-Metro Sample	308	6%	32%	19%	30%	11%	
Census – Non-Metro	46,516	9%	41%	17%	12%	15%	
<b>Race/Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>African-American</b>	<b>Native Am.</b>	<b>Asian Pacific Islander</b>	<b>Hispanic Latino</b>	<b>Multi/ Other</b>
Metro Sample	390	97%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Census – Metro	68,424	84%	1%	0%	9%	3%	2%
Non-Metro Sample	316	97%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Census – Non-Metro	66,753	95%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%
<b>Length of Residence</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>&lt;1 yr.</b>	<b>1 – 5 yrs.</b>	<b>6 – 10 yrs.</b>	<b>11 – 20 yrs.</b>	<b>&gt;20 yrs.</b>	
Metro Sample	392	2%	12%	11%	16%	59%	
Non-Metro Sample	316	1%	8%	5%	12%	74%	
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Less than \$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000 – \$34,999</b>	<b>\$35,000 - \$49,999</b>	<b>\$50,000 - \$74,999</b>	<b>\$75,000 - \$99,999</b>	<b>\$100,000+</b>
Metro Sample	319	16%	17%	13%	20%	17%	18%
Census – Metro	28,086	26%	11%	16%	19%	13%	15%
Non-Metro Sample	241	14%	12%	15%	22%	20%	17%
Census – Non-Metro	25,762	16%	9%	14%	22%	17%	22%

Compared to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey:

- The geographic distribution of the responses aligned well with the distribution of the Wausau area population
- The responses included roughly equal proportions of men and women and align well with the underlying population in both the metro and non-metro areas. Two percent of the non-metro respondent chose the “I don’t care to answer” option for this question
- With respect to age, the metro sample generally aligns well with the underlying population – it includes somewhat fewer younger respondents and more who are older. The non-metro area has an even lower proportion of young respondents and an even higher proportion of older ones than the metro sample. Still, the age groups between 25 and 64 are represented in proportions close to expectations
- While the metro and non-metro samples had more retirees than would be expected, the distribution across employment status options is fairly close to Census figures

- Both the metro and non-metro samples included slightly higher proportions of respondents with post-secondary degrees
- There were fewer respondents of Asian or Hispanic backgrounds among the metro respondents than in the overall population of the study area. The non-metro respondents, like the overall population in these areas is overwhelmingly white
- Nearly 60% of the metro sample and 75% of the non-metro sample said they have lived in the area for over 20 years
- The distribution of annual household income in the metro sample aligns well with the Census estimates, except that there were fewer low income households (less than \$25,000). Household incomes in the non-metro sample aligns even more closely with the Census data

### Comparison to Demographics in Earlier Surveys

In several ways, the 2017 sample aligns with the underlying demographic structure of the Wausau metro area better than previous samples. In particular, the 2017 sample:

- matches the distribution of respondents across metro communities (Figure 24)
- matches better with respect to gender (Figure 25)
- matches the 25-34 age group more closely, but has more in the 65+ category (Figure 26)
- has a higher proportion of respondents with a high school diploma or some college (Figure 27)
- has a higher-than-desired proportion of white respondents (Figure 28)
- matches the income distribution quite well (Figure 29)
- employment status is similar to previous years (Figure 30)

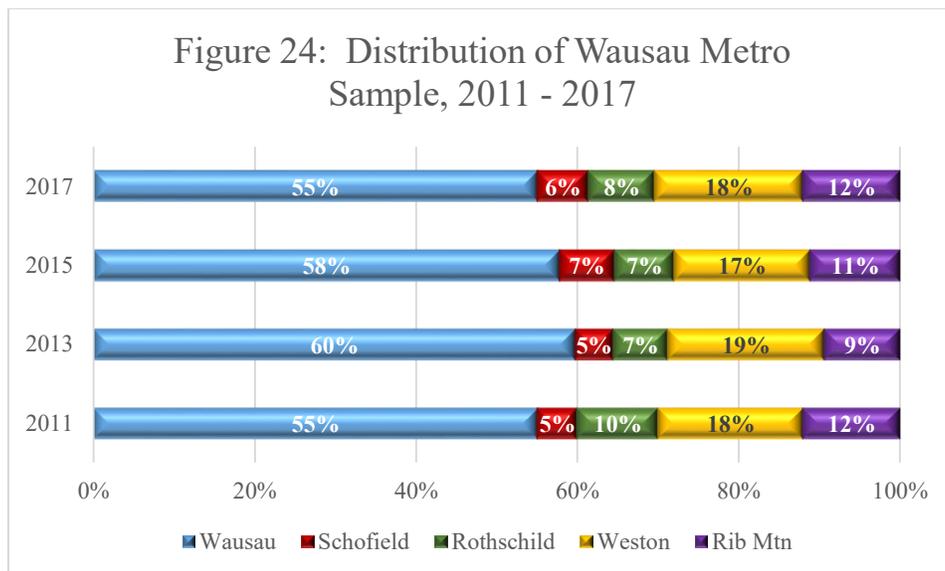


Figure 25: Proportion of Men and Women, Wausau Metro Sample, 2011 - 2017

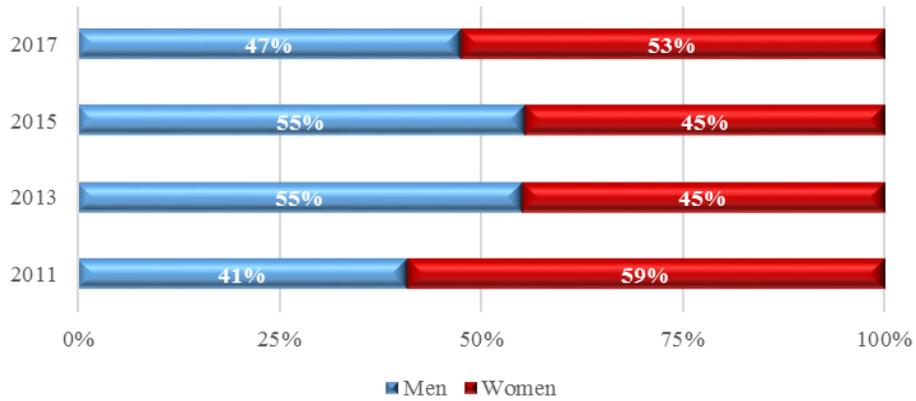


Figure 26: Proportion of Age Groups, Wausau Metro Sample, 2011 - 2017

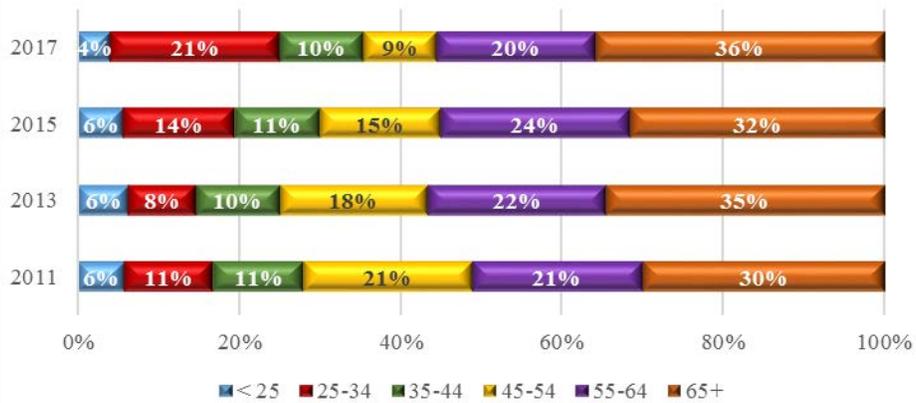


Figure 27: Educational Attainment, Wausau Metro Sample, 2011 - 2017

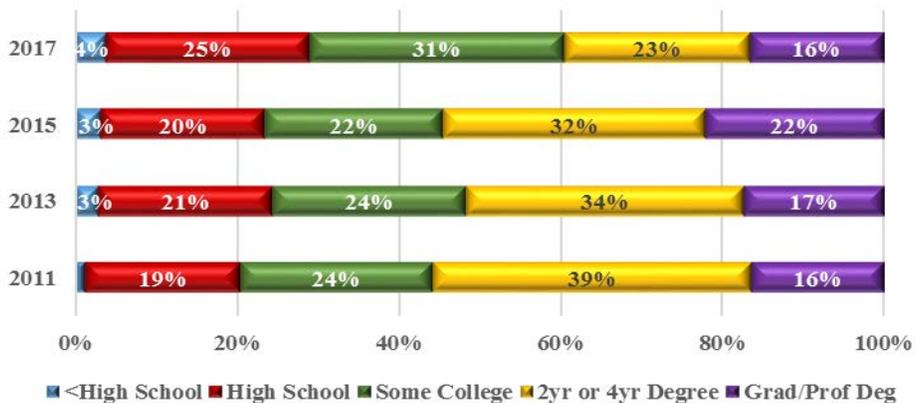


Figure 28: Racial/Ethnic Composition, Wausau Metro Sample, 2011 - 2017

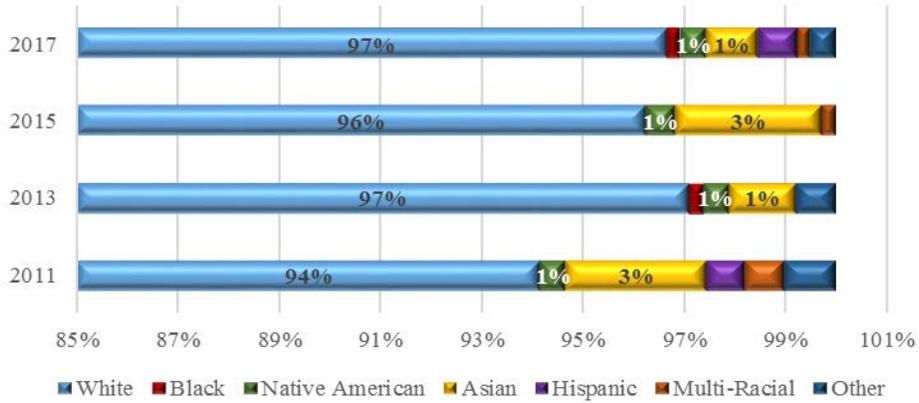
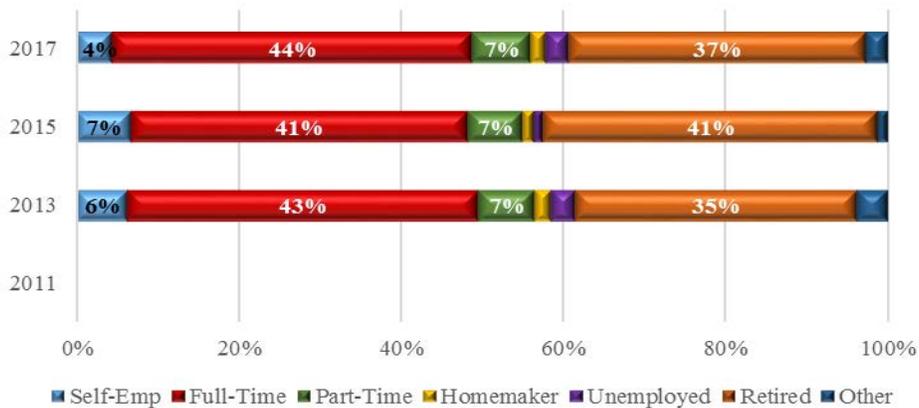


Figure 29: Household Income Levels, Wausau Metro Sample, 2011 - 2017



Figure 30: Employment Status, Wausau Metro Sample, 2011 - 2017



## Conclusions

For the first time since 2013 when the Survey Research Center began collecting these data, there is evidence in 2017 that efforts to raise awareness of and combat prescription drug abuse in the Wausau metro area have moved the needle in positive directions. There are a number of encouraging results from the 2017 Marathon County Medication Assessment Survey:

- the sample seems to better reflect the underlying population than survey samples in 2011, 2013, or 2015
- metro residents' assessment of the quality of life edged up slightly since 2015
- there has been a slow but steady decline over time in the proportion of respondents saying their overall health was only fair or poor
- the proportion of respondents who misuse prescriptions in various ways (using one not prescribed for them, not using them for the prescribed purpose, or not using them in the prescribed way) has remained small and, some cases, fell in 2017
- concern about abuse of prescription drug abuse has been growing over time
- since similar surveys done in 2011, 2013, and 2015, there was a significant decline in the proportion of households in the metro area who said they had expired medications in their homes and a significant increase in the proportion who said they know where they can safely dispose of expired medications
- The proportion of metro-area households who said they were aware of the AOD and Pushback programs was significantly higher than in non-metro households. Further, for the AOD program, the proportion of Wausau-area households who said they hadn't heard of the program has declined over time

## Appendix A. Non-response Bias Tests

Any survey has to be concerned with “non-response bias.” Non-response bias refers to a situation in which people who do not return a questionnaire have opinions that are systematically different from the opinions of those who return their surveys. For example, one of the questions in the survey asked about the overall quality of life in the Wausau area. If those who failed to return their survey were more dissatisfied with the overall quality of life, the estimates included in this report will overstate the satisfaction of residents.

The standard way to test for non-response bias is to compare the responses of those who return the first mailing of a questionnaire to those who return the second mailing. Those who return the second questionnaire are, in effect, a sample of non-respondents (to the first mailing), and we assume that they are representative of that group.

In the metro dataset, there was one of 35 variables tested with statistically significant differences between the mean responses of mail 1 and mail 2 respondents.

<b>Table A1: Metro Dataset Mail 1/Mail 2 Significant Differences</b>				
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Mail 1</b>	<b>Mail 2</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Q6dPrescription Meds	.035	3.55	3.24	Mail 1 more serious problem

In the non-metro dataset, there were three of the 34 variables tested with statistically significant differences between the mean responses of mail 1 and mail 2 respondents.

<b>Table A2: Non-Metro Dataset Mail 1/Mail 2 Significant Differences</b>				
<b>Variable</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Mail 1</b>	<b>Mail 2</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Q7Currently Using Prescribed Med	.020	1.32	1.47	Mail 2 fewer currently using prescription med
Q15Prescription Meds Readily Available	.003	3.52	4.04	Mail 2 more “Not Sure” responses
Q27Education	.026	3.21	2.87	Mail 1 more formal education

Based on the small number of variables with statistically significant differences, the Survey Research Center (SRC) concludes that there is little evidence that non-response bias is a concern for either sample.

## Appendix B – Open-Ended Responses

### METRO-Respondents, 2017

**Q14. Where do you think people most often get prescription medications that have not been prescribed to them?-TEXT (6 Responses)**

- All of the above
- Depends where they live all of the above plus drug companies they push it in their ads
- I feel they are over prescribed causing addiction and then people turn to street drugs
- None Drug Dealers
- Purchase friends
- Street

**Q22. Currently how do you dispose of your unused or unwanted prescription medications?-TEXT (15 Responses)**

- Keep them (x3)
- Keep them up in a cupboard (x3)
- Police Department (x2)
- Bury in the yard
- Drop Off
- Give to relative who knows where to dispose
- I don't dispose
- I still have them in my cabinet- Don't know what to do with them
- Keep them in safe
- Put in used coffee grounds and throw them away

**Q28. What is your primary racial/ethnic group?-TEXT (1 Response)**

- Irish American

**Q30. What is your current employment status?-TEXT (8 Responses)**

- Student (x4)
- Disabled (x3)
- Retired

## NON-METRO Respondents, 2017

### Q1. What is your zip code?-TEXT (270 Responses)

- 54455 (x79)
- 54411 (x28)
- 54484 (x25)
- 54448 (x19)
- 54449 (x18)
- 54426 (x17)
- 54440 (x15)
- 54479 (x11)
- 54421 (x9)
- 54471 (x9)
- 54414 (x7)
- 54427 (x7)
- 54452 (X5)
- 54488 (x3)
- 54403 (x2)
- 54408 (x2)
- 54412 (x2)
- 54444 (x2)
- 54499 (x2)
- 54405
- 54425
- 54442
- 54445
- 54476
- 54481
- 54487
- 54494

### Q14. Where do you think people most often get prescription medications that have not been prescribed to them?-TEXT (3 Responses)

- Could have more than one answer
- Don't know anyone using drugs illegally
- Pick and Save

### Q22. Currently how do you dispose of your unused or unwanted prescription medications?-TEXT (16 Responses)

- Store Them (x4)
- Burn Them (x3)
- Police Department (X2)
- They are just sitting in the cupboard (x2)
- I don't
- Police Dept. Marshfield
- Put in cat litter then trash
- They are just sitting in a cupboard and I don't know how to get rid of them

### Q28. What is your primary racial/ethnic group?-TEXT (2 Responses)

- American (x2)

### Q30. What is your current employment status?-TEXT (2 Responses)

- Don't care to answer (x2)

## Appendix C. Quantitative Summary of Responses by Question

### Metro Area Responses

#### 1. In which of the following Wausau Metro area communities do you live? (choose one)

City of Wausau (54401, 54403)	Schofield (54476)	Rothschild (54474)	Weston (54476, 54474)	Rib Mountain (54401)	Other, Specify:	NA
52%	5%	8%	18%	11%	5%	0%

#### 2. How long have you lived in the Wausau Metro area?

Less than 1 year	1-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	Over 20 years
2%	11%	11%	15%	61%

#### 3. On a ONE to TEN scale where 1 = Not Satisfied and 10 = Very Satisfied, overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of life in the Wausau Metro area?

Not Satisfied				Average						Very Satisfied	NA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1%	1%	1%	2%	6%	9%	14%	29%	18%	18%	0%	

#### 4. During the past TWO years how would you say the Wausau Metro area has changed? Would you say:

The Wausau Metro area has become a worse place to live	The Wausau Metro area has stayed about the same	The Wausau Metro area has become a better place to live	Not Sure
27%	37%	28%	8%

#### 5. How would you rate your overall health today? Would you say you are in...

Poor Health	Fair Health	Good Health	Excellent Health	Not Sure
3%	14%	62%	22%	0%

*In this study when we use the term “prescription medications” we are talking about medications that your doctor or health care provider prescribes specifically for you. We are not talking about medications that you can buy over the counter nor are we talking about drugs that are illegal such as marijuana or cocaine.*

#### 6. Below is a list of some health related issues that exist in many communities. For each one please indicate how serious you think this problem is in the Wausau Metro area.

	Not Serious	Somewhat Serious	Moderately Serious	Very Serious	Not Sure
a. Smoking	14%	27%	38%	17%	4%
b. Abuse or misuse of alcohol	4%	17%	31%	46%	3%
c. Obesity	2%	14%	35%	46%	3%
d. Abuse or misuse of prescription medications	3%	14%	29%	36%	17%
e. Use of illegal drugs	2%	9%	18%	61%	10%

	Yes	No	NA/Don't Care to Answer
7. Are you currently taking any medications that have been prescribed by your doctor?	67%	33%	0%

**PREVALENCE**

8. Have you ever, even once, used a prescription that was not prescribed for you?	12%	87%	1%		
9. Have you ever, even once, used a prescription medication for a reason other than what it was prescribed?	7%	92%	1%		
10. In the past 12 months, have you used prescription medications but not used them exactly as the doctor prescribed?	8%	91%	1%		
11. During the last 30 days, how many times have you used prescription medications, but not exactly as your doctor prescribed?	0	1-2	3-5	6 or more	NA/Don't Care to Answer
	92%	4%	1%	0%	1%

**PERCEPTION OF AVAILABILITY**

Some people use prescription medications to get high or for the feeling the drug gives them. The next few questions are about the use and availability of medications that people might use to get high.

	Very Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Somewhat Easy	Very Easy	Not Sure	NA/Don't Care to Answer
12. In your opinion, how easy is it in your community to obtain prescription medications from a physician, dentist, or other medical provider to get high?	12%	13%	17%	10%	46%	2%
13. In your opinion, how easy is it in your community to obtain prescription medications from a family member or friend to get high?	9%	7%	19%	21%	42%	2%

14. Where do you think people <u>most often</u> get prescription medications that have not been prescribed to them? (choose one)			
3%	Over the Internet	11%	Given to them by a family member or friend
2%	From a health care provider	1%	Other, Specify: _____ <i>Word</i> _____
42%	By taking from family, friends, or stealing from another source	22%	Not Sure
17%	Purchase them on the street	2%	NA/Don't care to answer

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure	NA
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15. “In the Wausau Metro area prescription medications are readily available to individuals who want to use them to get high”. 13% 34% 8% 2% 42% 1%

**PERCEPTION OF HARM**

	Very	Some-what	Not Very	Not at all	Not Sure	NA
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16. How concerned are you about prescribed medication misuse or abuse in your community? 32% 42% 13% 4% 9% 0%

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure	NA
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17. “It is safer to get high on prescription medications than street drugs (marijuana, cocaine).” 1% 7% 31% 37% 22% 3%

18. “It is OK to take more than the recommended dosage of a prescribed medication.” 2% 1% 33% 60% 3% 1%

**19. How much risk do you believe there is with using medications, but not using them exactly as prescribed by your doctor or health care provider?**

Great Risk	Some Risk	Little Risk	No Risk	Depends on the Medication (VOL)	Not Sure	NA/Don't Care to Answer
48%	27%	2%	0%	17%	5%	0%

**DISPOSAL ISSUES**

20. Do you currently have expired prescription medications in your home? Yes 30% No 64% Not Sure 6% NA 0%

21. Are you aware of any sites in your community at which you can dispose of prescription medications that have expired or that you are no longer taking? Yes 76% No 22% NA 2%

**22. Currently how do you dispose of your unused or unwanted prescription medications?**

Put them in the trash	Flush them down the toilet	Take them to a disposal site	Other, Specify:	I don't have unused or unwanted medications	Not Sure	NA/Don't Care to Answer
11%	7%	42%	3%	33%	1%	1%

**23. Regarding prescription medication, which of the following best describes you?**

I take prescription medication occasionally when prescribed by a doctor for temporary illnesses	I take prescription medication prescribed by a doctor regularly because of a chronic condition	I do not take any prescription medications
30%	57%	13%

## LOCAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MEDICATION ABUSE

	Yes	No	Not Sure
24. Have you heard about the Marathon County Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Partnership, a local substance abuse coalition?	45%	48%	6%



25. Have you heard about the Pushback Against Drug Abuse initiative?	26%	67%	7%
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### Finally, just a few questions about yourself.

26. What age range do you fall into?	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Don't Care to Answer
	4%	19%	10%	9%	20%	37%	2%

27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than a high school diploma	Graduated from high school or GED	Some college or tech. school	Graduated from college or tech school	Graduate or Professional degree	Not Sure	NA
	1%	20%	23%	39%	16%	0%	0%

28. What is your primary racial/ethnic group? (Choose One)

Caucasian or White	African American or Black	Native American	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic or Latino	Multi-racial	Other, specify:
97%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%

29. What is your combined TOTAL FAMILY INCOME before taxes?

Under \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$30,000	\$30,001 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$40,000	\$40,001 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000+	Don't Care to Answer
12%	9%	5%	5%	6%	18%	14%	14%	19%

30. What is your current employment status?	Self-Employed	Employed Full-Time	Employed Part-Time	Home-maker	Unemployed	Retired	Other, specify:
	5%	45%	7%	2%	2%	38%	2%

31. Your Gender	Male	Female	Other/ Transgender	Don't Care to Answer
	47%	51%	0%	1%

## Non-Metro Area Responses

**1. What is your zip code?** *See Appendix B*

**2. How long have you lived Marathon County?**

Less than 1 year	1-5 years	6-10 years	11-20 years	Over 20 years
1%	8%	5%	13%	73%

**3. On a ONE to TEN scale where 1 = Not Satisfied and 10 = Very Satisfied, overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of life in Marathon County?**

Not Satisfied				Average					Very Satisfied	NA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
0%	0%	1%	1%	5%	10%	14%	26%	20%	22%	0%

**4. During the past TWO years how would you say Marathon County has changed? Would you say...**

Marathon County has become a worse place to live	Marathon County has stayed about the same	Marathon County has become a better place to live	Not Sure
17%	61%	11%	11%

**5. How would you rate your overall health today? Would you say you are in...**

Poor Health	Fair Health	Good Health	Excellent Health	Not Sure
3%	19%	58%	19%	1%

*In this study when we use the term “prescription medications” we are talking about medications that your doctor or health care provider prescribes specifically for you. We are not talking about medications that you can buy over the counter nor are we talking about drugs that are illegal such as marijuana or cocaine.*

**6. Below is a list of some health related issues that exist in many communities. For each one please indicate how serious you think this problem is in Marathon County.**

	Not Serious	Somewhat Serious	Moderately Serious	Very Serious	Not Sure	
<b>f.</b> Smoking	11%	28%	36%	16%	8%	
<b>g.</b> Abuse or misuse of alcohol	5%	16%	34%	40%	6%	
<b>h.</b> Obesity	2%	12%	40%	39%	6%	
<b>i.</b> Abuse or misuse of prescription medications	4%	15%	26%	34%	20%	
<b>j.</b> Use of illegal drugs	2%	10%	21%	56%	10%	
				Yes	No	NA/Don't Care to Answer
<b>7. Are you currently taking any medications that have been prescribed by your doctor?</b>				66%	32%	2%

**PREVALENCE**

8. Have you ever, even once, used a prescription that was not prescribed for you?	11%	87%	1%		
9. Have you ever, even once, used a prescription medication for a reason other than what it was prescribed?	5%	93%	2%		
10. In the past 12 months, have you used prescription medications but not used them exactly as the doctor prescribed?	10%	89%	1%		
11. During the last 30 days, how many times have you used prescription medications, but not exactly as your doctor prescribed?	0	1-2	3-5	6 or more	NA/Don't Care to Answer
	92%	3%	1%	2%	2%

**PERCEPTION OF AVAILABILITY**

Some people use prescription medications to get high or for the feeling the drug gives them. The next few questions are about the use and availability of medications that people might use to get high.

	Very Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Somewhat Easy	Very Easy	Not Sure	NA/Don't Care to Answer
12. In your opinion, how easy is it in your community to obtain prescription medications from a physician, dentist, or other medical provider to get high?	11%	18%	14%	8%	48%	1%
13. In your opinion, how easy is it in your community to obtain prescription medications from a family member or friend to get high?	11%	11%	16%	12%	49%	2%

**14. Where do you think people most often get prescription medications that have not been prescribed to them? (choose one)**

5%	Over the Internet	11%	Given to them by a family member or friend
3%	From a health care provider	0%	Other, Specify: <u>Word</u>
36%	By taking from family, friends, or stealing from another source	32%	Not Sure
12%	Purchase them on the street	1%	NA/Don't care to answer

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure	NA
15. “In Marathon County prescription medications are readily available to individuals who want to use them to get high”.	6%	28%	8%	5%	51%	1%

**PERCEPTION OF HARM**

	Very	Some-what	Not Very	Not at all	Not Sure	NA
16. How concerned are you about prescribed medication misuse or abuse in your community?	24%	41%	16%	6%	11%	1%

Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure	NA
17. “It is safer to get high on prescription medications than street drugs (marijuana, cocaine).”	2%	6%	23%	37%	28%	3%
18. “It is OK to take more than the recommended dosage of a prescribed medication.”	2%	3%	34%	54%	7%	1%

**19. How much risk do you believe there is with using medications, but not using them exactly as prescribed by your doctor or health care provider?**

Great Risk	Some Risk	Little Risk	No Risk	Depends on the Medication (VOL)	Not Sure	NA/Don’t Care to Answer
41%	35%	0%	0%	15%	8%	0%

**DISPOSAL ISSUES**

	Yes	No	Not Sure	NA
20. Do you currently have expired prescription medications in your home?	33%	62%	5%	0%

	Yes	No	NA
21. Are you aware of any sites in your community at which you can dispose of prescription medications that have expired or that you are no longer taking?	66%	32%	2%

**22. Currently how do you dispose of your unused or unwanted prescription medications?**

Put them in the trash	Flush them down the toilet	Take them to a disposal site	Other, Specify: <u>Word</u>	I don’t have unused or unwanted medications	Not Sure	NA/Don’t Care to Answer
12%	7%	36%	5%	34%	5%	1%

**23. Regarding prescription medication, which of the following best describes you?**

I take prescription medication occasionally when prescribed by a doctor for temporary illnesses	I take prescription medication prescribed by a doctor regularly because of a chronic condition	I do not take any prescription medications
31%	58%	12%

## LOCAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS MEDICATION ABUSE

	Yes	No	Not Sure
24. Have you heard about the Marathon County Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Partnership, a local substance abuse coalition?	31%	57%	12%
25. Have you heard about the Pushback Against Drug Abuse initiative?	19%	71%	10%



### Finally, just a few questions about yourself.

26. What age range do you fall into?	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Don't Care to Answer
	2%	9%	13%	14%	21%	40%	1%

27. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Less than a high school diploma	Graduated from high school or GED	Some college or tech. school	Graduated from college or tech school	Graduate or Professional degree	Not Sure	NA
	7%	33%	18%	29%	12%	0%	1%

28. What is your primary racial/ethnic group? (Choose One)

Caucasian or White	African American or Black	Native American	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic or Latino	Multi-racial	Other, specify:
98%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

29. What is your combined TOTAL FAMILY INCOME before taxes?

Under \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$30,000	\$30,001 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$40,000	\$40,001 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000+	Don't Care to Answer
11%	4%	5%	3%	8%	15%	16%	14%	23%

30. What is your current employment status?	Self-Employed	Employed Full-Time	Employed Part-Time	Home-maker	Unemployed	Retired	Other, specify:
	8%	39%	9%	2%	2%	40%	1%

31. Your Gender	Male	Female	Other/ Transgender	Don't Care to Answer
	49%	49%	0%	2%