

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: January 3, 2020



National

[From pills to fentanyl: Three personal stories that show how the opioid crisis evolved](#)

Washington Post

The first wave: Prescription pills

The second wave: Heroin

The third wave: Fentanyl

New Hampshire

[Top stories of 2019: Addiction crisis, bail reform and seven dead in Randolph](#)

Union Leader

The state's Doorway opioid response system launched in January, after the state received \$64.5 million in federal grants with a promise to reduce overdose deaths by 8% to 12% by August 2020. The system, based on a Vermont program, was meant to help people seek drug treatment close to home. People could walk into one of nine regional "hubs" and work with a navigator to access nearby treatment resources — or "spokes."

As of Nov. 30 — the most recent data available — the Doorway had provided some service to 6,634 people. Thousands of naloxone kits have been distributed, and 1,148 people got referrals for medication-assisted treatment as of Nov. 30. But the program has not been without problems.

Not all regions had the same kinds of "spoke" services: There is medication-assisted treatment across the state and plenty of outpatient treatment, but inpatient treatment and recovery housing is concentrated in New Hampshire's largest cities. Some worried about the hubs' limited hours and noted some were still too distant for people without cars.

