Issue brief: Drug overdose epidemic worsened during COVID pandemic

*Updated June 1, 2021*

The nation’s COVID pandemic made the nation’s drug overdose epidemic worse. This issue brief highlights media and other reports showing increases in drug overdose mortality and other concerns relating to access to evidence-based care for substance use disorders, patients with pain as well as harm reduction services. The reports below cite data from multiple and varied sources, including national, state and local public health agencies, law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospitals, treatment centers, research journals and others. Every state has reported a spike or increase in overdose deaths or other problems during the COVID pandemic.

AMA advocacy and resources include support for states to adopt and promote:

- **U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** and **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration** (DEA) increased flexibility for providing buprenorphine and methadone to patients with opioid use disorder.
- **Increased flexibility provided by the DEA** to help patients with pain obtain necessary medications. The AMA strongly recommends that all of the flexibilities that have been put in place by DEA during the COVID-19 PHE be kept in place at a minimum until both the COVID-19 and the opioid public health emergencies come to an end.
- Support the removal of prior authorization, step therapy and other administrative barriers for medications used to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD); meaningful enforcement of mental health and substance use disorder parity laws is long overdue. Prior authorization of MOUD remains a major barrier.
- **Remove existing barriers for patients with pain** to obtain necessary medications. This includes removing arbitrary dose, quantity and refill restrictions on controlled substances; and
- Implement and support evidence-based harm reduction strategies, including removing barriers to sterile needle and syringe services programs as well as strengthening Good Samaritan laws. **Arizona** is the latest example of positive legislative action.
- Enact new laws to ensure that monies from opioid-related litigation is focused on public health, treatment and prevention efforts. **Virginia** and **Kentucky** are leading examples.

Detailed policy recommendations to help patients with a substance use disorder can be found in the **2020 National Policy Roadmap** issued by the AMA and Manatt Health.

See below for reports from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information, please contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org
National reports

- Chronic pain can be burdensome. Isolation during the pandemic can make it worse. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/chronic-pain-pandemic-isolation/2021/05/07/9e0c7112-adcd-11eb-b476-c3b287e52a01_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/chronic-pain-pandemic-isolation/2021/05/07/9e0c7112-adcd-11eb-b476-c3b287e52a01_story.html) May 9, 2021
- Overdose Deaths Surged in Pandemic, As More Drugs Were Laced With Fentanyl. [https://www.delawarepublic.org/post/overdose-deaths-surged-pandemic-more-drugs-were-laced-fentanyl](https://www.delawarepublic.org/post/overdose-deaths-surged-pandemic-more-drugs-were-laced-fentanyl) April 22, 2021
- The Health 202: Overdose deaths may have topped 90,000 in 2020. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/07/health-202-overdose-deaths-may-have-topped-90000-2020/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/04/07/health-202-overdose-deaths-may-have-topped-90000-2020/) April 7, 2021
- 81,230 overdoses set record for such deaths in a 12-month period, CDC says. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/81230-overdoses-set-record-for-such-deaths-in-a-12-month-period-cdc-says/2021/01/22/a8b29e7a-5c06-11eb-a976-bad6431e03e2_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/81230-overdoses-set-record-for-such-deaths-in-a-12-month-period-cdc-says/2021/01/22/a8b29e7a-5c06-11eb-a976-bad6431e03e2_story.html) January 25, 2021
• The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic. https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-opioid-crisis-already-serious-has-intensified-during-coronavirus-pandemic-11599557401 September 8, 2020
• ‘Cries for help’: Drug overdoses are soaring during the coronavirus pandemic. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/01/coronavirus-drug-overdose/ July 1, 2020
• Expanded Telehealth Helps Communities Address Opioid Use Disorder During Pandemic; Practitioners see benefits for patients and providers, especially in rural areas.* https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2020/07/01/expanded-telehealth-helps-communities-address-opioid-use-disorder-during-pandemic July 1, 2020


• Despite the Challenges, We Must Fight Harder to Address the Nation’s Opioid Epidemic; Patrice A. Harris, MD. https://morningconsult.com/opinions/despite-the-challenges-we-must-fight-harder-to-address-the-nations-opiod-epidemic/ June 17, 2020.


State reports

1. Alabama

• Overdose deaths are up 31.3% in Alabama. https://whnt.com/news/overdose-deaths-are-up-31-3-in-alabama/ May 21, 2021

• Opioid overdoses increased 20% in Ala. in 2020. https://www.wbrc.com/2021/04/21/opioid-overdoses-increased-ala/ May 4, 2021


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• Opioid overdoses on the rise since pandemic began. https://www.wbrc.com/2020/08/18/opioid-overdoses-rise-since-pandemic-began/ August 18, 2020


2. Alaska


• Overdose deaths in Alaska have been on the rise since the pandemic began, report says. https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/12/23/overdose-deaths-in-alaska-have-been-on-the-rise-since-the-pandemic-began-report-says/ December 23, 2020

3. Arizona


• 1/4 of Arizona voters say the opioid crisis has become less important to them following the pandemic, reveals survey. https://prescottnews.com/index.php/2020/10/28/1-4-of-arizona-voters-say-the-opioid-crisis-has-become-less-important-to-them-following-the-pandemic-reveals-survey/ October 28, 2020


4. Arkansas


5. California


6. Colorado


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7. Connecticut

- With over 1,000 Connecticut deaths last year, opioids demand even greater attention during pandemic, https://ctmirror.org/2020/07/09/with-over-1000-deaths-last-year-opioids-demand-even-greater-attention-during-pandemic/ July 9, 2020

8. Delaware

• Delaware looks to roll out stabilization centers to reduce overdose deaths.  

• Opioid epidemic is worsened by COVID-19 pandemic.  

• Commissioner Navarro Partners with Aquila to Distribute Overdose Medication.  

• Providers say drug and alcohol use up during pandemic following record year of Delaware overdoses.  

• Suspected Overdose Deaths for May in Delaware Tie Previous Monthly High Set in 2018.  

9. District of Columbia  
• Opioid death surged during coronavirus pandemic in D.C., Virginia and Maryland.  

• Despite efforts by Bowser and D.C. Council, opioid deaths hit record this year.  
  https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-opioid-deaths-2020/2020/12/05/95cfba3a-34c0-11eb-b59c-adb7153d10c2_story.html December 5, 2020

• Rise in fatal drug overdoses in D.C. region likely tied to pandemic, officials say.  
  https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/drug-overdose-washington-coronavirus/2020/08/20/2a4c64b8-c0a4-11ea-ade1-28daf1a5e919_story.html August 21, 2020

• One doctor is working to fight D.C.’s opioid epidemic, even as a pandemic rages.  

10. Florida  
• The Epidemic Within the Epidemic: Tampa Bay’s Opioid Crisis. Preliminary Assessment.  
  https://www.tampabay.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/project%20opioid%20preliminary%20assessment_05.10.21_0.pdf April 15, 2021

• Central Florida drug OD deaths up 70% during COVID, report shows.  

• Ocala sees spike in opioid overdoses during COVID-19 pandemic.  

• COVID-19’s latest toll in Central Florida: Rising drug overdoses, mental health issues.  

• Experts: Coronavirus Contributing To Increase In Substance Abuse.  

• Overdose calls up 40% during COVID-19 pandemic; treatment centers seeing relapses


11. Georgia

- Fentanyl-related deaths on the rise in the Peach State. https://www.wtvm.com/2021/05/06/fentanyl-related-deaths-rise-peach-state/ May 6, 2021
- Some Georgia Hospitals Are Reporting A Rise In Trauma Cases. https://www.wabe.org/some-georgia-hospitals-are-reporting-a-rise-in-trauma-cases/ October 5, 2020

12. Hawaii

- More homeless residents dying from meth overdoses.
13. Idaho
   - Opioid Overdoses Increasing Rapidly Across The Mountain West.

   - Notes from the Field: Opioid Overdose Deaths Before, During, and After an 11-Week COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Order — Cook County, Illinois, January 1, 2018—October 6, 2020. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7010a3.htm?s_cid=mm7010a3_w March 12, 2021
   - Pritzker Administration Announces Over $2 million in Fines for Major Health Insurance Companies Violating Illinois Mental Health Parity Laws CIGNA Healthcare of IL, UnitedHealthcare, CIGNA Health and Life, HCSC, and Celtic found to be in violation of Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/218199/1b0e07c32763e391/fine.pdf July 15, 2020

15. Indiana
   - Bartholomew County seeing spike in overdose deaths.
   - COVID-19 Worsens Mental Health, Sparks Overdose.
16. Iowa
- Iowa Opioid-Related Deaths Increased By 35 Percent in 2020.  
- Iowa health leaders expect to see an increase in drug overdose deaths in 2020.  

17. Kansas
- Kansas communities warn of rise in overdoses linked to fentanyl.  
- Meth and crime: Recent increase has Kansas law enforcement calling it a threat to the state.  

18. Kentucky
- Kentucky among top states where overdose deaths have spiked during COVID-19 pandemic.  
- COVID-19 blamed for increased drug overdose deaths nationwide.  
• ‘Don’t give up’ After years of decline, Lexington’s overdose deaths are rising fast. https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/fayette-county/article245379110.html August 31, 2020


• OPD, DCSO records increase in overdoses on altered pills. https://www.14news.com/2020/05/26/opd-seeing-increase-overdoses-altered-pills/ May 27, 2020

19. Louisiana


• Opioid-related overdose deaths continue to rise in Lafayette Parish, and fentanyl a big reason why. https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/news/article_dd5b697a-13a6-11eb-9087-7b523d99843.html October 23, 2020


• People who use drugs are more vulnerable to coronavirus. Here’s what clinics are doing to help. https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/coronavirus/article_f80cf77e-84fa-11ea-88d5-2b37dc9dd966.html May 3, 2020

20. Maine


• Overdose risk during pandemic is tragic reality for some families. https://www.pressherald.com/2020/04/20/overdose-risk-during-pandemic-is-tragic-reality-for-some-families/# April 20, 2020

21. Maryland
• Pandemic cited as Md. opioid fatalities inch up. https://thedailyrecord.com/2020/06/10/pandemic-cited-as-md-opioid-fatalities-inch-up June 10, 2020

22. Massachusetts
• Opioid-related overdose deaths soar among Black residents. https://apnews.com/article/opioids-race-and-ethnicity-coronavirus-pandemic-health-72819bf2c6e7e9760bdd4a91a0ffe67 May 12, 2021

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23. Michigan

- Michigan seeing a rise in overdose deaths due to the pandemic. 

- Target 8: Fatal ODs doubled in parts of W. MI at COVID-19’s spring peak. 

- Macomb County medical board: EMS opioids overdose treatment up during COVID-19. 

- Naloxone kits could end up being lifesavers. 

- Michigan to give opioid antidote for free to community groups, residents. 

- Push to telehealth means more medication to treat addiction in northern Michigan.* 

- 20% increase in patients seeking substance abuse treatment. 

24. Minnesota
• Minnesota drug overdose deaths jumped in pandemic year.  

• Duluth police: 20 opioid overdose deaths in 2020.  

• New report finds increase in 2020 overdose deaths.  

• DEA: Significant increase in counterfeit pills in Minnesota.  

• In Duluth, ODs spike as pandemic decreases access to aid; The pandemic might be increasing the demand for dangerous drugs.  

• St. Paul Police Issue Alert After 28 Suspected Overdoses In 6 Days, 2 Deaths.  
  https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2020/03/05/st-paul-police-issue-alert-after-28-suspected-overdoses-in-6-days-2-deaths/ March 5, 2020

25. Mississippi

• An in-depth look at the Drug Epidemic in Mississippi.  


26. Missouri

• Opioid overdose deaths in Missouri up more than 30 percent in 2020.  

• Buchanan County sets annual record in overdose deaths.  

• Missouri’s Fentanyl Problem: State recently topped nation in rate for overdose deaths.  

• Opioid overdose deaths decline statewide in 2019, but rise for Black men.  

• Opioid deaths on the rise for African American men in Missouri.  

• New website provides help with drug addiction for St. Louis area residents.  

• Springfield area already sees uptick in suicides, ODs. Experts worry crisis is coming.  
27. Montana

28. Nebraska

29. Nevada

30. New Hampshire
- Opioid cases rising in NH, Manchester projects ‘significant’ increase in deaths. [https://www.wmur.com/article/opioid-cases-nh/manchester-nh/36358247](https://www.wmur.com/article/opioid-cases-nh/manchester-nh/36358247) May 6, 2021
• Recovery community focuses on NH’s other health crisis.  
  https://manchesterinklink.com/recovery-community-focuses-on-nhs-other-health-crisis/  
  October 5, 2020

• NH has seen at least 200 fatal drug overdoses so far this year.  
  August 26, 2020

• New law requires opioid treatment in county jails.*  
  July 29, 2020

• Opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone to be free at Planned Parenthood.  
  June 10, 2020

31. New Jersey
• Mental health, substance use visits to ER reflect ‘a pandemic within a pandemic.’ Greatest toll on the young.  
  May 3, 2021

• New Jersey giving away 72,000 doses of Narcan to combat drug overdoses.  
  September 15, 2020

• Mid Hudson overdoses spike during COVID-19 pandemic.  
  September 8, 2020

• Overdose deaths in NJ may hit record high.  
  September 5, 2020

• Is the COVID-19 pandemic fueling a 20% rise in NJ overdose deaths?  
  July 9, 2020

  April 24, 2020

32. New Mexico
• Fentanyl becoming more prevalent in New Mexico, officials say.  
  May 25, 2021

• Incarcerated woman challenges New Mexico Corrections Department’s methadone policy.  
  May 25, 2021

33. New York
• In Upstate New York, a Jail Keeps Blocking Access to Lifesaving OUD Meds. https://filtermag.org/new-york-jail-suboxone/ March 26, 2021
• Opioid Addiction, Overdoses on Rise: DA. http://theforumnewsgroup.com/2020/06/05/opioid-addiction-overdoses-on-rise-da/ June 5, 2020
• COVID-19 cited in spike of opioid overdoses; Pandemic has worsened the opioid crisis. More people are dying of overdoses and fewer are being admitted for treatment. https://www.investigativepost.org/2020/05/21/covid-19-cited-in-spike-of-opioid-overdoses/ May 21, 2020
• As overdoses spike, local experts remind people help is available. (Albany, Greene,
34. North Carolina
   - Opioid ODs way up, ERs see 46% case hike. https://greensboro.com/rockingham_now/news/opioid-ods-way-up-ers-see-46-case-hike/article_155a410e-fc80-11ea-b36a-a3876ce79885.html September 21, 2020
   - Overdoses way up, officials try new approach to fighting drug abuse during pandemic. https://greensboro.com/rockingham_now/news/overdoses-way-up-officials-try-new-approach-to-fighting-drug-abuse-during-pandemic/article_863d0ae7-62b0-51f8-8df3-e9de9396b0db.html August 7, 2020

35. North Dakota

36. Ohio
   - COVID-19: Ohio deaths up by 7.8% so far in 2020, coronavirus pandemic likely to blame. https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/2020/11/15/ohio-deaths-up-nearly-8-so-far-


HEALTH ALERT: Canton latest to close its syringe program. https://www.harmreductionohio.org/covid-19-updates-syringe-programs-ongoing/ March 29, 2020

37. Oklahoma


Authorities investigate additional deaths in Oklahoma linked to fake oxycodone pills. https://www.koco.com/article/authorities-investigate-additional-deaths-in-oklahoma-linked-to-fake-oxycodone-pills/34314735# October 8, 2020


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38. Oregon

- Spike in Overdoses Reported in Coos & Lane Counties. https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/hhs/page/spike-overdoses-may-21-2021 May 21, 2021
- OHA sees 70 percent increase in drug overdose deaths. https://kennnewsradio.com/2020/10/30/oha-sees-70-percent-increase-in-drug-overdose-deaths/ October 30, 2020

39. Pennsylvania

- Q&A: Overdoses are peaking again and opioids are only going to get cheaper, one expert explains. https://www.publicsource.org/qa-overdoses-are-peaking-again-and-opioids-are-only-going-to-get-cheaper-one-expert-explains/ May 27, 2021
• As COVID-19 spikes, so do overdoses among Center City restaurant workers, jolting a stressed community. [source](https://www.inquirer.com/health/opioid-addiction/overdose-spike-restaurant-industry-center-city-20201128.html) November 28, 2020


• Emergency crews continue to use Narcan to prevent opioid overdose deaths. [source](https://www.yourerie.com/video/emergency-crews-continue-to-use-narcan-to-prevent-opioid-overdose-deaths/5877588/) September 15, 2020


• With overdose deaths up during the pandemic, Philadelphia fights for a legal safe injection site; "You can't put a dead person into recovery. It doesn't work that way. At Safehouse, they have a chance to live." [source](https://www.nbcmontgomery.com/news/us-news/overdose-deaths-during-pandemic-philadelphia-fights-legal-safe-injection-site-n1235583) August 2, 2020.


40. Rhode Island

• Rhode Island seeks spike of drug overdose deaths in 2020. [source](https://apnews.com/article/rhode-island-accidents-opioids-8c876efb5b0045d655db7c87c0210f5) April 14, 2021

• Fatal drug overdose deaths in Rhode Island are on the rise. [source](https://whdh.com/news/fatal-drug-overdose-deaths-in-rhode-island-are-on-the-rise/) October 29, 2020

• CODAC expanding treatment services, as R.I. sees uptick in overdoses. [source](https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20200910/codac-expanding-treatment-services-as-rhode-island-accidents-opioids-8c876efb5b0045d655db7c87c0210f5) September 10, 2020

• Another pandemic fallout: Deaths from accidental drug overdoses are soaring in Rhode Island. [source](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/08/05/metro/another-pandemic-fallout-deaths-accidental-drug-overdoses-rhode-island/) August 5, 2020


• Rhode Island Sees 22% Increase in Drug Overdose Deaths. [source](https://www.portsmouthpress.com/2020/06/23/rhode-island-sees-22-increase-in-drug-overdose-deaths/) June 23, 2020

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41. South Carolina

- SC non-profits fight to end drug addiction after deadly overdoses increase during pandemic.  
- SC firefighters deliver 200 opioid antidotes in effort to prevent overdoses.  
- DHEC warns of increased opioid addiction in South Carolina amid pandemic.  
- Health experts, recovery organizations fear ‘frightening’ rise in S.C. opioid overdoses.  
  https://www.wkrn.com/tennessee/overdose-hurting-efforts-to-combat-overdose-deaths/ May 8, 2020
- Spike in substance abuse seen in Aiken County as coronavirus disruptions continue.  

42. South Dakota

- Drug overdose deaths increase during pandemic, hit rural areas.  

43. Tennessee

- COVID-19 Could Compound Holiday Suicides, Drug Overdoses.  
- Hamilton County overdoses spike during COVID-19 pandemic as leaders worry about long-term effects for people in recovery.  
- Experts concerned about recent spike in overdose deaths amid pandemic.  
- COVID-19 hurting efforts to combat overdose deaths; Knox Co. DA looks to community for help.  
- Knox County sees increase of overdose-related deaths since start of coronavirus pandemic.  
- Nashville doctors say they’ve seen a rise in polydrug overdoses during COVID-19 pandemic.  
- Opioid crisis sees impact of COVID-19 in Middle Tennessee.  
44. Vermont

- Drug overdoses on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic, expert says.
- As drug deaths rise, County autopsy costs soar to $70K.
  https://cortlandvoice.com/2020/10/18/as-drug-deaths-rise-county-autopsy-costs-soar-to-70k/  October 18, 2020
- ‘Laced’ opioids leading to more overdoses, deaths in El Paso.
- ‘I am alone’: Opioid relapses on the rise as COVID-19 interrupts drug addiction recovery in Dallas.
- WilCo sees spike in opioid overdose calls, counterfeit pills.
  https://talk1370.radio.com/articles/wilco-sees-spike-in-opioid-overdose-calls-counterfeit-pills  (Williamson County) April 17, 2020

45. Utah

- COVID-19 complications likely increasing the severity of Utah’s opioid crisis.
- Alcohol poisoning, fentanyl use rises in Utah during pandemic.
- Experts watching concerning substance use & treatment trends during pandemic.

46. Vermont

- ‘The drug became his friend’: Pandemic drives hike in opioid deaths.
- Bennington recovery center seeing rise in opioid overdoses.
- Vermont gets $2 million for programs targeting rural addiction.
• As Vermont drug deaths drop, Brattleboro hits a record high. 
https://vtdigger.org/2020/05/14/as-vermont-drug-deaths-drop-brattleboro-hits-a-record-high/
May 14, 2020

47. Virginia
• Report: 2020 was worst on record for fatal overdoses. https://apnews.com/article/rhode-
island-accidents-opioids-8c8786efb5b0045d655db7c87c0210f5 April 27, 2021
• Pandemic triggers ‘enormous’ spike in drug overdose deaths. 
https://www.virginiamercury.com/2020/11/18/pandemic-triggers-enormous-spike-in-drug-
overdose-deaths/ November 18, 2020
• Altered marijuana causing overdoses in Virginia, officials say. 
https://www.wfmynews2.com/article/news/crime/marijuana-overdoses-northern-virginia-
caused-by-laced-product/65-9059dea1-9069-4e10-a32f-e65cb9778142 October 26, 2020
• Experts discuss how COVID-19 has led to rise in overdoses in the area. 
• With drug overdose cases up 60% in Richmond area, Henrico allocates $184,000 to addiction recovery, jail diversion efforts. 
https://richmond.com/news/local/with-drug-overdose-cases-up-60-in-
richmond-area-henrico-allocates-184-000-to-addiction/article_ba6c5e48-
8243-564e-b389-f6454d05f5e6 July 10, 2020
• Opioid Overdose Deaths Plunge in Virginia Counties After Influx of Naloxone. Harm reduction has worked, but causes for concern during pandemic remain.* 
https://www.direct Relief.org/2020/05/opioid-overdose-deaths-plunge-in virginia- counties-
after-influx-of-naloxone/ May 24, 2020

48. Washington
• Deadly drug overdoses soared in 2020 as COVID pandemic upended lives in Washington. 
https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/fatal-drug-overdoses-surged-
in-washington-last-year-as-covid-pandemic-upended-lives/ May 10, 2021
• Washington overdose deaths rise sharply. Fentanyl availability a main factor. 
https://www.kuow.org/stories/washington-state-overdose-deaths-rise-sharply-fentanyl-
availability-a-main-cause February 9, 2021
• King County seeks spike in fatal overdose cases. 
• As doctors, we call for treatment, not incarceration, for those with drug addiction. 
https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/as-doctors-we-call-for-treatment-not-incarceration-for-
those-with-drug-addiction/ November 8, 2020
• With overdose deaths on the rise in King County, family hopes son’s story saves lives. 
https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/as-overdose-deaths-are-on-the-rise-one-family-
hopes-to-save-lives-with-sons-story/281-8a64e997-165f-4756-a0c7-2aa1d22ce2fe October 20, 2020
• Public health officials warn of fentanyl in black tar heroin. 
heroin June 11, 2020
• Seattle sees spike in fentanyl overdose deaths. https://dailyhive.com/seattle/king-county-
spike-overdose-deaths April 24, 2020

49. West Virginia
Wisconsin

50. Wisconsin

- Report finds over 1,400 Wisconsinites have died due to drug overdose in 2020.  
- African Americans outpace other groups in drug overdose deaths in Milwaukee County.  
- La Crosse County drug overdose deaths nearly double, medical examiner says.  
- Pandemic Fuels Record Overdose Deaths.  
- As drug overdose deaths soar, advocates fight uphill battle.  
- Opioid Overdoses Rise in Wisconsin During Pandemic.  
- Deadly Overdoses Spike in Wisconsin During Coronavirus Pandemic.  
- Overdose Surge Mirrors Coronavirus Pandemic; Experts say addiction triggers compounded by stay-at-home orders and a disruption of support networks are just two

- **Pandemic Clashes With Opioid Crisis.** [https://www.wpr.org/shows/pandemic-clashes-opioid-crisis](https://www.wpr.org/shows/pandemic-clashes-opioid-crisis) June 29, 2020


51. **Wyoming**
