**Issue brief: Nation’s drug-related overdose and death epidemic continues to worsen**

*Updated September 20, 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. One prevailing theme is the fact that the epidemic now is driven by illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and cocaine, often in combination or in adulterated forms. Overdose related to prescription opioids and heroin remain high and also are increasingly adulterated with illicit fentanyl.

Among AMA advocacy, resources and recommendations:

- [AMA 2021 Overdose Epidemic national report](#)
- Expand access to evidence-based treatment through additional steps to reduce barriers to medications to treat substance use disorders (SUDs), including medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD), and support for efforts to broaden access to a wide range of harm reduction services, including naloxone, sterile needle and syringe exchange services, and drug checking supplies.
- Require all health insurance programs, including Medicare and Medicare Advantage, Medicaid, the plans offered on the federal and state health exchanges, and health benefit programs serving veterans, military members and families, federal employees, Native Americans, and others to remove arbitrary restrictions for patients who benefit from opioid therapy.
- Make use of best practices that already exist—i.e., critically review programs and initiatives that have been federally funded to identify those that have reduced drug-related harms and improved patient outcomes.
- Take steps to develop and support a national, standardized reporting system for key metrics related to drug use, including fatal and non-fatal overdose. Taken together, these elements will help move the nation from a crisis framework to a more resilient public health framework, help reduce overdose and death, and improve patient outcomes.
- 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.
- Employers also can take specific actions to help increase access to evidence-based care.

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

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National reports

- Patients on high doses of opioid analgesics risk overdose when tapering study finds. https://www.pharmacist.com/Pharmacy-News/patients-on-high-doses-of-opioid-analgesics-risk-overdose-when-tapering-study-finds August 26, 2021
- As opioid epidemic rages, an overdose antidote is in short supply; Pfizer says manufacturing issue led to problems producing injectable Narcan. https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/08/02/metro/opioid-epidemic-rages-an-overdose-antidote-is-short-supply-ri/ August 2, 2021
- 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-addc-11eb-b476-c3b287e52a01_story.html May 9, 2021
- One in five pharmacies blocks access to key medication to treat addiction. https://news.ohsu.edu/2021/04/26/one-in-five-pharmacies-blocks-access-to-key-medication-to-treat-addiction April 26, 2021

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- **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] 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/] April 7, 2021


- **House reshapes approach to mental health and addiction.** [https://www.rollcall.com/2021/03/16/house-reshapes-approach-to-mental-health-and-addiction/] March 16, 2021


- **As Overdose Deaths Surge, White House Takes Steps To Build Drug Policy Team.** [https://www.npr.org/sections/president-biden-takes-office/2021/02/03/963732520/as-overdose-deaths-surge-white-house-takes-steps-to-build-drug-policy-team] February 3, 2021

- **81,230 overdoses set record for such deaths in a 12-month period, CDC says.** [https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/20210201/overdoses-set-record-for-such-deaths-in-a-12-month-period-cdc-says/2021/01/22/a8b29e7a-5e06-11eb-a976-bad6431e03e2_story.html] January 25, 2021

- **Thousands of Northwest residents are unexpectedly dying from causes other than COVID-19.** [https://www.opb.org/article/2020/11/25/covid-19-oregon-washington-idaho-excess-deaths/] December 4, 2020


- **Street Fentanyl Surges in Western U.S., Leading To Thousands of Deaths.** [https://www.nprillinois.org/post/street-fentanyl-surges-western-us-leading-thousands-deaths#stream/0] November 17, 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-opioid-epidemic/ June 17, 2020.
• A New Addiction Crisis: Treatment Centers Face Financial Collapse.  

State reports

1. Alabama
   • What’s up with all those purple flags planted beside a Huntsville street?  
   • 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
   • Opioid overdoses on the rise since pandemic began.  https://www.wbrc.com/2020/08/18/opioid-overdoses-rise-since-pandemic-began/ August 18, 2020
1. Wisconsin


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
5. California


- Fentanyl overdoses, deaths are up in Riverside County. Many don’t know they’ve taken it. https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/health/2021/07/30/fentanyl-overdoses-deaths-rise-riverside-county/8043736002/ July 30, 2021

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6. Colorado
• Largest jump in Colorado overdose deaths in more than 20 years, data show.  

• Under cover of COVID, fentanyl and isolation fuel spiraling overdose crisis.  

• Street drugs containing fentanyl circulating in Boulder, officials say.  
https://www.9news.com/article/news/health/fentanyl-drugs-boulder-xanax-oxycodone/73-0528ece1-0081-4938-9b75-0892ca2a3caa February 6, 2021

• Denver and Colorado Set New Fentanyl and Overdose Death Marks.  

• Overdose deaths in US on track to break all-time record.  

• Deaths in Colorado rose 20% during first 6 months of pandemic, reflecting COVID-19’s broader toll on health.  

• Drug overdoses in Colorado surged along with stress and loneliness caused by the pandemic.  

• Colorado sees drug overdoses rise with coronavirus-related stress.  

• Pueblo diversion program showing success.*  

• How the pandemic is impacting another health crisis: opioid addiction.  

• Fentanyl And Meth Fuel Record Colorado Overdose Deaths Amid Coronavirus Pandemic.  

• Opioid crisis in Colorado could get worse amid pandemic.  
https://apnews.com/bf1c11ac45d63808ffeac945c750cd81 June 28, 2020

• After COVID-19 addiction treatment may never be the same.  

• Struggling with addiction in quarantine? You’re not alone.  

7. Connecticut
8. Delaware


- 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


9. District of Columbia


• 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


• One doctor is working to fight D.C.’s opioid epidemic, even as a pandemic rages. https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/one-doctor-is-working-to-fight-dcs-opioid-epidemic-even-as-a-pandemic-rages/2020/08/04/c5c1cc54-d662-11ea-aff6-220dd3a14741_story.html August 4, 2020

10. Florida


• Jacksonville opioid-related overdose deaths have jumped 2,000% in 6 years. https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2021/07/15/jacksonville-opioid-related-overdose-deaths-have-jumped-2000-in-6-years/ July 15, 2021

• 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. https://www.orlandosentinel.com/coronavirus/os-ne-coronavirus-dramatic-rise-in-florida-
Ocala sees spike in opioid overdoses during COVID-19 pandemic. 


Experts: Coronavirus Contributing To Increase In Substance Abuse. 

Overdose calls up 40% during COVID-19 pandemic; treatment centers seeing relapses in long-time sober patients. 

Manatee County reports 44% increase in opioid overdoses since last year. 

Fake pills laced with fentanyl are causing overdoses in west Pasco, deputies say. 

Jacksonville overdose calls increased 20% in March. 

11. Georgia

‘Perfect storm’: In Georgia, rising opioid overdoses don’t discriminate. 

Officials: Fentanyl overdoses spreading across Georgia. 
https://apnews.com/article/georgia-health-fc27a85f6f92ad24b5383e81411fc7da May 16, 2021

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://wabe.org/some-georgia-hospitals-are-reporting-a-rise-in-trauma-cases/ October 5, 2020

How to maintain emotional wellness during COVID-19. 

Updated Suspected Drug Overdose Increases in Georgia Amid COVID-19. 

12. Hawaii
• Fentanyl from Mexican cartels coming into Hawaii as overdoses rise. https://www.khon2.com/local-news/fentanyl-from-mexican-cartels-coming-into-hawaii-as-overdoses-rise/ May 19, 2021
• More homeless residents dying from meth overdoses. https://abc17news.com/news/national-world/2021/04/01/more-homeless-residents-dying-from-meth-overdoses/ April 1, 2021

13. Idaho

• 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,
Indiana


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Kentucky

• Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Drug Overdoses in Indianapolis. 
• An epidemic of their own; relapse and overdose rates surge amidst coronavirus lockdowns. 
• ‘There needs to be awareness’: Addiction recovery help still available during pandemic. 
  http://www.bcdemocrat.com/2020/06/16/there_needs_to_be_awareness_addiction_recovery_help_still_available_during_pandemic/ June 16, 2020
• Naloxone Use, Opioid Overdoses Increase Amid Virus Pandemic. 
• An Indiana Police Dept. No Longer Reversing Overdoses During Pandemic. 
  https://filtermag.org/cops-naloxone-coronavirus/ April 24, 2020

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
• National increase in drug overdose deaths leads KDHE to educate residents about Naloxone. 
  https://www.wibw.com/2021/08/06/national-increase-drug-overdose-deaths-leads-kdhe-educate-residents-about-naloxone/ August 6, 2021
• Kansas communities warn of rise in overdoses linked to fentanyl. 
• DEA launches effort to stop flood of fentanyl into states, including Kansas, Missouri. 
• Meth and crime: Recent increase has Kansas law enforcement calling it a threat to the state. https://www.ksn.com/news/local/meth-and-crime-recent-increase-has-kansas-law-enforcement-calling-it-a-threat-to-the-state/ April 29, 2021

18. Kentucky


• ‘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-9087-7b523df99843.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
• Penobscot County continues to see a disproportionate share of Maine’s overdose deaths. [https://observer-me.com/2021/09/10/news/penobscot-county-continues-to-see-a-disproportionate-share-of-maines-overdose-deaths/] September 10, 2021


• With opioid deaths on rise, Bangor looks to connect people with support after they overdose. [https://bangordailynews.com/2020/09/30/news/bangor/with-opioid-deaths-on-rise-bangor-looks-to-connect-people-with-support-after-they-overdose/] September 30, 2020

• Maine’s other pandemic — drug overdose deaths — needs urgent attention. [https://bangordailynews.com/2020/08/30/opinion/editorials/maines-other-pandemic-drug-overdose-deaths-needs-urgent-attention/] August 30, 2020


• 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
As MD Opioid Deaths Explode in Pandemic, Town Halls Aim to Halt Crisis. 

Garrett County among 4 to see decrease in opioid deaths. 
https://www.times-news.com/community/garrett-county-among-4-to-see-decrease-in-opioid-deaths/article_21c02288-e6ec-11eb-9595-27aba2ea007f.html August 1, 2021

Opioid Use, Fentanyl Deaths Spike During Pandemic. 
https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/04/30/opioid-use-fentanyl-deaths-spike-during-pandemic/ April 30, 2021

As opioid deaths remain near record highs, Maryland offers $50 million in new grants. 

Overdoses and alcohol-related deaths rising during pandemic. 

In the shadow of COVID-19, opioid crisis continues unabated attack. 

Drug overdose alert issued in Carroll County. 

Health officials say COVID-19 might be worsening opioid crisis. 

Opioid-related deaths make a disappointing uptick in early 2020, possibly related to coronavirus. 

Pandemic cited as Md. opioid fatalities inch up. 

22. Massachusetts

Editorial: It’s never been more urgent to give safe injection sites a try. 
https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/09/02/opinion/its-never-been-more-urgent-give-safe-injection-sites-try/ September 2, 2021

Opioid-related overdose deaths soar among Black residents. 

Massachusetts Department of Public Health Data Brief: Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths among Massachusetts Residents. 

While doctors prepare to handle rise in opioid cases, access to recovery programs remains limited. 
http://bunewsservice.com/while-doctors-prepare-to-handle-rise-in-opioid-cases-access-to-recovery-programs-remains-limited/ December 8, 2020

Overdose Deaths Have Risen in Mass. Amid Pandemic, State Data Show. 
• ‘A perfect storm’: Pandemic is making it harder to kick drugs.  

• Sounding the alarm: Seeing warning signs of an epidemic within the COVID pandemic (Viewpoint).  

• SouthCoast doctors say telemedicine has proven its worth, hope it will continue.*  

• The Pandemic Has Changed Addiction Treatment, Some Hope For Good.*  
https://www.wbur.org/commonhealth/2020/05/21/coronavirus-addiction-treatment-changes  May 21, 2020

23. Michigan

• Nationwide naloxone shortage means higher costs in Michigan.  

• Michigan drug overdose deaths climbed to record levels in 2020 during pandemic.  

• Michigan Lawmakers Announce Bills After Opioid Deaths Spike.  

• 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

• Pandemic, homelessness brought record overdose calls in Minneapolis.  


• DEA: Significant increase in counterfeit pills in Minnesota. https://www.startribune.com/in-duluth-ods-spike-as-pandemic-decreases-access-to-aid/570895192/ May 31, 2020

• In Duluth, ODs spike as pandemic decreases access to aid; The pandemic might be increasing the demand for dangerous drugs. https://www.startribune.com/in-duluth-ods-spike-as-pandemic-decreases-access-to-aid/570895192/ May 31, 2020


25. Mississippi


26. Missouri

• Overdose deaths in Missouri rose nearly 20% in 2020. CDC points to pandemic, fentanyl. https://www.kansascity.com/news/article252899143.html July 20, 2021


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

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

• Nebraska overdose deaths jumped nearly 43% last year. [source]

• Montana
  • Massive Meth Problem in Montana gets Help from New DPHHS Program. [source]
  • Research Examines ‘Deaths Of Despair’ in Montana. [source]
  • Meth use rose as pandemic hit Montana, other states, urine tests showed. [source]
  • County applies for opioid program. [source]
  • Police blame super-potent heroin for one death, several overdoses. [source]

• Nebraska
  • Fentanyl related overdose deaths spike in Lincoln and Omaha. [source]
  • DEA warns parents about counterfeit pills in Nebraska before school starts. [source]
  • Nebraska overdose deaths jumped nearly 43% last year. [source]
  • Exclusive: Fentanyl top killer drug in Omaha-area overdoses. That wasn’t the case in 2020. [source]
  • Pills that kill hit Omaha: Fentanyl surprise on the rise. [source]

• Nevada
  • Southern Nevada Health District Advisory: Fentanyl deaths increase in Clark County. [source]
  • Drug overdose deaths hit all-time high in US; local therapists report uptick in new...

30. New Hampshire

- Opioid cases rising in NH, Manchester projects ‘significant’ increase in deaths. https://www.wmnr.com/article/opioid-cases-manchester-nh/36358247 May 6, 2021
- NH has seen at least 200 fatal drug overdoses so far this year. https://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/nh-has-seen-at-least-200-fatal-drug-overdoses-so-far-this-year/article_a04ea351-e402-5375-bcf6-51e4e4ce49e2.html August 26, 2020

31. New Jersey

- Atlantic City Is Just The Latest Place To Shut Down Its Needle Exchange Amid A Deadly Rise In US Overdose Deaths.
32. New Mexico

- New Mexico fentanyl deaths double again from 2019 to 2020. [https://apnews.com/article/health-government-and-politics-new-mexico-d00bbec79d1a91a7f112b7cbfc765018](https://apnews.com/article/health-government-and-politics-new-mexico-d00bbec79d1a91a7f112b7cbfc765018) July 16, 2020

33. New York

- 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
34. North Carolina

- 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](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

37. Oklahoma

- Counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl are driving a spike in Oklahoma deaths. [link]
- Oklahoma Sees Increase In Overdose Deaths From 2019-2020. [link]
- Over 10,000 pounds, 1,300 liters of meth seized in Oklahoma, N. TX during pandemic. [link]
- Authorities investigate additional deaths in Oklahoma linked to fake oxycodone pills. [link]
- Methamphetamine: The Overlooked Addiction Epidemic in Oklahoma. [link]
- GUEST EDITORIAL: Pandemic makes fighting opioid abuse even tougher. [link]
- Oklahoma recovery center reports surge in alcohol abuse. [link]
- Deaths caused by fake pills continue to climb in Oklahoma, with links to North Texas. [link]

38. Oregon

- Law enforcement says methamphetamine still top illegal drug threat to Central Oregonians. [link]
- Public health records show the number of opioid-related deaths in Oregon grew by 40% in just the last year. [link]
- Spike in Overdoses Reported in Coos & Lane Counties. [link]
39. Pennsylvania

- New trends in opioid crisis alarming Lackawanna County officials.  
  alarming-lackawanna-county-officials/523-8b60823e-8bf0-492a-b116-e6b944298304  
  September 7, 2021

- Mayor fights rising fentanyl deaths in Pittsburgh by allowing test strips.  
  https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2021/08/31/Mayor-Peduto-Make-Fentanyl-Test- 
  Strips-Legal-pittsburgh-overdose-drugs/stories/202108310126  
  August 31, 2021

- Pennsylvania Allows Opioid Emergency Declaration to Lapse.  
  https://www.wesa.fm/identity-community/2021-08-25/pennsylvania-allows-opioid- 
  emergency-declaration-to-lapse  
  August 25, 2021

- Wolf Wants Lawmakers To Extend Opioid Emergency Declaration.  
  https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2021-08-02/wolf-wants-lawmakers-to-extend- 
  opioid-emergency-declaration  
  August 2, 2021

- Deadly fentanyl overdoses mount in Pittsburgh region.  
  https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2021/08/01/death-toll-fentanyl-overdoses-pittsburgh-region- 
  stowe/stories/202108010043  
  August 1, 2021

- 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

- Addiction Treatment Providers in Pa. Face Little State Scrutiny Despite Harm to  
  Clients.  
  https://khn.org/news/addiction-treatment-providers-in-pa-face-little-state- 
  scrutiny-despite-harm-to-clients/  
  April 30, 2021

- 71-year-old incarcerated man denied methadone in Allegheny County Jail.  
  https://www.pittsburghcurrent.com/71-year-old-incarcerated-man-denied-methadone-in- 
  allegheny-county-jail/  
  March 26, 2021

- In curtailing overprescribing, Pennsylvania’s drug monitoring program is a limited  
  tool in opioid epidemic.  
  https://www.publicsource.org/pennsylvania-drug-monitoring-program-a- 
  successful-but-limited-tool-in-opioid-epidemic/  
  March 4, 2021

- An Animal Tranquilizer Is Now Linked To One in Three Overdoses in Philadelphia.  
  https://www.forbes.com/sites/mishagajewski/2021/02/02/an-animal-tranquilizer-is-now- 
  linked-to-one-in-three-overdoses-in-philadelphia/?sh=d1f820242ae2  
  February 2, 2021


40. Rhode Island


• Rhode Island seeks spike of drug overdose deaths in 2020. [https://apnews.com/article/rhode-island-accidents-opiods-8c8786efb7b5b0045d655db7c87c0210f5](https://apnews.com/article/rhode-island-accidents-opiods-8c8786efb7b5b0045d655db7c87c0210f5) April 14, 2021


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-are-soaring-rhode-island/) August 5, 2020


Rhode Island Sees 22% Increase in Drug Overdose Deaths. [Source](https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/2020/07/12/opioids) July 12, 2021

41. South Carolina

- USC police warn of fentanyl-laced drugs as students return to campus. [Source](https://www.wltx.com/article/news/crime/usc-police-warn-fentanyl-laced-drugs/101-6b6319cd-03aa-4535-a3be-fe4856854160) August 28, 2021
- Community Warning – Lethal Amounts of Fentanyl Found in Counterfeit Pills. [Source](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/law_enforcement_and_safety/crime-log-bulletins/index.php) August 27, 2021

42. South Dakota


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43. Tennessee


44. Texas

• Drug overdose deaths jumped in Texas as the pandemic took its toll.  

• Drug overdoses on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic, expert says.  

• As drug deaths rise, County autopsy costs soar to $70K.  

• ‘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.  

45. Utah

• Fentanyl test strips key part of overall harm reduction, experts say.  

• Affordable Naloxone Shortage Has Some Harm Reduction Organizations Looking At Distribution Efforts.  

• Utah Health Advocates Work To Slow Increase In Opioid Related Deaths During the Pandemic.  

• Government sues Ridley’s for alleged opioid prescription violations at Morgan grocery store.  

• 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.  

• ‘Pandemic within a pandemic’: Data suggests opioid-related overdoses on the rise along Wasatch Front.  

46. Vermont

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51. Wyoming

