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

*Updated May 12, 2022*

The nation’s drug overdose epidemic continues to change and become worse. The epidemic affects every state and now is driven by illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and cocaine, often in combination or in adulterated forms. More than 107,000 deaths were reported in the United States between December 2020 to December 2021. The AMA continues to urge policymakers’ action to increase access to evidence-based care for substance use disorders, pain and harm reduction measures. The news articles and 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, and journals. Recent AMA advocacy, resources and recommendations to end the epidemic:

- **AMA-Manatt Health 2022 state policy toolkit** provides more than 400 specific laws, regulations, policy guidance and other actions being implemented to help reduce mortality and improve outcomes. The toolkit builds on the 2020 **AMA-Manatt Health national policy roadmap** use of best practices to increase access to evidence-based care for mental illness, substance use disorders, comprehensive pain care and harm reduction initiatives.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on February 10, 2022, released a draft revision to its 2016 opioid prescribing guideline. In comments to the Federal Register on April 11, 2022, the AMA said that the CDC’s new draft guideline—if followed by policymakers, health insurance companies and pharmacy chains—provides a path to remove arbitrary prescribing thresholds, restore balance and support comprehensive, compassionate care.
- **AMA letter urging Congress** to hold health plans accountable for nearly 15 years of failures in complying with the 2008 Mental Health Parity And Equity Addiction Act.
- **AMA comments on Biden Administration’s 2022 National Drug Control Strategy.** Reduce barriers to medications to treat substance use disorders; 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 to remove arbitrary restrictions for care for patients with pain; and take steps to develop and support a national, standardized reporting system for key metrics related to drug use. July 2021.
- **Recommendations from the AMA Substance Use and Pain Care Task Force** and **AMA 2021 Overdose Epidemic national report** Updated recommendations that highlight physicians’ actions as well as additional steps that must be taken to have a meaningful impact on reducing drug-related mortality and improving patient outcomes. September 2021.
- **AMA issue brief on key considerations for employers during the drug overdose epidemic.** This includes reviewing benefit plans for patients and families with substance use disorders, mental illness and/or pain; promoting harm reduction at work; and reducing stigma.

See below for national news and other 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
(State-by-state reports begin on page 7 below)

- Opioid abuse treatments don’t reach those most at risk. [https://www.axios.com/2022/05/12/opioid-abuse-treatments-overdose-deaths](https://www.axios.com/2022/05/12/opioid-abuse-treatments-overdose-deaths) May 12, 2022
- HHS needs to step up so CDC’s new guidelines won’t be a bridge to nowhere for most Americans living with chronic pain. [https://www.statnews.com/2022/04/29/cdc-guidelines-bridge-to-nowhere-chronic-pain-patients/](https://www.statnews.com/2022/04/29/cdc-guidelines-bridge-to-nowhere-chronic-pain-patients/) April 29, 2022
- Drug overdose deaths are at a record high. Here’s what the White House plans to do. [https://www.npr.org/2022/04/21/1093974276/drug-overdose-deaths-opioid-fentanyl](https://www.npr.org/2022/04/21/1093974276/drug-overdose-deaths-opioid-fentanyl) April 21, 2022
- Covid-19: US sees increase in sexually transmitted diseases and teen drug overdose deaths. [https://www.bmj.com/content/377/bmj.o991](https://www.bmj.com/content/377/bmj.o991) April 19, 2022
- Treatment for opioid addiction often brings discrimination. [https://www.wizmnews.com/2022/04/16/treatment-for-opioid-addiction-often-brings-discrimination/](https://www.wizmnews.com/2022/04/16/treatment-for-opioid-addiction-often-brings-discrimination/) April 16, 2022
combination-stimulants-hit-black-communities-hardest February 8, 2022
• The future of Overdose Prevention Centers—With two U.S. centers now open, will the Biden administration intervene or look away? https://www.medpagetoday.com/psychiatry/addictions/96468 January 1, 2022
• To save lives, overdose antidote should be sold over-the-counter, advocates argue. https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/12/14/1063865914/to-save-lives-overdose-antidote-should-be-sold-over-the-counter-advocates-argue December 14, 2021
• The Biden team is scrambling to slow a crushing wave of drug overdose deaths. https://www.npr.org/2021/10/27/1049245787/biden-hhs-tackle-drug-overdose-deaths October 27, 2021
• Overdose deaths are so high that the Biden team is embracing ideas once seen as taboo. https://www.npr.org/2021/10/27/1049245787/biden-hhs-tackle-drug-overdose-deaths October 27, 2021
• Fentanyl is one reason why the U.S. drug addiction crisis is roaring back. https://www.npr.org/2021/10/19/1047223109/fentanyl-is-one-reason-why-the-u-s-drug-addiction-crisis-is-roaring-back October 19, 2021
• Drug users face obstacles and mistrust when it comes to getting COVID vaccine. https://www.npr.org/2021/10/03/1042802584/drug-users-face-obstacles-and-mistrust-when-it-comes-to-getting-covid-vaccine October 3, 2021
• Patients on high doses of opioid analgesics risk overdose when tapering study finds. https://www.pharmacist.com/Pharmacy-News/patients-on-high-doses-of-opioiul-anaesics-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
• The Opioid Crackdown is Hurting People in Pain. https://washingtonmonthly.com/2021/06/15/the-opioid-crackdown-is-hurting-people-in-pain/ June 15, 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.oahsu.edu/2021/04/26/one-in-five-pharmacies-blocks-access-to-key-medication-to-treat-addiction April 26, 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


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 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-11595557401 September 8, 2020


• ‘Cries for help’: Drug overdoses are soaring during the coronavirus pandemic. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/01/opioid-overdoses-coronavirus-deaths/ July 1, 2020

• Expanded Telehealth Helps Communities Address Opioid Use Disorder During Pandemic; Practitioners see benefits for patients and providers, especially in rural
Pandemic unleashes a spike in overdose deaths.  
June 29, 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.  
June 15, 2020

Substance use up amid pandemic: survey.  
June 9, 2020

The Escalation of the Opioid Epidemic Due to COVID-19 and Resulting Lessons About Treatment Alternatives.  
July 2020

Drug overdoses climb during COVID-19 pandemic; Officials nationwide report spikes less than a year after the Trump administration touted progress in battling the crisis.  
May 27, 2020

The pandemic is triggering opioid relapses across Appalachia.  
May 14, 2020

Don’t Forget the Other Pandemic Killing Thousands of Americans.  
May 4, 2020

The pandemic may fuel the next wave of the opioid crisis.  
April 21, 2020

State reports

1. Alabama

- Anniston police investigating several likely fentanyl overdoses.  
https://www.wbrc.com/2022/04/02/anniston-police-investigating-several-likely-fentanyl-overdoses/  
April 1, 2022

- Baldwin County drug overdose deaths tripled over 2 years.  
February 4, 2022

- As drug overdose deaths increase, law enforcement carrying life-saving medicine.  
October 28, 2021

- What’s up with all those purple flags planted beside a Huntsville street?  
August 31, 2021

- Fatal overdoses skyrocket in Alabama.  
https://www.waff.com/2021/07/15/fatal-overdoses-skyrocketing-alabama/  
July 14, 2021

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- Overdose deaths are up 31.3% in Alabama. [https://whnt.com/news/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/](https://www.wbrc.com/2021/04/21/opioid-overdoses-increased-ala/) May 4, 2021
- Arizona poison control centers sound alarm as fentanyl overdoses spike. [https://www.kold.com/2022/02/02/arizona-poison-centers-sound-alarm-fentanyl-overdoses-spike/](https://www.kold.com/2022/02/02/arizona-poison-centers-sound-alarm-fentanyl-overdoses-spike/) February 1, 2022

2. **Alaska**

- Juneau fire department is distributing opioid overdose rescue kits. [https://www.ktoo.org/2022/04/18/juneau-narcan-opioid-overdose-kits/](https://www.ktoo.org/2022/04/18/juneau-narcan-opioid-overdose-kits/) April 18, 2022
- 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/](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**

- Arizona poison control centers sound alarm as fentanyl overdoses spike. [https://www.kold.com/2022/02/02/arizona-poison-centers-sound-alarm-fentanyl-overdoses-spike/](https://www.kold.com/2022/02/02/arizona-poison-centers-sound-alarm-fentanyl-overdoses-spike/) February 1, 2022
4. Arkansas

- Arkansas Crime Lab gets $250,000 to speed up autopsies related to opioid deaths. https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2022/apr/07/arkansas-crime-lab-gets-250000-to-speed-up/ April 7, 2022
5. California
   - Overdoses, not COVID-19, drive spike in LA homeless deaths.
   - More than 92 pounds of fentanyl seized in California.
   - California lawmakers target fentanyl as opioid overdoses surge.
   - Goodbye Harm Reduction Institute. OC closes its last needle exchange.
   - S.F. opioid epidemic: Fewer people died of overdoses in 2021 than 2020, but crisis still unprecedented.
   - San Francisco’s new rapid response teams race to save lives as ODs dramatically rise.
• 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
• Man, woman overdose in car in Redwood Village; woman dies.
6. Colorado


- Denver offered free drug test strips and Narcan. Demand was overwhelming. https://www.denverpost.com/2022/04/16/denver-free-fentanyl-test-strips-narcan-demand/ April 16, 2022


- Law enforcement seizes 110,000 fentanyl pills from Denver-area stash houses; 19 indicted in trafficking ring. https://www.denverpost.com/2021/12/01/denver-fentanyl-bust-arrests/ December 1, 2021


- Street drugs containing fentanyl circulating in Boulder, officials say. https://www.9news.com/article/news/health/fentanyl-drugs-boulder-xanax-oxycodone/73-0528ec1e-0081-4938-9b75-0892ca2a3c9a February 6, 2021


- Colorado sees drug overdoses rise with coronavirus-related stress.
7. Connecticut

- Fentanyl ‘driving force’ to rising overdose deaths in CT, officials say.  

- Dozens of CT overdoses were falsely linked to fentanyl-laced marijuana, official says.  


- Echo of pandemic isolation continues to impact addiction crisis in Connecticut.  


- ‘A Perfect Storm for Anybody Struggling’ CT Saw 1,374 Deadly Drug Overdoses in 2020.  

- New Haven Keeps An Eye On Opioid Epidemic Amid Coronavirus Pandemic.  


8. Delaware

9. District of Columbia

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10. Florida

- Florida groups canvass spring breakers to warn of fentanyl.
  https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/wireStory/florida-groups-canvass-spring-breakers-warn-fentanyl-83980608 April 9, 2022

- Opioid deaths skyrocket across US; Tampa Bay one of the worst in nation for overdoses.

- DEA seeing surge of counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl and meth, and just one pill can kill.

- Overdose deaths in Pinellas County are rapidly rising.

- Report: Opioid overdoses in Tampa Bay outpacing the rest of Florida.

- Jacksonville opioid-related overdose deaths have jumped 2,000% in 6 years.

- The Epidemic Within the Epidemic: Tampa Bay’s Opioid Crisis. Preliminary Assessment.
  https://www.tampabay.org/sites/default/files/inlinenewsproject%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-
11. Georgia


- Officials: Fentanyl overdoses spreading across Georgia. [https://apnews.com/article/georgia-health-fc27a85f6f92ad24b5383e81411fc7da](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](https://www.wtvm.com/2021/05/06/fentanyl-related-deaths-rise-peach-state) May 6, 2021
12. Hawaii


13. Idaho

- Idaho health leaders look for tools to prevent overdoses as fentanyl rises in the state. https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/idaho-health-leaders-tools-to-prevent-overdoses-fentanyl-rises-state/277-1a585f4d-aa45-450a-84e0-14e7ad509d59 February 3, 2022
- Opinion: It’s time to take care of mental health and addiction in 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, 2020. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/rr/mm7010a3.htm?s_cid=mm7010a3_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/rr/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
- COVID-19 pandemic causes needle exchange programs to cut back.
- DuPage sees ‘unusual spike’ in overdose deaths during coronavirus pandemic: coroner.

15. Indiana
- Annual Southern Indiana addiction awareness events follow rise in overdose deaths.
- Overdose deaths spike again in ‘21’; pandemic blamed.
- CDC: Indiana’s drug overdose deaths rise 33% from 2019 to 2020.
- Bartholomew County seeing spike in overdose deaths.
- COVID-19 Worsens Mental Health, Sparks Overdose.
- “An Unintended Consequence”: Overdoses Spike In Clark Co. After Pandemic, Lockdowns.
- Mental health trends worrisome.
http://www.therepublic.com/2020/10/30/mental_health_trends_worrisome/ October 29, 2020
- 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
16. Iowa


17. Kansas

- As opioid overdoses spike in Kansas, senators block fentanyl test strip provision. [https://kansasreflector.com/2022/05/02/as-opioid-overdoses-spike-in-kansas-senators-block-fentanyl-test-strip-provision/](https://kansasreflector.com/2022/05/02/as-opioid-overdoses-spike-in-kansas-senators-block-fentanyl-test-strip-provision/) May 2, 2022
- KDHE: Kansas saw 54 percent increase in drug overdoses during 1st half of ’21. [https://www.kWCH.com/2022/01/04/kdhe-kansas-saw-54-percent-increase-drug-overdoses-during-1st-half-21/](https://www.kWCH.com/2022/01/04/kdhe-kansas-saw-54-percent-increase-drug-overdoses-during-1st-half-21/) January 3, 2022
- Fentanyl contributing to rise in overdoses, overdose deaths. [https://www.kWCH.com/2021/10/28/fentanyl-contributing-rise-overdoses-overdose-deaths/](https://www.kWCH.com/2021/10/28/fentanyl-contributing-rise-overdoses-overdose-deaths/) October 27, 2021
18. Kentucky

- Kansas communities warn of rise in overdoses linked to fentanyl. [Link](https://www.kwch.com/2021/05/04/kan-communities-warn-of-rise-in-overdoses-linked-to-fentanyl/) May 3, 2021
- DEA launches effort to stop flood of fentanyl into states, including Kansas, Missouri. [Link](https://www.morningsun.net/story/news/2021/04/29/dea-launches-effort-stop-flood-fentanyl-into-states-including-kansas-missouri/7400816002/) April 29, 2021
- Meth and crime: Recent increase has Kansas law enforcement calling it a threat to the state. [Link](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

- How a Kentucky coalition is working to reduce fentanyl overdoses. [Link](https://www.spectrumnews1.com/kv/louisville/news/2022/03/22/how-a-ky-coalition-is-working-to-reduce-fentanyl-overdoses/) March 25, 2022

- ‘Don’t give up’ After years of decline, Lexington’s overdose deaths are rising fast. [Link](https://www.kentucky.com/news/local/counties/fayette-county/article245379110.html) August 31, 2020
- Kentucky Drug Overdoses Spike During COVID-19 Shutdown. [Link](http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/pubs/files/July%202020%20KyOD2A%20Final.pdf) July 2020
- OPD, DCSO records increase in overdoses on altered pills. [Link](https://www.14news.com/2020/05/26/opd-seeing-increase-overdoses-altered-pills/) May 27, 2020

19. Louisiana

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21
• Overdose deaths rose 56% during pandemic in Louisiana, CDC reports. 

• Louisiana observes Opioid Crisis Awareness Day after year of record overdose deaths in U.S.  

• DEA warns of fake Oxycodone, Adderall pills containing fentanyl, meth after spike in drug overdoses.  

• Opioid-related overdose deaths continue to rise in Lafayette Parish, and fentanyl a big reason why.  

• Dr. Nicholas Goeders: The hidden health crisis resulting from COVID-19.  

• People who use drugs are more vulnerable to coronavirus. Here's what clinics are doing to help.  

20. Maine

• Rural communities face lack of resources fighting Maine’s opioid crisis.  

• Advocates call for expansion to Good Samaritan laws amid surge of overdose deaths.  

• Coronavirus pandemic overshadows another Maine crisis: Drug overdose deaths.  

• Penobscot County continues to see a disproportionate share of Maine’s overdose deaths.  

• Shortage of Overdose Antidote Hinders Some of Maine’s Harm Reduction Efforts.  

• ‘I’m not in prison anymore, but my addiction was my prison’: Maine sees record number of drug overdose deaths in June.  

• Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Maine’s opioid epidemic continues.  

• Though down in 3rd quarter, 2020 total drug deaths expected to ‘significantly exceed’ those in 2019.  
  https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/health/though-down-in-3rd-
21. Maryland


- 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-e9ee-c1eb-9595-27aba2ea07f.html](https://www.times-news.com/community/garrett-county-among-4-to-see-decrease-in-opioid-deaths/article_21c02288-e9ee-c1eb-9595-27aba2ea07f.html) August 1, 2021


• 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
• Fewer women are seeking addiction treatment in Mass. as use and overdoses increase. [https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/01/27/women-addiction-treatment-opioid-use-overdose] January 27, 2022
• 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. [https://apnews.com/article/opioids-injection-site-access-crack-up-20210427] May 12, 2021
• 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
• ‘A perfect storm’: Pandemic is making it harder to kick drugs. [https://www.patriotledger.com/news/20201027/a-perfect-storm-pandemic-is-making-it-harder-to-kick-drugs] September 30, 2020
• SouthCoast doctors say telemedicine has proven its worth, hope it will continue.* [https://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20200528/southcoast-doctors-say-telemedicine-has-proven-its-worth-hope-it-will-continue] May 28, 2020
• 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
• Just over half of Michigan pharmacies offer overdose-fighting naloxone without prescription. [https://labblog.uofmhealth.org/lab-notes/just-over-half-of-michigan-pharmacies-offer-overdose-fighting-naloxone-without] April 25, 2022
• Nationwide naloxone shortage means higher costs in Michigan. [https://www.michiganradio.org/health/2021-09-07/nationwide-naloxone-shortage-means-higher-costs-in-michigan] September 7, 2021

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- 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.

24. Minnesota

- As overdose deaths spike, Minnesota families grapple with grief.

- Pandemic, homelessness brought record overdose calls in Minneapolis.

- Minnesota drug overdose deaths jumped in pandemic year.

- Duluth police: 20 opioid overdose deaths in 2020.

- New report finds increase in 2020 overdose deaths.


- 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

- St. Paul Police Issue Alert After 28 Suspected Overdoses In 6 Days, 2 Deaths.
25. Mississippi
- Overdose deaths involving fentanyl on the rise in Mississippi.
- Substance abuse continues to climb during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Overdose rates soaring in the pandemic.
- An in-depth look at the Drug Epidemic in Mississippi.

26. Missouri
- Here’s how some states prevent fentanyl overdoses. It’s illegal in Kansas and Missouri.
- 7th person dies from suspected overdose in Central West End.
- Half of this year’s drug overdose deaths recorded in Columbia have occurred since Aug. 1.
- Overdose deaths in Missouri rose nearly 20% in 2020. CDC points to pandemic, fentanyl.
- 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.

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27. Montana

28. Nebraska
• Fentanyl related overdose deaths spike in Lincoln and Omaha. https://www.1011now.com/2021/08/17/fentanyl-related-overdose-deaths-spike-lincoln-omaha/ August 17, 2021

29. Nevada
• Southern Nevada Health District Advisory: Fentanyl deaths increase in Clark County. https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/news-release/fentanyl-deaths-increase-in-clark-county/ August 17, 2021
• With opioid-related overdoses on the rise, health providers try preparing everyday Nevadans to respond to a crisis. https://thenevada-independent.com/article/opioid-related-overdoses-on-the-rise-health-care-providers-try-preparing-everyday-nevadans-to-respond-to-a-crisis September 6, 2020
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48. Washington

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As local kids get hooked on fentanyl, there’s ‘no place for them to go’.  

Fentanyl drives increase in drug overdose deaths in Washington, Cowlitz County.  

Health officials urge public to carry naloxone as WA overdose deaths climb at ‘alarming’ rate.  

‘Same day delivery’: Parents warn of fentanyl dealers targeting kids on Snapchat.  

Bag left behind by Seattle hotel guest leads to arrest, discovery 15,000 fentanyl pills.  

Fentanyl is driving a huge increase in overdose deaths in Thurston County, coroner says.  

Fentanyl overdose deaths on track to set grim record in Washington.  

Deadly drug overdoses soared in 2020 as COVID pandemic upended lives in Washington.  

Washington overdose deaths rise sharply. Fentanyl availability a main factor.  

King County seeks spike in fatal overdose cases.  

As doctors, we call for treatment, not incarceration, for those with drug addiction.  

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-a0c7-2aa1d22cc2fe October 20, 2020

Public health officials warn of fentanyl in black tar heroin.  

Seattle sees spike in fentanyl overdose deaths.  
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In Worst Year for Overdoses, 17 W. Va. Counties Hose Largest Free Naloxone Day.  
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They’d battled addiction together. Then lockdowns became a ‘recipe for death.’

Justice signs syringe exchange bill, despite health leaders’ push for a veto.

Overdoses increase across West Virginia, experts blame pandemic.

Drug Crisis: Resources needed to focus on fight. Editorial.

Drug overdoses increase during months of COVID-19 pandemic.

Increase in overdose deaths reported in the Northern Shenandoah Valley.

'How are we going to keep people alive?' Behind the pandemic, overdoses are rising across West Virginia.

Police: Three people overdose on opioids at same time, same place in North Wheeling.

Overdose deaths outpacing COVID-19 deaths in Tri-State area.

Milwaukee County sees a record number of drug overdose deaths in 2021.

Wisconsin’s statewide alcohol deaths rose nearly 25% in 2020, Fdl County saw similar trends.

Fake pain pills containing fentanyl lead to ‘a staggering number of potentially lethal overdoses’

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