Issue brief: National Snapshot of Overdose Epidemic

*Updated November 2023

The nation’s drug overdose and death epidemic continues to worsen. The epidemic affects every state and continues to be driven by illicitly manufactured fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine, often in combination or in adulterated forms. More than 106,000 deaths were reported in the United States between May 2022 to May 2023. 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, state health department reports and other information 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. Relevant AMA advocacy, resources and recommendations to end the epidemic also are below.

- Recommendations from the AMA Substance Use and Pain Care Task Force and the 2023 AMA Overdose Epidemic national report 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.
- 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 Fight to End the Nation’s Overdose Epidemic and Restore Compassionate Care: Profiles in Leadership profiles the work of more than 25 practicing physicians, policymakers, researchers and advocates working daily to reduce drug-related mortality and improve patient outcomes. December 2022.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on November 4, 2022, released its CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain—United States, 2022, which CDC said “updates and replaces” the 2016 guideline. The CDC makes clear in its revision that the updated guideline “is meant to be a flexible clinical tool and should not be used as a rigid standard of care or one-size-fits-all policy or law.” The AMA urges all states, payers, pharmacy chains and others to review, revise and rescind any laws or policies based on the 2016 guideline.
- The AMA continues to urge policymakers in federal and state governments to hold health plans accountable for nearly 15 years of failures in complying with the 2008 Mental Health Parity And Equity Addiction Act.
- AMA issue brief on What medical societies can do to help end the nation’s drug overdose and death epidemic. This includes removing prior authorization for treatment for substance use disorders, enforcing parity laws; promoting harm reduction; and focusing opioid litigation funds on evidence-based initiatives.

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 Attorney, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org
**National reports**
(State-by-state reports begin on page 12 below)

- Cases Involving Discrimination Based on Treatment with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). [https://www.lac.org/assets/files/Cases involving Discrimination Based on Treatment with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder MOUD.pdf](https://www.lac.org/assets/files/Cases involving Discrimination Based on Treatment with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder MOUD.pdf) October 16, 2023
- Buprenorphine Dose and Time to Discontinuation Among Patients With Opioid Use Disorder in the Era of Fentanyl. [https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurologopen/fullarticle/2809633?resultClick=3](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurologopen/fullarticle/2809633?resultClick=3) September 18, 2023
- As more teens overdose on fentanyl, schools face a drug crisis unlike any other. [https://www.nprillinois.org/2023-08-30/as-more-teens-overdose-on-fentanyl-schools-face-a-drug-crisis-unlike-any-other](https://www.nprillinois.org/2023-08-30/as-more-teens-overdose-on-fentanyl-schools-face-a-drug-crisis-unlike-any-other) August 30, 2023


• Naloxone Use in Novel Potent Opioid and Fentanyl Overdoses in Emergency Department Patients. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2808868 August 29, 2023


• They Followed Doctors’ Orders. Then Their Children Were Taken Away. https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/29/magazine/pregnant-women-medication-suboxonbabies.html June 29, 2023


• Lifesaving fentanyl test strips still illegal in some states under ‘70s-era war on drugs law. https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/alive-states-legalize-fentanyl-test-strips-combat-surge-99922442 June 7, 2023


• Fentanyl overdose deaths surged 279% since 2016 while heroin deaths fell: CDC. https://abcnews.go.com/Health/fentanyl-overdose-deaths-surged-279-2016-heroin-deaths/story?id=99008519 May 2, 2023

• As fentanyl deaths rise, state legislatures resist ‘harm reduction’ method. https://www.npr.org/2023/05/02/1173516164/as-fentanyl-deaths-rise-state-legislatures-resist-harm-reduction-method May 2, 2023
• Artist’s death spotlights peril posed by xylazine-fentanyl mix. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/30/xylazine-fentanyl-overdose-deaths/ April 30, 2023
• Experts slam plan to sell overdose antidote Narcan at about $50 a kit. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/04/20/narcan-price-over-the-counter/ April 20, 2023
• Women less likely to seek substance use treatment due to stigma, logistics. https://www.psu.edu/news/social-science-research-institute/story/women-less-likely-seek-substance-use-treatment-due-stigma/ April 12, 2023
• Teen overdose deaths have doubled in three years. Blame fentanyl. https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3917058-teen-overdose-deaths-have-doubled-in-three-years-blame-fentanyl/ March 26, 2023
• CDC’s new opioid guidelines are too little, too late for chronic pain patients, experts say. https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/cdc-new-opioid-guidelines-little-late-chronic-pain-patients-rcna74248 March 13, 2023
• Young children are increasingly victims of opioid epidemic, study finds. https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/08/health/infant-opioid-deaths/index.html March 8, 2023
• Teen cannabis abuse has increased 245% over 20 years, study finds. https://news.ohsu.edu/2022/12/07/teen-cannabis-abuse-has-increased-245-over-20-years-study-finds December 7, 2023
• These 8 states are doing the worst job of treating hepatitis C in prisons. https://www.statnews.com/2022/12/15/states-worst-job-treating-hepatitis-c-in-prisons/ December 15, 2022
• In rural America, deadly costs of opioids outweigh the dollars tagged to address them. [link] December 14, 2022
• Endocarditis in patients with cocaine or opioid use disorder saw marked increase between 2011 to 2022. [link] December 13, 2022
• U.S. opioid crackdown hampers some patients’ access to psychiatric drugs. [link] December 12, 2022
• Cause of death: Washington faltered as fentanyl gripped America. [link] December 12, 2022
• Drug overdose deaths during pregnancy and postpartum rose sharply in recent years, study shows. [link] December 6, 2022
• Schools stockpile medication to combat rise in fentanyl overdoses. [link] December 6, 2022
• Fentanyl Overdose. JAMA Patient Page. [link] December 2, 2022
• New research finds racial disparity in use and access to medications for opioid use disorder. [link] November 29, 2022
• Walmart agrees to $3.1 billion opioid settlement framework. [link] November 15, 2022
• Medication Treatment for Addiction Is Shorter for Black and Hispanic Patients, Study Finds. [link] November 9, 2022
• How to Talk to Kids About Drugs in the Age of Fentanyl. [link] November 8, 2022
• CDC Releases New Opioid Guidelines: What to Know. [link] November 8, 2022
• FDA warns about the risk of xylazine exposure. November 8, 2022. [link]
• The other Supreme Court ruling with big repercussions for U.S. health care. [link] October 24, 2022
• ‘Imminent’ need for Narcan on campus: School safety leader says fentanyl threat is real, preparation is key. [link] September 29, 2022
• The Persistent Criminalization of Pregnant People Who Use Drugs. [link] September 16, 2022
• Only 5% of Overdose Patients Tested for Fentanyl, #1 Killer of Americans 18-45. [link] August 23, 2022
• Meth use is driving overdose epidemic in rural America—not opioids. https://studyfinds.org/meth-overdose-epidemic-rural/ August 15, 2022
• Walmart has a new policy denying some telehealth prescriptions for controlled drugs. It’s implicating patients in recovery. https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/digital-health/new-policy-walmart-denies-telehealth-prescriptions-without-person-visit August 9, 2022
• Once feared, illicit fentanyl is now a drug of choice for many opioid users. https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/feared-illicit-fentanyl-now-drug-choice-many-opioids-users-rncn40418 August 7, 2022
• Decreased Access to Buprenorphine Significantly Affects Minorities with OUD. https://www.hcplive.com/view/decreased-access-to-buprenorphine-significantly-affects-minorities-with-oud June 1, 2022
• Tribal leaders sound the alarm after fentanyl overdoses spike at Blackfeet Nation. https://www.npr.org/sections/health/nation/tribal-leaders-sound-the-alarm-after-fentanyl-overdoses-spike-at-blackfeet-natio June 1, 2022
• Opioid abuse treatments don’t reach those most at risk. 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
• 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
• Buprenorphine Misuse: What’s the Reality? https://www.medpagetoday.com/opinion/second-opinions/95753?sid=nl_secondopinion_2021-11-21&eun=g1622575d0r November 18, 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
• DEA Safety Alert: Sharp Increase in Fake Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyl and
Meth. DEA Warns that International and Domestic Criminal Drug Networks are Flooding the United States with Lethal Counterfeit Pills. [https://www.dea.gov/alert/sharp-increase-fake-prescription-pills-containing-fentanyl-and-meth] September 27, 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-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
- 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-adde-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-]
The opioid crisis didn’t disappear amid the pandemic. It still calls for urgent action.

**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

**The Spike in Drug Overdose Deaths During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Policy Options to Move Forward.**

**Latinos grapple with opioid overdose rise as pandemic triggers surge in U.S. use.**

**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

**In Birth and Death, Opioid Crisis to Leave Mark Long After Covid.**

**As the pandemic ushered in isolation and financial hardship, overdose deaths reached new heights.**

**As Addiction Deaths Surge, Profit-Driven Rehab Industry Faces ‘Severe Ethical Crisis’**

**As Overdose Deaths Surge, White House Takes Steps To Build Drug Policy Team.**

**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

**Thousands of Northwest residents are unexpectedly dying from causes other than COVID-19.**

**Overdose-Related Cardiac Arrests Observed by Emergency Medical Services During the US COVID-19 Epidemic.**


**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

**Overdose deaths appear to rise amid coronavirus pandemic in U.S.**

**The opioid crisis didn’t disappear amid the pandemic. It still calls for urgent action. Editorial.**
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-opioid-crisis-didnt-disappear-amid-
Drug overdose deaths on pace for record year during coronavirus pandemic, CDC says. 

Opioid Deaths: America’s Other Fatal Health Crisis Hasn’t Gone Away. 

Sharp Rise In Drug Overdose Deaths Seen During 1st Few Months Of Pandemic. 

The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic. 

Opioid overdoses on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic, despite telemedicine care. 

U.S. Sees Deadly Drug Overdose Spike During Pandemic. 

As overdoses rise during pandemic, 2 moms share their stories of loss. 

AMA Urges Changes After Dramatic Increase in Illicit Opioid Fatalities. 

Drug overdose deaths jump in 2019 to nearly 71,000, a record high, CDC says. 

'Opioid overdoses are skyrocketing': as Covid-19 sweeps across US an old epidemic returns. 

High Rate of Stimulant Use in Opioid ED Cases. 

Coronavirus Crisis Disrupts Treatment For Another Epidemic: Addiction. 

‘Cries for help’: Drug overdoses are soaring during the coronavirus pandemic. 

Expanded Telehealth Helps Communities Address Opioid Use Disorder During Pandemic; Practitioners see benefits for patients and providers, especially in rural areas.* 

Pandemic unleashes a spike in overdose deaths. 

Despite the Challenges, We Must Fight Harder to Address the Nation’s Opioid Epidemic; Patrice A. Harris, MD. 


State-by-state reports begin on the next page.
State reports

1. Alabama
   - “Odds Are Alabama” Shines Light on Dangers of Fentanyl. [https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/blog/2023/03/nr-fentanyl.html](https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/blog/2023/03/nr-fentanyl.html) March 16, 2023
   - Montgomery County, DA warns of rising fentanyl overdoses. [https://www.wsfa.com/2022/06/14/montgomery-county-da-warns-rising-fentanyl-overdoses/](https://www.wsfa.com/2022/06/14/montgomery-county-da-warns-rising-fentanyl-overdoses/) June 14, 2022
   - Anniston police investigating several likely fentanyl overdoses. [https://www.wbrc.com/2022/04/02/anniston-police-investigating-several-likely-fentanyl-overdoses/](https://www.wbrc.com/2022/04/02/anniston-police-investigating-several-likely-fentanyl-overdoses/) April 1, 2022
   - 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

© 2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.


2. Alaska


Governor Dunleavy Addresses Fentanyl Crisis in Alaska. https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2022/05/03/governor-dunleavy-addresses-fentanyl-crisis-in-alaska/ May 3, 2022

Juneau fire department is distributing opioid overdose rescue 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/ December 23, 2020
Arizona

- Fentanyl is Poisoning Arizona’s Teens. Students Are Reducing Overdoses, One PSA at a Time. [https://www.the74million.org/article/fentanyl-is-poisoning-arizonas-teens-students-are-reducing-overdoses-one-psa-at-a-time](https://www.the74million.org/article/fentanyl-is-poisoning-arizonas-teens-students-are-reducing-overdoses-one-psa-at-a-time) October 12, 2023
- Arizona health officials warn of rising fentanyl doses in cocaine, other drugs. [https://kjjz.org/content/1840944/arizona-health-officials-warn-rising-fentanyl-doses-cocaine-other-drugs](https://kjjz.org/content/1840944/arizona-health-officials-warn-rising-fentanyl-doses-cocaine-other-drugs) March 9, 2023
- Proposal that would make fentanyl deaths first-degree murder moves forward. [https://www.azmirror.com/blog/gop-proposal-that-would-make-a-fentanyl-deaths-first-degree-murder-moves-forward/](https://www.azmirror.com/blog/gop-proposal-that-would-make-a-fentanyl-deaths-first-degree-murder-moves-forward/) March 7, 2023
- ‘We can’t ell how much is manufactured’: How much fentanyl is not getting seized in Arizona? [https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/arizona/over-half-of-the-nations-fentanyl-pills-are-seized-in-arizona/75-9574d508-6cb2-47e7-b4a4-171f2a74007b](https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/arizona/over-half-of-the-nations-fentanyl-pills-are-seized-in-arizona/75-9574d508-6cb2-47e7-b4a4-171f2a74007b) August 5, 2022
- 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


- Study: Drug overdose deaths up 9% in Arkansas. https://www.kait8.com/2023/03/09/study-drug-overdose-deaths-up-9-arkansas/ March 8, 2023
- Arkansas overdoses from drugs laced with fentanyl on the rise. https://www.5newsonline.com/article/news/local/arkansas-overdoses-drugs-laced-fentanyl-on-rise/527-b6a09650-bfe4-45ef-8054-38f8ea3b9221 September 12, 2022
- 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
• Number of overdose saves tops 500 through Arkansas program.

• Number of Narcan ‘saves’ triple during COVID-19 pandemic.

5. California


• “Melanie’s Law” enacted to prevent fentanyl overdoses.

• Can a simple fentanyl test curb San Francisco’s overdose crisis?


• Kaiser Permanente gives out free Narcan to prevent opioid overdoses.

• Drug overdose death rate higher in Sacramento County than California, US.
  https://www.kcra.com/article/sacramento-county-high-overdose-rate-fentanyl/44872191 August 22, 2023

• A California county is making major changes to keep up with the fentanyl epidemic.
  https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/yolo-county-fentanyl-epidemic-changes/103-a1394494-7253-4e52-bcd6-413a7b4bd73 July 5, 2023

• Drug Overdoses Driven by Fentanyl Have Gotten Worse in California.

• Fentanyl overdoses contribute to surge in L.A. County homeless deaths.

• California health officials call tranq ‘emerging issue’ as feds warn of deadly mix with fentanyl. https://www.kcra.com/article/california-tranq-emerging-issue-mix-with-
• New street drug is surfacing, threatening to make California’s overdose crisis worse. [source](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-02-18/a-new-street-drug-is-surfacings-across-the-country-threatening-to-make-californias-overdose-crisis-worse) February 18, 2023

• LASD task force predicts fentanyl will be “number one” cause of overdose deaths in coming years. [source](https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/lasd-task-force-predicts-fentanyl-will-be-number-one-cause-of-overdose-deaths-in-coming-years) December 9, 2022

• Rainbow Fentanyl Alert. [source](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/sapb/Pages/Rainbow-Fentanyl-Alert.aspx) September 21, 2022

• ‘We Have To Teach Them To Stay Safe’—High Schooler Dies From Fentanyl Overdose Amid Rise in Drug Deaths. [source](https://laist.com/news/health/fentanyl-overdose-drug-deaths-high-school-teen-hollywood-los-angeles) September 14, 2022


• Northern California officials warn about ‘rainbow’ fentanyl going around. [source](https://www.kcra.com/article/placer-county-da-warn-rainbow-fentanyl) August 20, 2022

• Quelling the ‘stigma of shame’: The county’s top doctor opens up about the pain of losing a child to fentanyl. [source](https://lookout.co/santaracruz/coast-life/story/2022-04-27/gail-newel-countyts-top-doctor-opens-up-about-pain-of-losing-child-to-fentanyl) April 27, 2022


• More than 92 pounds of fentanyl seized in California. [source](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fentanyl-california-92-pounds-seized/) April 23, 2022


• San Francisco’s new rapid response teams race to save lives as ODs dramatically rise. [source](https://www.npr.org/2021/11/03/1049637659/drug-overdose-deaths-san-francisco-mobile-response) November 3, 2021

• In L.A. County, Opioid Deaths Spiked During Stay-at-Home in One Particular Demographic. [source](https://www.lamag.com/citythinkblog/opioid-related-deaths-study-la-county/) September 16, 2021

• Santa Clara Co. sees spike in fentanyl overdose deaths during pandemic. [source](https://abc7news.com/fentanyl-deaths-spike-in-south-bay-overdose-increase-santa-clara-county-expect-heroinand10993207/) September 1, 2021

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

- Jared Polis vows to veto bill authorizing sites where people could use illicit drugs and be revived if they overdose. https://coloradosun.com/2023/10/31/overdose-prevention-centers-colorado-jared-polis/ October 31, 2023
• Powdered fentanyl found in Boulder County. https://www.longmontleader.com/local-news/powdered-fentanyl-found-in-boulder-county-7580192 September 22, 2023
• Protecting Good Samaritans bearing naloxone. https://www.coloradopolitics.com/opinion/protecting-good-samaritans-bearing-naloxone-opinion/article_f06e2858-ee10-11ed-80a5-5f8f95c3375c.html May 9, 2023
• Residents Urged to Take Caution as Deadly Xylazine is Found in Boulder County’s Illicit Drug Market. https://bouldercounty.gov/news/residents-urged-to-take-caution-as-deadly-xylazine-is-found-in-boulder-countys-illicit-drug-market/ May 2, 2023
• Denver wants to fight fentanyl overdoses with a supervised drug use site, but the project is still stalled 4 years in. https://www.denverpost.com/2022/09/04/denver-safe-injection-drug-site-overdose-fentanyl/ September 6, 2022
• 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
• Accidental fentanyl deaths on the rise in El Paso County. https://www.kktv.com/2022/03/23/accidental-fentanyl-deaths-rise-el-paso-county/ March 23, 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
Fentanyl detected in counterfeit pills in Boulder County.  

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-oxycodeone/73-0528ce1-0081-4938-9b75-0892ca2a3ca9  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/bf1c11ac45d63808f5eae945c750cd81  June 28, 2020

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

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

Connecticut

Rising xylazine use in Connecticut: what to know and how to stay safe.  

© 2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
• Most accidental drug intoxication deaths in CT involve an opioid. 

• Parts of New Haven County experiencing uptick in fatal overdoses. 

  https://ctmirror.org/2023/04/14/ct-opioid-epidemic-overdose-deaths/ April 14, 2023

• Narcan will soon be sold over-the-counter, but not in 28 CT towns. 
  https://ctmirror.org/2023/04/12/ct-narcan-pharmacy-naloxone-opioid-overdose/ April 12, 2023

• ‘One Pill Can Kill’: Mother Who Lost Son to Overdose Shares Dangers of Fake Pills. 

• Addiction experts call for more funding, compassion to fight opioid epidemic. 

• Accidental drug overdoses are now a leading cause of death in Connecticut. 

• In light of rising drug overdoses, Connecticut lawmakers consider overdose prevention centers. 

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

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

• Potentially Deadly Counterfeit Pills Becoming More Common in Connecticut. 

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

• Norwich Saw More Deadly Overdoses in 2020; Task Force Working to Prevent More. 

• ‘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. 

• Overdose Deaths On The Rise, But Recovery Help Is Available. 

  https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-
8. Delaware

- Division of Forensic Science 2020 Annual Report.
9. District of Columbia

- There’s medicine to quiet his opioid cravings. Getting it can be hard. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2023/05/21/addiction-drug-buprenorphine-access/ May 21, 2023
• Despite efforts by Bowser and D.C. Council, opioid deaths hit record this year. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-opiod-deaths-2020/2020/12/05/95cfba3a-34c0-11eb-b59e-adb7153d10c2_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-opiod-deaths-2020/2020/12/05/95cfba3a-34c0-11eb-b59e-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-e0a4-11ea-ade1-28daf1a5e919_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/drug-overdose-washington-coronavirus/2020/08/20/2a4c64b8-e0a4-11ea-ade1-28daf1a5e919_story.html) August 21, 2020

10. Florida
• ER testing gap leaves people in the dark on horse tranquilizer. [https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/investigations/10-investigates/whats-brewing/florida-xylazine-overdose-deaths-tampa-bay/67-5bd8f95a-70c6-4546-90ae-96384d4b9e60](https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/investigations/10-investigates/whats-brewing/florida-xylazine-overdose-deaths-tampa-bay/67-5bd8f95a-70c6-4546-90ae-96384d4b9e60) August 24, 2023
• As a reminder: Florida Department of Health Orange County Providing Lifesaving Naloxone to Reduce Substance Abuse Deaths. [https://orange.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2023/02/Naloxone.html](https://orange.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2023/02/Naloxone.html) February 16, 2023
- Synthetic psychoactive bath salt called eutylone making deadly mark in Florida.  
- A Tamp ER doctor says every emergency doctor will see an opioid overdose in each shift.  
- Florida leaders announce “massive” effort to address opioid epidemic.  
- Rural Florida County Shocked by Fentanyl Deaths Over Holiday.  
- Florida groups canvass spring breakers to warn of fentanyl.  
- 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/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.  
- Experts: Coronavirus Contributing To Increase In Substance Abuse.  
  [https://miami.cbslocal.com/2020/09/01/coronavirus-substance-abuse-south-florida/] September 1, 2020
- 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

• Atlanta rock band ‘The Judies’ reunite for Georgia Overdose Prevention Benefit. 

• Inmate drug deaths soar at state prisons. 

• Georgia Department of Public Health Statement on Spike in Drug Overdose in Athens. 

• Naloxone available on all campuses. https://ung.edu/news/articles/2023/05/naloxone-on-campus-initiative.php May 2, 2023


• Fentanyl-related overdose deaths lead record-setting surge of more than 100K lives lost to drugs. https://www.gpb.org/news/2022/05/11/fentanyl-related-overdose-deaths-lead-record-setting-surge-of-more-100k-lives-lost May 11, 2022

• As Georgia fentanyl overdoses spike, bill to ease access to life-saving test awaits Kemp OK. https://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/local/as-georgia-fentanyl-overdoses-spike-bill-to-ease-access-to-life-saving-test-awaits-kemp/article_0ebfe5f8-bf4b-11ec-a9a2-83fe5c33754.html April 18, 2022

12. Hawaii

- Hawaii overdoses are hitting every Hawaii community, on every island. [https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2023/10/07/fentanyl-overdoses-are-hitting-every-hawaii-community-every-island/](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2023/10/07/fentanyl-overdoses-are-hitting-every-hawaii-community-every-island/) October 7, 2023
- Fentanyl Users Are Becoming First Responders As ODs Surge. [https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/08/fentanyl-users-are-becoming-first-responders-as-ods-surge/](https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/08/fentanyl-users-are-becoming-first-responders-as-ods-surge/) August 1, 2023
- As fentanyl overdoses rise, DOE works to place Narcan at all school campuses.
13. Idaho

- Idaho Governor taps $1 million to combat illicit fentanyl. https://appnews.com/article/health-brad-little-idaho-opioids-22a1f6d531a3d177b38d03a043ca0b7f July 21, 2022
• 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


• Narcan to be required in all Illinois Schools in 2024. https://www.25newsnow.com/2023/11/02/narcan-be-required-all-illinois-schools-january-1/ November 2, 2023


• Proposed Illinois bill would create overdose prevention sites. https://www.wgem.com/2023/05/18/proposed-illinois-bill-would-create-overdose-prevention-sites/ May 18, 2023

• U of I plans to increase Narcan availability and education. https://will.illinois.edu/studentnewsroom/story/u-of-i-plans-to-increase-narcan-availability-and-education April 4, 2023


Cook County has confirmed a record 1,920 fatal overdoses last year. https://www.wbez.org/stories/cook-county-has-record-1920-fatal-overdoses-in-2021/085fed8f-6200-4a91-8e3c-076ffbb33febf May 31, 2022


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 March 12, 2021


Local accidental overdose deaths are up during pandemic. https://foxillinois.com/news/local/local-accidental-overdose-deaths-are-up-during-pandemic October 26, 2020


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/21819-IDOI_Press_Release.pdf July 15, 2020


15. Indiana


• 2 people die per day in Indianapolis from ODs, study finds. [Source](https://www.indystar.com/story/news/crime/2023/09/26/drug-overdoses-indianapolis-2022-fentanyl-marion-county-rising-more-than-shootings-car-crashes/70909489007/) September 26, 2023


• Drug overdose deaths continue to climb nationally and locally. [Source](https://www.greenfieldreporter.com/2023/03/28/drug-overdose-deaths-continue-to-climb-nationally-and-locally/) March 28, 2023

• Black market opioid 15 times deadlier than fentanyl found at 4 ODs in HamCo, officials say. [Source](https://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/hamilton-county/westfield/2023/03/22/opioid-15-times-deadlier-than-fentanyl-found-od-hamilton-county/70038324007/) March 22, 2023


• Indiana cities, towns, counties have not received opioid settlement funds, attorney says. [Source](https://www.indystar.com/story/news/news/2022/11/29/indiana-opioid-settlement-cities-counties-have-yet-to-receive-funds/69682352007/) November 29, 2022

• Fentanyl is devastating Midwest communities. But expanding harm reduction can be difficult. [Source](https://illinoisnewsroom.org/fentanyl-is-devastating-midwest-communities-but-expanding-harm-reduction-can-be-difficult/) August 4, 2022

• Indiana overdose deaths reach record high for second consecutive year. [Source](https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/indiana-overdose-deaths-reach-record-high-for-second-consecutive-year) May 31, 2022

• Justice Department Finds that Indiana State Nursing Board Discriminates Against People with Opioid Use Disorder. [Source](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-finds-indiana-state-nursing-board-discriminates-against-people-opioid-use) March 25, 2022

• Annual Southern Indiana addiction awareness events follow rise in overdose deaths. [Source](https://wfpl.org/annual-southern-indiana-addiction-awareness-events-follow-rise-in-overdose-deaths/) January 16, 2022

16. Iowa

- Naloxone can reverse opioid overdose. Here’s where you can find it free in Iowa.

- Iowa Substance Abuse Deaths.
  https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/idphfiles/Iowa%20Substance%20Abuse%20Deaths_A ll%20Drugs%2009_5_23.pdf September 5, 2023

- Iowa nonprofits come together to provide 24/7 access to Narcan nasal spray used to reverse overdoses.

- Iowa opioid deaths fall from 2021’s epidemic spike.

- Reynolds signs law increasing penalties for selling fentanyl.

- Polk County Health Department calls on Iowa to legalize fentanyl test strips.


• Opioid board to consider how to combat deadly addiction in Des Moines. https://www.mississippivalleypublishing.com/the_hawk_eye/opioid-board-to-consider-how-to-combat-deadly-addiction-in-des-moines-county/article_90f23b4a-064a-5af2-b5e3-d7c3b385daca.html December 8, 2022


• Drug overdoses are on the rise. Here’s how Southeast Iowa business can get free Narcan. https://www.thehawkeye.com/story/news/2022/03/02/iowa-giving-naloxone-businesses-fight-against-opioid-fentanyl-deaths/6973001001/ March 2, 2022


• State officials and health experts are concerned over fentanyl-related overdose deaths. https://www.iowapublicradio.org/health/2022-01-20/state-officials-and-health-experts-are-concerned-over-rise-in-fentanyl-related-overdose-deaths January 20, 2022


17. Kansas

• Fentanyl has killed more than 850 in KC area. Here are the stories of 26 lives cut short. https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article281002308.html November 2, 2023


• ‘You’re saving people’: City gives more to group helping people who overdose on opioids. ‘You’re saving people’: City gives more to group helping people who overdose on opioids. https://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article275218401.html#storylink=cpy May 24, 2023
• Douglas County Commission approves plan to boost access to opioid overdose reversal drug. https://lawrencekcstimes.com/2023/05/24/dccocomm-oks-narcan-plan/ May 24, 2023
• 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
• A few Kansas jails are finally allowing medical care for opioid addiction. https://www.kmuw.org/health/2022-02-16/a-few-kansas-jails-are-finally-allowing-medical-care-for-opioid-addiction February 16, 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/ January 3, 2022
• 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
• 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
• Telehealth supports retention in treatment for opioid use disorder, UK study finds. 
• New Kentucky law decriminalizing fentanyl testing strips goes into effect. 
• Gov. Beshear Releases 2022 Overdose Fatality Report Marking First Decline in Four Years. 
  https://justice.ky.gov/News/Pages/2022overdosefatalityreport.aspx June 15, 2022
• Beshear: Drug overdose deaths fell in Kentucky in 2022. 
• Fentanyl test strips no longer considered drug paraphernalia in Kentucky. 
• Project in Rural Kentucky Shows Progress Toward Hepatitis C Elimination. 
• Free Narcan machine in Kentucky restocked after being depleted in just 2 days. 
• Over 220K Lethal Doses of Fentanyl Intercepted by CBP Louisville. 
• Ky. attorney general wants fentanyl named weapon of mass destruction. 
• Kentucky organizations unveil ‘roadmap’ to end overdoses. 
• 2021 Kentucky Drug Overdose Report Now Available. Increased use of fentanyl largest contributor to rise in death toll. 
• UK Study: Black Overdose Death Rate Doubles in Kentucky. 
  https://uknow.uky.edu/research/uk-study-black-overdose-death-rate-doubles-kentucky June 1, 2022
• How a Kentucky coalition is working to reduce fentanyl overdoses. 
• U.S. Attorney’s Office Reaches Settlement with Ashland-based Hospital Resolving Alleged Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. 
• 3,000 NKY patients could be forced to find new care due to federal opioid accusations. 


• ‘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

• Two years after opioid settlement, surviving families want to see action. https://thecurrentla.com/2023/two-years-after-opioid-settlement-surviving-families-want-to-see-action/ November 6, 2023

• Lafayette Parish Sheriff Office is making sure their deputies are prepared for fentanyl. https://www.klfy.com/local/lafayette-parish/lafayette-parish-sheriff-office-is-making-sure-their-deputies-are-prepared-for-fentanyl/ October 30, 2023


• New initiative being rolled out as part of battle against opioid crisis in EBR. https://www.wafb.com/2023/08/14/new-initiative-being-rolled-out-part-battle-against-opioid-crisis-ebr/ August 14, 2023

• LDH launches campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of illicit fentanyl and actions everyone can take to save lives. https://ldh.la.gov/news/FentanylAwareness2023 May 9, 2023


• Fentanyl shortage causing EMS to use other pain management drugs.
Maine’s Prisons Taught Washington a Crucial Lesson in Fighting Opioids.

20. Maine


© 2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

- Portland police investigate string of possible overdose deaths. 

- Hundreds of patients searching for help as Kennebunk doctor faces opioid charges. 

- Southern Maine Practice Closure Update. Latest Resources & Information from State Response Team on Care Coordination. 
  http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/mainemed/issues/2022-11-09/2.html November 12, 2022

- Candy-colored fentanyl reported in Maine, part of national trend. 

- ‘It hurts when you lose them’: Portland Police reports record-breaking surge in overdose deaths. 

- 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. 

- Maine drug overdose deaths up 4% in second quarter of 2020, in part due to pandemic. 
  https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/health/drug-overdose-deaths-in-maine-up-4-


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

21. Maryland


- Baltimore is trying to help people suffering from symptoms of ‘Tranq,’ but options are limited. [Wyerpr.org](https://www.wyerpr.org/wyerpr-news/2023-07-11/baltimore-is-trying-to-help-people-suffering-from-symptoms-of-tranq-but-options-are-limited) July 11, 2023


- St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office and Health Department Alert Public to Danger of Xylazine. [Smchd.org](https://smchd.org/2023/04/st-marys-county-sheriffs-office-and-health-department-alert-public-to-danger-of-xylazine/) April 10, 2023

- From loss to legislation: Overdose death prompts push for more fentanyl testing. [Thebaltimorebanner.com](https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/politics-power/state-government/fentanyl-screening-bill-6HELDPQARBF3DJJ62YUR2M4NU/) February 22, 2023

- Montgomery County Public Schools Warns of Fentanyl-Laced Drugs After Students

- 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-eecce-11eb-9595-27aba2ea007f.html August 1, 2021

22. Massachusetts

- Somerville’s overdose prevention site plan marks a ‘tremendous shift’ in attitudes
June 27, 2023

- Here is a way we can do more to prevent overdose deaths (Commentary). https://www.masslive.com/opinion/2023/04/here-is-a-way-we-can-do-more-to-prevent-overdose-deaths-commentary.html April 7, 2023
- Boston warns of surge in overdoses linked to cocaine laced with fentanyl. https://www.wbur.org/news/2023/02/24/boston-cocaine-fentanyl-deaths February 24, 2023
- Despite more funding, overdose deaths increased in some Massachusetts cities. https://www.wcvb.com/article/overdose-deaths-increase-in-some-massachusetts-cities/42994035 February 20, 2023
- 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

- 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.
  November 16, 2020
• ‘A perfect storm’: Pandemic is making it harder to kick drugs.
  September 30, 2020
• Sounding the alarm: Seeing warning signs of an epidemic within the COVID pandemic (Viewpoint).
  August 30, 2020
• 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/commonwealth/2020/05/21/coronavirus-addiction-treatment-changes
  May 21, 2020

23. Michigan
• Michigan unveils spending on $1.5B opioid settlement, amid secrecy fears.
  October 25, 2023
• Opioid Deaths, Non-Opioid Drug Overdose Deaths Continue Increasing in Washtenaw County.
  September 12, 2023
• Manistee’s overdose awareness event brings march downtown.
  May 25, 2022
• Overdose deaths dip by 4% in Michigan, CDC finds.
  May 25, 2022
• State of Michigan launches new app to prevent opioid overdoses.
  March 23, 2023
• Narcan vending machine in Flint used 500 times in just three weeks.
  March 6, 2023
• Free vending machine with Narcan, fentanyl test strips installed at MTA in downtown Flint.
  February 9, 2023
• MDHHS: Fentanyl derivative vanished in 80s, returns in fatal ODs.
  March 23, 2023
• Meth addiction is rising in northern Michigan communities. Here’s why.
  December 6, 2022
• Just over half of Michigan pharmacies offer overdose-fighting naloxone without prescription.
  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
• Naloxone kits could end up being lifesavers. [https://www.miningjournal.net/opinion/editorial/2020/08/naloxone-kits-could-end-up-being-lifesavers/] August 13, 2020.
• Michigan to give opioid antidote for free to community groups, residents. [https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/06/30/michigan-give-opioid-antidote-free-community-groups-residents/3284377001/] June 30, 2020

24. Minnesota
• Minnesota overdose deaths up sharply last year, driven by fentanyl. [https://minnesotareformer.com/2022/10/03/minnesota-overdose-deaths-up-sharply-last-year-driven-by-fentanyl] October 3, 2023
• Minnesota Department of Health. Naloxone Administration in School Settings. [https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childrenyouth/schoolhealth/naloxone.html] September 26, 2023
• Family fights for wide availability of fentanyl test strips following daughter’s death. [https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/family-fights-for-wide-availability-of-fentanyl-test-strips-following-daughters-death/] September 21, 2023

© 2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
• Families of overdose victims press Minnesota legislators to act.
• Minnesota must address the opioid overdose crisis among American Indians.
• Opioid-involved overdose deaths have increased in Minnesota since 2000.
  https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/opioid-dashboard/index.html October 20, 2022
• Minnesota Overdose Deaths increased by 22% in 2021.
• State reports record drug overdose deaths in 2021.
  https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2022/drugod071422.html July 14, 2022
• Minnesota House Passes $300 Million Opioid Settlement Bill.
  https://ksrradio.com/2022/05/06/minnesota-house-passes-300-million-opioid-settlement-bill/ May 6, 2022
• Does Minneapolis need a place where users can inject drugs while supervised? One neighborhood is studying the idea.
• As overdose deaths spike, Minnesota families grapple with grief.
• Pandemic, homelessness brought record overdose calls in Minneapolis.
• Two new Minnesota laws take effect August 1.
  https://www.kaaltv.com/rochester-minnesota-news/two-new-minnesota-laws-take-effect-august-1/6190348/?cat=10151 July 30, 2021 (Editor’s note: one of the new laws focuses on prohibiting life insurance companies from taking adverse actions based only on the presence of a naloxone prescription. See more here: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2021/0/Session+Law/Chapter/10/)
• 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
• USM First Mississippi University to Install Narcan Overdose Emergency Kits in

- Spike in drug overdose cases reported in the Delta. https://desotocountynews.com/desoto-county-news/spike-in-drug-overdose-cases-reported-in-the-delta/ March 27, 2023
- Fentanyl testing materials will be legalized in Mississippi. https://apnews.com/article/fentanyl-testing-materials-will-be-legalized-in-mississippi-1a27c20c0947520373f26a89c8a3f66f March 15, 2023
- What to Do in Case of an Overdose. https://msdh.ms.gov/page/44,25058,382.html January 3, 2023

26. Missouri
• Substance users fall through the cracks as overdose epidemic rolls on. https://www.kmov.com/2023/07/10/substance-users-fall-through-cracks-overdose-epidemic-rolls/ July 10, 2023
• CDC: Missouri had 2,200 drug overdose deaths in 2022. https://www.missourinet.com/2023/05/18/cdc-missouri-had-2200-drug-overdose-deaths-in-2022/ May 18, 2023
• Ozark, Mo. teenager charged with murder after girl found dead with fentanyl in her system. https://www.kv3.com/2022/12/16/ozark-mo-teenager-charged-with-murder-after-girl-found-dead-with-fentanyl-her-system/ December 16, 2022
• Devin Banks discusses toll drug overdoses are taking on Black community in St. Louis with PBS NewsHour. https://blogs.umsl.edu/news/2022/08/21/devin-banks-discusses-overdose-crisispbs-newsour/ August 21, 2022
• Half of this year’s drug overdose deaths recorded in Columbia have occurred since Aug. 1. https://www.columbiatribune.com/story/news/local/2021/10/20/alarming-increase-drug-overdose-deaths-columbia-mo-leads-public-meeting/8530914002/ November 11, 2021
• Overdose deaths in Missouri rose nearly 20% in 2020. CDC points to pandemic, fentanyl. https://www.kansascity.com/news/article258299143.html July 20, 2021


• Springfield area already sees uptick in suicides, ODs. Experts worry crisis is coming. https://www.kpax.com/news/montana/28-fentanyl-overdoses-8-deaths-reported-in-montana-over-10-day-period January 24, 2023


27. Montana


• AG reports “skyrocketing” fentanyl crisis in Montana. https://www.kfrtv.com/2023/02/24/ag-reports-skyrocketing-fentanyl-crisis-montana/ February 24, 2023

• 28 fentanyl overdoses, 8 deaths reported in Montana over 10 day period. https://www.kpax.com/news/montana-news/28-fentanyl-overdoses-8-deaths-reported-in-montana-over-10-day-period January 24, 2023


28. Nebraska

- Nearly $17 million in funding from CDC aims to reduce drug overdoses in Nebraska. [Link] September 5, 2023

- Nebraska District Moves Forward with Random Drug Testing of 7th-12th Graders. [Link] August 19, 2023

- Fentanyl-related deaths on the rise in Nebraska. [Link] May 26, 2023

- As overdoses plateau in Lincoln, will officials look to harm-reduction efforts touted elsewhere? [Link] May 23, 2023

- DEA Omaha Division Special Agent in Charge Speaks with School Administrators about the Drug Threat Facing Nebraska. [Link] July 28, 2022

- DEA Omaha Division Special Agent in Charge DEA Warns Mass Fentanyl Overdoses Could be Deadly for Nebraskans. [Link] April 7, 2022

- Study details stigmas, unfamiliarity with overdose-averting medication. [Link] March 24, 2022

- Fentanyl related overdose deaths spike in Lincoln and Omaha. [Link] August 17, 2021

- DEA warns parents about counterfeit pills in Nebraska before school starts. [Link] August 4, 2021

- Nebraska overdose deaths jumped nearly 43% last year. [Link] July 17, 2021

- Exclusive: Fentanyl top killer drug in Omaha-area overdoses. That wasn’t the case in 2020. [Link]
omaha-area-overdoses May 6, 2021

- Pills that kill Omaha: Fentanyl surprise on the rise.

29. Nevada


• Nevada placed on “red alert” for risk of death from overdose. [http://dhhs.nv.gov/Reports/Press_Releases/2020/Nevada_placed_on_%E2%80%9Cred_alert_%E2%80%9D_for_risk_of_death_from_overdose/] December 11, 2020


• With opioid-related overdoses on the rise, health providers try preparing everyday Nevadans to respond to a crisis. [https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/with-opioid-related-overdoses-on-the-rise-health-care-providers-try-preparing-everyday-nevadans-to-respond-to-a-crisis] September 6, 2020


• Teen overdose deaths point to growing problem. [https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Teen-overdose-deaths-point-to-growing-problem-568505931.html] March 4, 2020

30. New Hampshire

• Opioid overdoses, deaths in Nashua, Manchester showing encouraging trend. [https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-opioid-overdoses-deaths-drop/45565081] October 18, 2023

• Bystanders as first responders: NH purchases 6,000 overdose prevention kits. [https://newhampshirebulletin.com/briefs/bystanders-as-first-responders-nh-purchases-6000-overdose-prevention-kits/] August 24, 2023

• Manchester officials concerned about spike in overdoses after major drug bust. [https://www.wmur.com/article/manchester-overdose-concern-drug-bust-6823/44130208] June 8, 2023


• Hundreds of boxes containing overdose-reversal drug to be installed across New Hampshire. [https://www.wmur.com/article/boxes-overdose-naloxone-new-hampshire-41123/43569325] April 11, 2023


• Overdoses in New Hampshire rise back up to near-record levels. [https://www.wmur.com/article/overdoses-new-hampshire-fentanyl-10-2722/41795162] October 27, 2022


• Little by little, the state is seeing progress in its efforts to reduce drug overdose deaths. [https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2022/03/21/little-by-little-the-state-is-seeing-progress-in-its-efforts-to-reduce-drug-overdose-deaths/] March 21, 2022
• Opioid overdose rates in Manchester, Nashua highest since April 2018.  

• Drug overdose deaths holding steady in New Hampshire.  
  https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-new-hampshire-0c96e4b800e37c31fc36f7216acad31 July 22, 2021

• Opioid cases rising in NH, Manchester projects ‘significant’ increase in deaths.  
  https://www.wmur.com/article/opioid-cases-manchester-nh/36358247 May 6, 2021

• Despite pandemic, fatal overdoses decrease in 2020.  

• Recovery community focuses on NH’s other health crisis.  

• NH has seen at least 200 fatal drug overdoses so far this year.  

• New law requires opioid treatment in county jails.*  

• Opioid overdose reversal drug naloxone to be free at Planned Parenthood.  

31. New Jersey

• NJ to double up on full service harm reduction centers.  

• NJ Health Department Approves New Harm Reduction Center.  

• State Launches Stop Overdoses Website.  

• New Jersey county uses innovative program to treat and prevent drug overdoses.  

• Meth Overdose Deaths Increased 733 Percent in NJ.  

• New Jersey Health Department Initiative Targets Overdose Hotspots.  

• NJ 14 year-olds can now anonymously get naloxone free for opioid overdose reversal.  

• Overdose deaths dip, even as drug fatalities rise among older, Black residents.  

• NJ overdose deaths expected to hit mark not seen since 2017.  

• Harm reduction advocates gather in Newark to bring awareness to drug overdoses.  
32. New Mexico

- Fentanyl an increasing barrier to New Jersey battling its opioid crisis. 
  https://newjerseymonitor.com/2022/05/02/fentanyl-an-increasing-barrier-to-new-jersey-battling-its-opioid-crisis/ May 2, 2022
- Practice Patterns in Prescribing Buprenorphine in the New Jersey Department of Corrections. 
  https://jaapl.org/content/early/2022/03/15/JAAPL.210087-21 March 2022
- New Jersey bucked U.S. trend in drug overdoses last year, but 2021 could be the deadliest. 
- Overdose deaths rising and may set record. 
- Atlantic City Is Just The Latest Place To Shut Down Its Needle Exchange Amid A Deadly Rise In US Overdose Deaths. 
- Testa: New Jersey Must Do More to Prevent Overdose Deaths. 
- Mental health, substance use visits to ER reflect ‘a pandemic within a pandemic.’ Greatest toll on the young. 
- New Jersey giving away 72,000 doses of Narcan to combat drug overdoses. 
  https://abc7ny.com/drug-overdose-opioid-crisis naloxone-narcan/6504624/ September 15, 2020
- Mid Hudson overdoses spike during COVID-19 pandemic. 
- Overdose deaths in NJ may hit record high. 
- Is the COVID-19 pandemic fueling a 20% rise in NJ overdose deaths? 

32. New Mexico

- Few pregnant women, babies in New Mexico in need of medication for opioid addiction receive it. 
- As New Mexico faces a terribly high alcohol and overdose death rate, lawmakers back new law designed to bolster access to behavioral health care. 
• New drug mixture hits New Mexico, several overdoses reported.  

• Can this town save itself from fentanyl addiction?  

• Some in GOP decry overdose prevention bill as state-funded ‘drug den’ program.  

• More than 1 Million Fentanyl Pills Seized in Albuquerque Operation.  

• Drug overdose in New Mexico.  
https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/marketing/2117/ May 2022

• To Reduce Overdose Deaths, New Mexico Passes Expansive Harm Reduction Legislation.  

• Abuse of deadly fentanyl on rise among NM teens.  

• Overdose deaths in New Mexico reached all-time high in 2020.  

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

• Fentanyl becoming more prevalent in New Mexico, officials say.  

• Incarcerated woman challenges New Mexico Corrections Department’s methadone policy.  

33. New York

• DOB and Health Dept Respond to Overdoses in Construction Industry.  

• How gaps in addiction treatment during COVID led to historic overdose deaths in NY.  

• New York facing another sharp spike in drug overdose deaths.  

• Overdose crisis reaches historic levels in New York City.  

• Federal Officials May Shut Down Overdose Prevention Centers in Manhattan.  

• More Than 80% of People Who Inject Drugs Test Positive for Fentanyl—But Only 18%


- Health experts in Broome County say August has seen a ‘very high’ amount of overdoses. https://www.wbng.com/2022/08/25/health-experts-broome-county-say-august-has-seen-very-high-amount-overdoses/ August 25, 2022


- Broome County reports increase in overdose deaths in 2022. https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/binghamton/public-safety/2022/04/16/broome-county-reports-
increase-in-overdose-deaths-in-2022 April 16, 2022
- This Jail Won’t Provide Drug Addicts With Essential Meds. [https://reason.com/2022/03/22/this-jail-wont-provide-drug-addicts-with-essential-meds/](https://reason.com/2022/03/22/this-jail-wont-provide-drug-addicts-with-essential-meds/) March 22, 2022
34. North Carolina

- After several UNC-Chapel Hill students died from fentanyl, these students are handing out the antidote. https://www.wunc.org/education/2023-09-18/naloxone-unc-fentanyl-deaths-students-harm-reduction-carolina September 18, 2023
North Carolina reports 40% increase in overdose deaths in 2020 compared to 2019; NCDHHS continues fight against overdose epidemic. 
March 21, 2022

Drug overdose spike alert continues, Buncombe County Health Department says. 
February 7, 2022

Overdose deaths in NC increase by 26% in 2021, leaders call for change. 
https://www.wect.com/2022/01/30/overdose-deaths-nc-increase-by-26-2021-leaders-call-change/ 
January 30, 2022

Suspected Overdose Deaths, North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. 
January 13, 2022

Naloxone shortage could lead to thousands of overdose deaths. 
https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2021/10/22/naloxone-shortage-could-lead-to-thousands-of-overdose-deaths/ 
October 22, 2021

As drug overdoses proliferate, one obvious and important policy solution stands out. 
August 31, 2021

Communities struggle with meth outside spotlight of opioid crisis. 
July 17, 2021

North Carolina drug overdose deaths on the rise. 
July 14, 2021

COVID-19 stressors fuel surge in overdoses of contaminated street drugs. 
February 5, 2021

Opioid crisis grows worse in Fayetteville even as COVID-19 pandemic rages, officials say. 
January 21, 2021

Opioid ODs way up, ERs see 46% case hike. 
September 21, 2020

NC organizations fighting the rural opioid crisis receive a $4M federal boost. 
August 14, 2020
35. North Dakota

- 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-e9dc9396b0db.html August 7, 2020


- NDSU program provides more access to Narcan. https://www.kvrr.com/2023/10/04/one-box-gives-communities-more-access-to-narcan/ October 4, 2023

- Anti-overdose drug saves an average of one life each day in Fargo. https://www.valleynews live.com/2023/09/01/anti-overdose-drug-saves-an-average-one-life-each-day-fargo/ August 31, 2023

- Tracking opioid overdose calls to Minot PD this year. https://www.kfyrtv.com/2023/08/12/tracking-opioid-overdose-calls-minot-pd-this-year/ August 12, 2023


law-enforcement-state-officials-report-increase-in-opioid-overdoses-during-pandemic
September 8, 2020

- Drug overdose deaths climb dramatically in Minot; Fentanyl use frightening. 

- Drug overdose death raises concerns in the area. 

36. Ohio

- Five people die from overdoses in five days in Butler County, Ohio. 

- Ohio overdose deaths continue at high pace in 2023. 
  https://www.harmreductionohio.org/ohio-overdose-deaths-continue-at-high-pace-in-2023/ August 30, 2023

- ADAMH partners with Ohio State University to prevent overdose deaths. 

- Board of Pharmacy Now Offers Free Fentanyl Test Strips to Ohio Licensees. 
  https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/documents/pubs/messages/2023/08-18%20board%20of%20pharmacy%20now%20offers%20free%20fentanyl%20test%20strips%20to%20ohio%20licensees.pdf August 18, 2023

- Medical Examiner: 9 Suspected Overdose Deaths in One Day. 

- Cleveland bars and clubs stocking up on fentanyl test strips as overdoses surge. 

- Mobile wellness unit aims to reduce overdoses and break stigma in Ohio Valley communities. 

- Medical Examiner: 5 Suspected Overdose Deaths in One Day. 
  https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndoh/pr/medical-examiner-5-suspected-overdose-deaths-one-day June 2, 2023

- State of Ohio v. Tara Hollingshead. 

- Ohio Turnpike to provide naloxone at service plazas. 
  https://www.wkyc.com/article/travel/ohio-turnpike-naloxone-service-plazas/95-96d02f27-2cce-4d01-a7a3-3472b2a5a8d1 May 17, 2023

- Ohio to track overdose deaths as numbers continue to climb. 

- Ohio To Offer Free Naloxone Access Cabinets to Public Colleges, Universities to Provide Life-Saving Medication to Students. 
  https://highered.ohio.gov/about/news-events/all-news/ohio-to-offer-free-naloxone-access-cabinets-to-public-colleges February 21, 2023

- Amid overdose concerns, Hudson High School students voluntarily drug tested. 
  https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/summit-county/overdose-concerns-hudson-high-
• Ohio State campus warns of fake Adderall pills after two students die. https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/05/06/drug-overdose-ohio-state-adderall/9672391002/ May 6, 2022
• Methamphetamine the most prevalent illegal drug locally. https://www.crescent-news.com/news/local_news/methamphetamine-the-most-prevalent-illegal-drug-locally/article_a445482e-8a7c-11ec-be85-8fe0becae98e.html February 11, 2022
• Ohio State Study Finds ‘Opioid Treatment Deserts’ Across Franklin County and Columbus. https://www.thelantern.com/2021/05/ohio-state-study-finds-opioid-treatment-deserts-across-franklin-county-and-columbus/ May 26, 2021


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

37. Oklahoma


• Methamphetamine is killing more Oklahomans than any other drug. https://www.kosu.org/show/stateimpact-oklahoma/2022-12-15/methamphetamine-is-killing-more-oklahomans-than-any-other-drug December 15, 2022


• Broken Arrow police see increase in fentanyl overdoses. https://www.kirh.com/news/local-news/broken-arrow-police-see-increase-in-fentanyl-overdoses January 20, 2022


• Counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl are driving a spike in Oklahoma deaths. https://www.readfrontier.org/stories/counterfeit-pills-laced-with-fentanyl-are-driving-a-spike-in-oklahoma-deaths/ September 6, 2021


38. Oregon

- 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
- Deaths caused by fake pills continue to climb in Oklahoma, with links to North Texas. [https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/crime/article243600002.html] June 17, 2020

Opioid Overdose Public Health Surveillance Update.

Decriminalizing Drug Possession Not Linked to Higher Overdose Death Rates in Oregon or Washington. [https://nyulangone.org/news/decriminalizing-drug-possession-not-linked-higher-overdose-death-rates-oregon-or-washington] September 27, 2023 (Read the full study here: [https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2809867])

Oregon, Washington see largest increases in fentanyl deaths since last year. [https://www.kptv.com/2023/09/26/oregon-washington-see-largest-increases-fentanyl-deaths-since-last-year/] September 26, 2023


‘It’s crazy out there’: The reasons behind Oregon’s deepening drug crisis. [https://www.opb.org/article/2023/05/30/oregon-worsening-drug-crisis-fentanyl-overdoses/] May 30, 2023

Fentanyl fuels string of deadly weekend overdoses in Portland, Oregon. [https://apnews.com/article/drug-overdose-deaths-fentanyl-portland-oregon-94d880c06809bc5248d8c14f34a92a64] May 15, 2023


Despite soaring overdose rates, Americans face barriers to treatment. [https://news.ohsu.edu/2022/12/12/despite-soaring-overdose-rates-americans-face-barriers-to-treatment] December 12, 2022

Feds warn of so-called rainbow fentanyl in Oregon. [https://www.opb.org/article/2022/08/26/oregon-drugs-rainbow-fentanyl-us-attorneys-office/] August 26, 2022

Fentanyl-driven overdoses sharply increasing throughout Oregon. [https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/bulletins/31f9e54] July 7, 2022
- “I’ve never seen a problem like what we have now”: Fentanyl overdoses, deaths on the rise across several Oregon counties. https://www.kdrv.com/news/ive-never-seen-a-problem-like-what-we-have-now-fentanyl-overdoses-deaths-on-the/article_ab305c0e-b110-11ec-b7a1-9f8172ad9c8d.html March 31, 2022
- 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://kqennnewsradio.com/2020/10/30/oha-sees-70-percent-increase-in-drug-overdose-deaths/ October 30, 2020
39. Pennsylvania


- Tranq or Xylazine: What You Need to Know About The Crisis in Philadelphia. [https://drexelmendicine.org/blog/overview/tranq-or-xylazine-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-crisis-in-philadelphia/] July 6, 2023


- Pop-up events to distribute free naloxone in Allegheny County. [https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/allegheny-county-pop-up-naloxone-narcan-distribution/] March 21, 2023

- Fentanyl test strips become decriminalized this week under new Pennsylvania law. [https://whyv.org/articles/fentanyl-test-strips-decriminalized-pennsylvania-law/] January 1, 2023


- Wolf administration implores Pennsylvanians to have anti-overdose drug on hand. [https://www.thecentersquare.com/pennsylvania/wolf-administration-implores-pennsylvanians-to-have-anti-overdose-drug-on-hand/article_fc407356-7bd9-11ed-9a89-8b65be5472e.html] December 14, 2022


- Pennsylvania reports sizable decline in overdose deaths, but experts wary. [https://www.witf.org/2022/11/17/pennsylvania-reports-sizable-decline-in-overdose-deaths-but-experts-wary/] November 17, 2022


- Justice Department Files Suit Against Pennsylvania Court System for Discriminating Against People with Opioid Use Disorder. [https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-
Safehouse is in settlement talks with the U.S. Department of Justice. https://whyw.org/articles/safehouse-is-in-settlement-talks-with-the-u-s-department-of-justice/ February 1, 2022


Q&A: Overdoses are peaking again and opioids are only going to get cheaper, one expert explains. https://www.publicsource.org/qanda-overdoses-are-peeking-again-and-opioids-are-only-going-to-get-cheaper-one-expert-explains/ May 27, 2021


• 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." https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/overdose-deaths-during-pandemic-philadelphia-fights-legal-safe-injection-site-n1235583 August 2, 2020.


40. Rhode Island


• Rhode Island 2022 Fatal Drug Overdose Data Released. https://www.ri.gov/press/view/45859 June 14, 2023

• Brown researchers to study ability of Rhode Island’s first overdose prevention center to counter overdose crisis. https://www.brown.edu/news/2023-05-08/opc-evaluation May 8, 2023


• Opioid overdose alert issued for 9 RI communities. [link](https://www.wpri.com/health/opioid-overdose-alert-issued-for-9-ri-towns/) March 31, 2022

• OHIC Fines United Healthcare $100,000 for Inadequate Substance Use Disorder Treatment. [link](http://www.ohic.ri.gov/documents/2022/March/OHIC%20Fines%20UnitedHealthcare%20$100,000%20for%20Inadequate%20Substance%20Use%20Disorder%20Treatment.pdf) March 4, 2022

• 2021 was one of the deadliest years on record in Rhode Island. [link](https://www.wpri.com/target-12/2021-was-one-of-the-deadliest-years-on-record-in-rhode-island) February 11, 2022

• State agencies work around the clock to prevent overdose deaths. [link](https://turnto10.com/news/local/state-agencies-work-around-the-clock-to-prevent-overdose-deaths) September 1, 2021

• Overdose prevention workers say naloxone shortage in Rhode Island will lead to more deaths. [link](https://turnto10.com/news/war-on-opioids/overdose-preventin-workers-urge-state-to-secure-supply-of-naloxone) August 31, 2021

• Rhode Island seeks spike of drug overdose deaths in 2020. [link](https://apnews.com/article/rhode-island-accidents-opioids-8c8786efb5b0045d655db7c87ec0210f5) April 14, 2021

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


• Another pandemic fallout: Deaths from accidental drug overdoses are soaring in Rhode Island. [link](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. [link](https://www.portsmouthpress.com/2020/06/23/rhode-island-sees-22-increase-in-drug-overdose-deaths) June 23, 2020

41. South Carolina


• Put to the test: Pregnant women in SC face severe consequences for using drugs. [link](https://www.postandcourier.com/news/special_reports/put-to-the-test-pregnant-women-in-sc-face-severe-consequences-for-using-drugs/article_cc3738fa-4ee6-11ee-95ff-c786149ce11d.html) September 30, 2023

• South Carolina schools now prepared to combat opioid overdoses. [link](https://www.foxcarolina.com/2023/08/21/south-carolina-schools-now-prepared-combat-opioid-overdoses) August 21, 2023

• Opioid settlement money funds rehab program in Georgetown County. [link](https://www.southcarolinapublicradio.org/sc-news/2023-07-20/opioid-settlement-money-funds-rehab-program-in-georgetown-county) July 20, 2023
• Fentanyl overdose deaths rise 35+% in South Carolina.  

• Overdose, fentanyl deaths continue to rise in South Carolina, DHEC data shows.  

• ‘Know Your NARCAN’ – Experts warn of increasingly serious opioid epidemic.  
  https://carolinanewsandreporter.cic.sc.edu/know-your-narcan - February 3, 2023

• ‘Enough to kill population’: Massive amount of fentanyl seized in York Co.  

• South Carolina marks Overdose Awareness Day as overdose deaths continue to rise.  

• South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control: South Carolina Overdose Death Data for 2020 Shows Stark Increase during First Year of COVID-19 Pandemic.  

• SC opioid overdose cases up 53%, typically spike during holiday season.  

• Horry County leads South Carolina in opioid overdoses.  

• USC police warn of fentanyl-laced drugs as students return to campus.  

• Community Warning – Lethal Amounts of Fentanyl Found in Counterfeit Pills.  
  https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/law_enforcement_and_safety/crime-log-bulletins/index.php August 27, 2021

• SC’s drug overdose deaths dramatically spiked in 2020, new data shows.  

• SC non-profits fight to end drug addiction after deadly overdoses increase during pandemic.  

• Some Upstate SC hospitals won’t give out overdose-reversal drug even as opioid deaths rise.  

• 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.  

• Spike in substance abuse seen in Aiken County as coronavirus disruptions continue.  
  https://www.aikenstandard.com/coronavirus/spike-in-
42. South Dakota

- START-SD program begins new work to reduce overdose rates.

- South Dakota Department of Health Issues Warning about Fentanyl and Xylazine Mix Threat.
  https://news.sd.gov/news?id=news_kb_article_view&sys_id=635b99ec1bc2e55093f84262f54bcb26  April 3, 2023

- How South Dakota will spend the first of $54 million from national opioid settlements.

- South Dakota employers to gain access to Narcan nasal spray.
  https://listen.sdpb.org/healthcare/20230326/south-dakota-employers-to-gain-access-to-narcan-nasal-spray  March 26, 2023

- South Dakota Becomes the Latest State to Legalize Fentanyl Test Strips.
  https://www.cato.org/blog/south-dakota-becomes-latest-state-legalize-fentanyl-test-strips  February 24, 2023

- Illegal drug use increases drug-related deaths despite decrease in opioid prescriptions.

- In 2021, Sioux Falls Crime Remained Flat; Illicit Drug Seizures Dramatically Increased.
  https://www.siouxfalls.gov/news/2022/03/08/crime  March 8, 2022

- Successful opioid addiction treatment slow to catch on in South Dakota.

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

43. Tennessee

- Kratom detected in more overdose deaths in Davidson County this year.

- Nashville Metro had second-highest rate of overdose deaths in the U.S., report says.

- Once-resistant rural court officials begin to embrace medications to treat addiction.

- 1 death every 4 days from fentanyl overdose in Montgomery County.
  https://clarksvillenow.com/local/every-4-days-there-is-a-fentanyl-overdose-death-in-montgomery-county/  June 26, 2023

- County with high rate of overdose deaths doesn’t use opioid settlement funds for addiction program.

- Metro Nashville Health Department provides free fentanyl test strips in local clinics.
• Fentanyl leading cause of overdose deaths in East Tennessee.  
  https://www.wvlt.tv/2023/05/09/fentanyl-leading-cause-overdose-deaths-east-tennessee/ May 9, 2023

  https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36758846/ April 2023

• 100+ Nashville overdose deaths to start 2023.  

• After 2 teenage girls die from overdose at Tennessee school, 3rd student who survived charged with murder.  

• Notes from the Field: Nitazene-Related Deaths—Tennessee, 2019-2021.  
  https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7137a5.htm?s_cid=mm7137a5_w September 16, 2022

• New laws change opioid fight in Tennessee.  
  https://www.axios.com/local/nashville/2022/08/01/opioid-fight-new-laws-tennessee August 1, 2022

• Fentanyl continues to be the main cause of drug overdose injuries, deaths in Nashville.  

• Mom speaks out on the dangers of fentanyl after son’s overdose death.  

• Knox Co. DA: More people have now died of suspected overdoses in 2021 than any other year.  

• Opioid overdose deaths jump in 2020.  


• Overdose deaths hit national record highs; Tennessee could be on pace of its own record.  

• COVID-19 Could Compound Holiday Suicides, Drug Overdoses.  

• MPHDI: More drug overdose deaths in 2020 than in all of 2019.  

• 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.  
  https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/od-epidemic/covid-19-
44. Texas

- More than 5 Texans die every day from fentanyl. A new online dashboard is tracking these deaths. https://www.tpr.org/bioscience-medicine/2023-07-15/more-than-5-texans-die-every-day-from-fentanyl-a-new-online-dashboard-is-tracking-these-deaths July 15, 2023
- Fentanyl is dominating headlines, but there’s a more comprehensive drug problem happening in Texas. https://www.texastribune.org/2023/06/19/texas-fentanyl-drugs/ June 19, 2023
- Gov. Greg Abbott launches $10 million effort to combat fentanyl crisis, sends overdose-reversing meds to all 254 counties. https://www.texastribune.org/2023/04/06/texas-fentanyl-greg-abbott/ April 6, 2023
- Schools are stockpiling on Narcan, but can teachers use it? https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/2023/03/22/schools-are-stockpiling-on-narcan-but-can-teachers-use-it/ March 22, 2023
- Austin declares drug overdose deaths a public health crisis.
Williamson County sees spike in opioid overdose care.


Fentanyl Test Kits Used to Prevent Overdose Illegal in Texas.

Organizations fear Naloxone shortage will lead to more OD deaths; state scrambles to find doses.
https://www.kxan.com/investigations/organizations-fear-naloxone-shortage-will-lead-to-more-od-deaths-state-scrambles-to-find-doses/ March 27, 2022

Video: As more Texans die from fentanyl overdoses, advocates and experts urge harm reduction experts.
https://www.texastribune.org/2022/03/15/fentanyl-overdose-deaths-texas/ March 15, 2022

Opinion: Texas State needs more drug addiction prevention resources.


West Texas Teen Dead, Others Overdosed on Fake Oxy Pills.


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


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.


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

- Fentanyl has flooded into southern Utah, Washington Post reports. [https://www.sltrib.com/news/2022/12/16/fentanyl-has-flooded-into/](https://www.sltrib.com/news/2022/12/16/fentanyl-has-flooded-into/) December 16, 2022
46. Vermont

- Advocates push Vt. lawmakers to address mounting opioid deaths. https://www.wcax.com/2023/04/06/advocates-push-vt-lawmakers-address-mounting-opioid-deaths/ April 6, 2023
- Vermont Lawmakers File Bills To Legalize Psychedelics And Decriminalize All Drugs. https://www.marijuananmoment.net/vermont-lawmakers-file-bills-to-legalize-psychedelics-and-decriminalize-all-drugs/ March 14, 2023
- Opioid deaths involving an animal tranquilizer continue to grow. https://vtdigger.org/2022/08/18/opioid-deaths-involving-an-animal-tranquilizer-continue-to-grow/#:~:text=Opioid%20fatalities%2C%20total%20to%20date,at%20this%20point%20in%202020%20&%20text=Includes%20prescription%20opioid%202020%20heroin%202020%20related%20deaths%20of%20Vermont%20residents. August 18, 2022

© 2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
• Bennington County saw higher rate of opioid deaths in first months of 2021. [link to article]
  July 30, 2021

• ‘The drug became his friend’: Pandemic drives hike in opioid deaths. [link to article] September 29, 2020

• Tom Dalton: The deadly nexus between Covid-19 and overdose. [link to article] September 11, 2020

• Bennington recovery center seeing rise in opioid overdoses. [link to article] September 2, 2020

• Vermont gets $2 million for programs targeting rural addiction. [link to article] August 7, 2020

• Opioid overdoses rise in pandemic. [link to article] June 22, 2020

• As Vermont drug deaths drop, Brattleboro hits a record high. [link to article] May 14, 2020

47. Virginia

• 9 students from same high school overdose on suspected fentanyl, Virginia governor steps in. [link to article] November 2, 2023

• Free naloxone now easier to obtain for Richmond-area residents. [link to article] September 13, 2023

• Why This District Equips High School Students With Naloxone. [link to article] June 23, 2023

• Governor Glenn Youngkin Executive Order. Crushing the fentanyl epidemic: Strengthening Virginia’s Interdiction and Enforcement Response to fentanyl crisis. [link to article] May 9, 2023

• Arlington to allow students to carry naloxone in schools as part of opioid prevention efforts. [link to article] April 17, 2023

• As fentanyl overdoses surge, education on how to reduce their impacts remains insufficient. [link to article] March 28, 2023

• Opioid Overdose Deaths Nearly Triple Among Black Virginians. [link to article] October 30, 2022


• Two teens died within 48 hours. Police suspect fentanyl. https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/05/01/prince-william-county-fentanyl-teen-deaths/ May 1, 2022

• Southwest Virginia patients struggle with access to addiction medication. As Virginia’s overdose numbers continue to rise, pharmacies are reluctant to dispense drugs used to treat opioid use disorder. https://www.virginiamercury.com/2022/04/11/southwest-virginia-patients-struggle-with-access-to-addiction-medication/ April 11, 2022


• As overdose deaths reach record levels in Virginia, meth is seen as a growing threat. https://roanoke.com/news/local/as-overdose-deaths-reach-record-levels-in-virginia-meth-is-seen-as-a-growing-threat/article_b23a65bc-f138-11eb-8d27-dbc21b6302f5.html August 1, 2021


• Report: 2020 was worst on record for fatal overdoses. https://apnews.com/article/rhode-island-accidents-opioids-8c8786efb5b0045d655db7c87c0210f5 April 27, 2021


• Experts discuss how COVID-19 has led to rise in overdoses in the area. https://wset.com/news/local/localities-honor-international-overdose-awareness-day August 31, 2020

• 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-f6454d05f5ee.html 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.directrelief.org/2020/05/opioid-overdose-deaths-plunge-in-virginia-counties-after-influx-of-naloxone/ May 24, 2020
48. Washington

- Washington’s supply of opioid meds is well above average, study finds. [Link](https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/parents-snapchat-2fb5a963-4ef9-44ad-81af-6279fd11ab83) June 22, 2023
- Washington’s supply of opioid meds is well above average, study finds. [Link](https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/parents-snapchat-2fb5a963-4ef9-44ad-81af-6279fd11ab83) June 22, 2023
- As local kids get hooked on fentanyl, there’s ‘no place for them to go’. [Link](https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/bag-left-behind-by-seattle-hotel-guest-leads-to-arrest-discovery-15000-fentanyl-pills) February 3, 2022
- King County seeks spike in fatal overdose cases. [Link](https://www.courierherald.com/news/king-county-seeks-spike-in-fatal-overdose-cases) January 21, 2021
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


Seattle sees spike in fentanyl overdose deaths. https://dailyhive.com/seattle/king-county-spike-overdose-deaths April 24, 2020

49. West Virginia

Communities across Appalachia band together for first-ever 13-state Narcan distribution event. https://apnews.com/article/narcan-save-a-life-day-appalachia-naloxone-382f4c9e4812730d48a41b97e300bd September 14, 2023


WELLWVU offers virtual naloxone training. https://enews.wvu.edu/articles/2023/06/15/wellwvu-offers-virtual-naloxone-training June 15, 2023

Struggling with opioid epidemic, Wyoming County wrestles with how to spend settlement funds. https://mountainstatespotlight.org/2023/06/02/wyoming-county-opiod-settlement-wv/ June 2, 2023


50. Wisconsin

• ‘They die so quickly’: Fentanyl is killing over 1,000 people in Wisconsin each year. https://pbswisconsin.org/news-item/they-die-so-quickly-fentanyl-is-killing-over-1000-people-in-wisconsin-each-year/ July 12, 2023
• Xylazine, fentanyl overdose deaths still rising. https://wisconsinexaminer.com/2023/04/10/xylazine-fentanyl-overdose-deaths-still-rising/ April 10, 2023
• As fentanyl drives overdose deaths, mistaken beliefs persist. https://wisconsinwatch.org/2022/10/as-fentanyl-drives-overdose-deaths-mistaken-beliefs-persist/ October 31, 2022
• Waukesha County declares fentanyl a ‘community health crisis’. https://www.wpr.org/waukesha-county-declares-fentanyl-community-health-crisis August 9, 2022
• Milwaukee County sees a record number of drug overdose deaths in 2021. https://www.wpr.org/milwaukee-county-sees-record-number-drug-overdose-deaths-2021 March 9, 2022
• Fake pain pills containing fentanyl lead to ‘a staggering number of potentially lethal overdoses’ https://www.wpr.org/fake-pain-pills-containing-fentanyl-lead-staggering-number-potentially-lethal-overdoses October 4, 2021
• Drug overdose deaths increased in Wisconsin during the COVID-19 pandemic. These northeast counties were among the worst hit. https://www.postcrescent.com/in-depth/news/2021/08/31/wisconsin-addiction-resources-drug-overdose-deaths-spiked-during-
51. Wyoming

- City developing plan for opioid settlement funds. https://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_42dc80a2-2be0-11ee-bcd8-3756c569c011.html July 26, 2023

© 2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.
• Overdose antidote Narcan orders offered to Wyoming groups. https://subletteexaminer.com/article/overdose-antidote-narcan-orders-offered-to-wyoming-groups  January 16, 2023
• Deaths connected to fentanyl growing in Wyoming. https://www.blackhillsfox.com/2022/10/13/deaths-connected-fentanyl-growing-wyoming/  October 13, 2022
• As overdose deaths increase, Wyoming to distribute NARCAN again. https://wyofile.com/as-overdose-deaths-increase-wyoming-to-distribute-narcan-again/  August 31, 2022
• As fentanyl hits Wyoming, policy and funding stymie solutions. https://oilcity.news/community/2022/04/18/as-fentanyl-hits-wyoming-policy-and-funding-stymie-solutions/  April 18, 2022