

Overdose Statistics

Study Overview

We confront the staggering impact of the opioid epidemic, by delving into recent research that illuminates its widespread devastation. Drug overdose deaths, now a leading cause of injury death among adults, have surged dramatically in recent years, surpassing 100,000 annually in the United States alone. From the origins of the crisis driven by prescription opioids to the emergence of synthetic opioids like fentanyl, we explore how this epidemic has evolved and its profound implications for individuals, families, and communities. Join us as we unpack the complex dynamics of this public health crisis.



In 2021 and 2022, there were over 100,000 reported drug overdose deaths annually in the United States. This represented a significant increase, with a 14% rise from 2020 to 2021.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Whites had the highest average annual increase in overdose mortality rates (7.6%).
- ✓ Women experienced a faster progression in overdose mortality rates compared to men (6.7% annual increase).
- ✓ The age group 55–64 years old had the highest overdose mortality rates, but there was also a significant increase among young adults aged 20–24 years.
- ✓ Homeless individuals faced particularly high risks of drug overdose mortality.
 - ✓ Synthetic opioids were responsible for the majority (91%) of drug overdose fatalities among the homeless population studied.
- ✓ Since 2010, there has been a 200% increase in overdose deaths involving illicit opioids, including heroin and synthetic opioids.