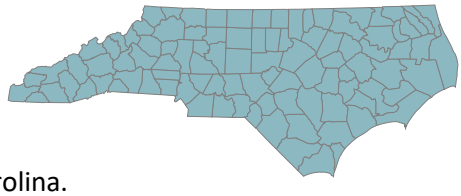
NC State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (NC-SUDORS)

OVERDOSE IN NC: NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS, 2024



In 2024, there were 2,934 overdose deaths among North Carolina Residents. This includes deaths from any medication or illicit drug. Some of those resident deaths may have occurred outside of North Carolina.

Additionally, there may have been non-Resident deaths that occurred in North Carolina.

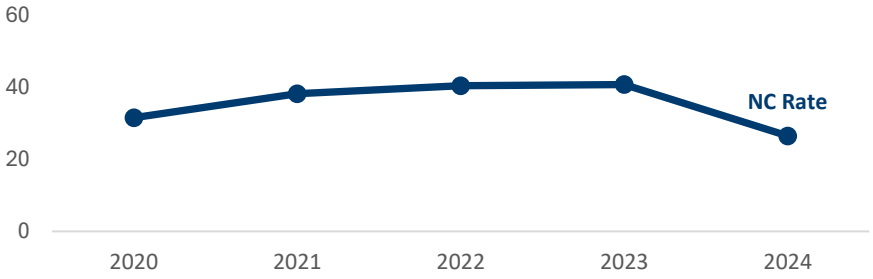
Most overdose deaths involve multiple substances used together.

We can't know from death data if someone intentionally used multiple substances or if it was unintended.

In 2024, 70% of North Carolina Resident overdose deaths involved fentanyl, 40% involved cocaine, 30% involved methamphetamine, and 13% involved common prescription opioids.

The North Carolina Resident death rate decreased 16% from 2020 to 2024.

Overdose Death Rates per 100,000, North Carolina Residents



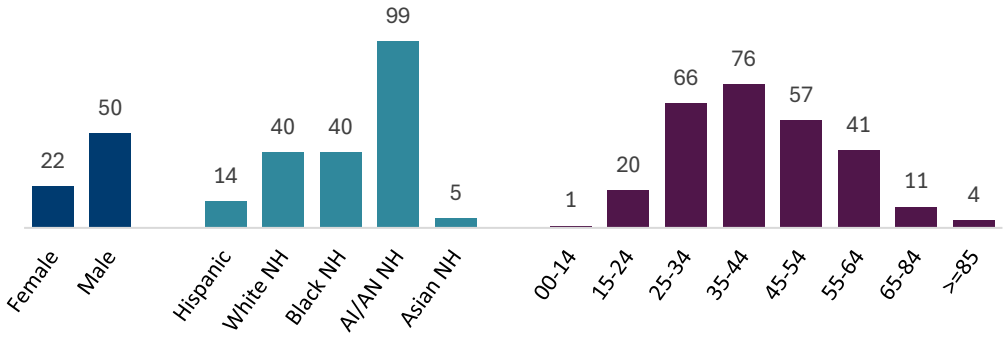
Demographics such as race and ethnicity do not cause a specific health problem or status.

Factors like income, education, access to care, stress, and racism, among other social factors, are what contribute to poorer health. These factors, called social drivers of health, often impact minority populations differently due to the structures we all live within.

Among North Carolina Residents, the highest overdose death rates occurred among those who were male (50), AI/AN NH (99), and ages 35-44 (76). Rates are per 100,000 North Carolina Residents.

NH=Non-Hispanic
AI/AN=American Indian or Alaskan Native
^Rate not calculated, count of 1-4

Overdose Death Rates per 100,000 North Carolina Residents, 2020-2024



Vulnerable populations are those who may have a higher risk of experiencing an overdose or struggling with substance use. These groups need unique support and resources to help ensure health equity.



- **People experiencing homelessness** in NC face a much higher risk of death than those with reliable housing. Among NC's homeless population, drug overdose is the most common cause of death and occurs at a rate 13.8 times that of the overall NC population. [1]
- **Involvement with the justice system** may increase a person's overdose risk. People are 50 times more likely to die of an opioid overdose in the two weeks after release from prison.[2]
- **US Military Veterans, people with a disability, and other marginalized groups** may be at a higher risk of overdose.

People may belong to more than one of these groups and that may increase the challenges a person faces. Everyone should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

[1]NCMJ: People Experiencing Homelessness in NC have Increased Mortality, Including High Overdose, Violence, Injury, and Chronic Disease Death Rates
[2]AJPH: Opioid Overdose Deaths Among Formerly Incarcerated Persons and the General Population: North Carolina, 2000–2018

NC-SUDORS: Circumstances Surrounding Overdose Deaths

NC-SUDORS collects detailed data on overdose deaths of unintentional and undetermined intent.

Supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NC-SUDORS combines data from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and toxicology results to understand circumstances leading to overdose deaths. These details are gathered during the inital death investigation, often during interviews with the decedent's family and friends. They are not always known or shared during the investigation and may be underreported. If additional details are discovered, they may be included in future updates of the NC-SUDORS dataset.

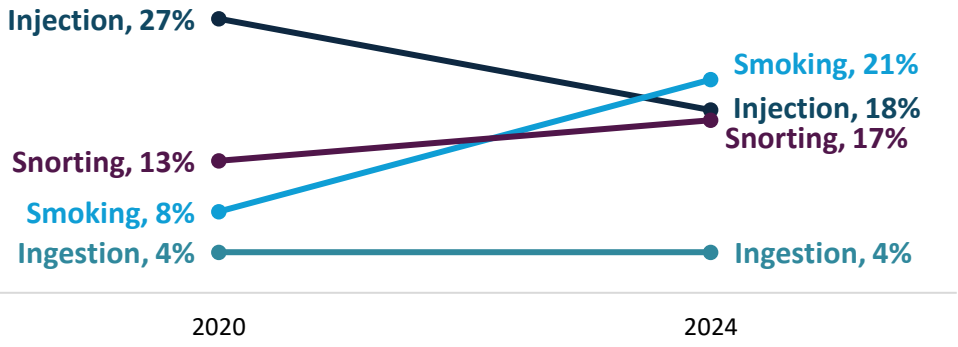
Nationally, the leading route of drug use involved in overdose deaths has changed from injection to smoking.[3]

Among North Carolina Residents, the percentage of overdose deaths with evidence of injection decreased while evidence of smoking increased from 2020 to 2024.

Expanding services to address overdose risk from smoking and other noninjection routes might help save lives.

[3]CDC MMWR: Routes of Drug Use Among Drug Overdose Deaths — United States, 2020–2022

Route of drug use, North Carolina Residents





Bystander and EMS responses are key to shaping overdose prevention strategies in NC.

In 2024, EMS responded to 93% of fatal overdoses among North Carolina Residents.

78% of North Carolina Residents overdose deaths occurred in a house or apartment.

Among North Carolina Residents, at least one bystander was known to be present at 56% of fatal overdoses, yet naloxone was only administered 24% of the time.

Naloxone access for bystanders can help save lives. Naloxone should be provided with directions for use to any individual at risk for overdose and their family and friends.

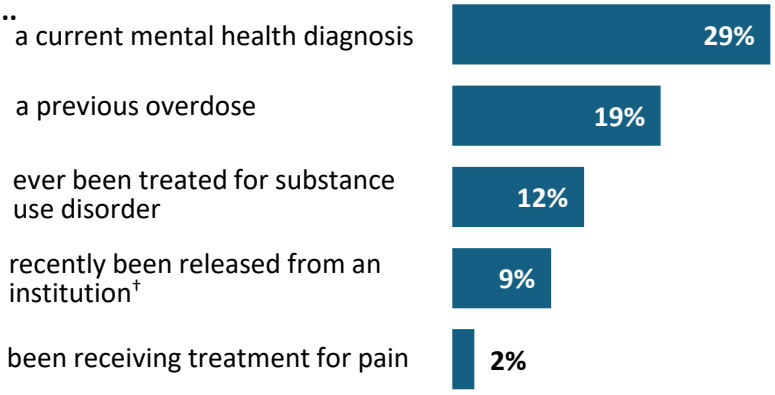
Learn more about how and where to access naloxone in NC at naloxonesaves-nc.org.

Opportunities for intervention exist every time a patient interacts with a medical provider in the health care system.

In 2024, 51% of overdose deaths that occurred among North Carolina Residents had at least one documented interaction with a health care provider.

Only 15% of those with a mental health diagnosis were currently undergoing treatment. The most common diagnoses among decedents included depression, anxiety disorder, and bipolar disorder.

Percentage^ of North Carolina Resident overdose decedents in 2024 who had...



NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNINTENTIONAL NC SUDORS DRUG OVERDOSE REPORTING SYSTEM

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

^Denominators are all North Carolina Resident NC-SUDORS decedents†Deaths occurred within a month of being released from or admitted to an institutional setting (e.g. jail, prison, detention facility, hospital, psychiatric hospital, etc.).

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