



San Antonio Council on Alcohol & Drug Awareness

The Impact of COVID-19 on our Community

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) is an illness caused by a virus that has spread throughout the world, mainly through close contact from person-to-person. Unfortunately, there has been much collateral damage from the COVID-19 lockdown isolation.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, **alcohol consumption increased among women by 40%.**
- The frequency of both alcohol and cannabis **increased in adolescents during the pandemic.**
- Drug overdose deaths has **risen 11.5% nationally** in the first four months of 2020. The Nation increase in non-prescription fentanyl (31.96%), methamphetamine (19.96%), cocaine (10.06%), and heroin (12.53%) since COVID-19 was declared a national emergency in March.
- According to the CDC, more than 94,000 people died from a drug overdose in the United States in 2020, reflecting a record number **rise of 30%** from 2019. People between the ages of 25-44 account for the highest number of deaths.
- The Student Mental health Survey stated **75% of students reported that their mental health had gotten worse**, some worsened significantly since the beginning of the pandemic.
- The months with significantly higher rates of suicide-related behaviors appear to correspond to times when COVID-19 related stressors and community responses were heightened, indicating that **youth experienced elevated distress** during these periods.
- The San Antonio Police Department subsequently noted they received an **18% increase** in calls pertaining to family violence in March 2020 compared to March 2019.
- Opioid use increased due to the pandemic. Bexar County EMS First Responses responded to 1,800 opioid overdoses in 2018 with an **increase to 3,156 calls in 2020.**

For help, at no charge, on the impact of COVID-19 to our community and individuals, visit SACADA at www.sacada.org.

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COVID-19 DATA IN TEXAS AND BEXAR COUNTY

As of August 12, 2021, the following data is confirmed by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the CDC:



- Total COVID-19 confirmed cases in Texas: 2,771,471
- Total COVID-19 confirmed cases in Bexar County: 203,963
- Total COVID-19 probable cases in Texas: 506,998
- Total COVID-19 probable cases in Bexar County: 45,575
- Total COVID-19 fatalities in Texas: 52,787
- Total COVID-19 fatalities in Bexar County: 3,739

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Feelings of loneliness - 65%
- Alcohol use - 48%
- Drug use - 44%
- Anxiety - 76%
- Depression - 64%
- Increase in drinking - 58%
- Increase in drug use - 56%
- Increase in anxiety - 76%
- Increase in depression - 78%
- Decrease in feelings of connectedness - 58%



Between February and April 2020, the **U.S. lost 22.2 million jobs**, more than 1.4 million of them in Texas. Texas' unemployment rate spiked at 13.5% just two months earlier. By November, nearly **1.2 million Texans remained unemployed**.



COST TO TEXAS IN 2020

In relation to health status, disease prevalence, and life expectancy by race and ethnicity:

1. \$2.7 billion in excess medical care spending annually;
2. \$5 billion in lost productivity annually; and
3. 452,000 life years lost due to premature deaths, conservatively valued at \$22.6 billion.

References:

- Huran University College and King's University College
- Center for Disease Control
- Student Mental Health Survey
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- "Social Distancing Doesn't Mean Safety Distancing." Department of Government and Public Affairs 2020
- Turner A, LaVeist T, Gaskin D, Munoz-Rumsey E., "Economic Impacts of Health Disparities in Texas," Episcopal Health Foundation and Methodist Healthcare Ministries
- Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Miami
- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Center for Disease Control
- <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2021/jan/pandemic.php>