



South Carolina's Opioid Crisis

How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of South Carolina

STATE FACTS



1,435 DEATHS

were attributed to opioid overdoses between January 2020 and January 2021.¹



A 61.7% INCREASE

in opioid overdose deaths was reported between January 2019 and January 2021.²



69.2 OPIOID

PRESCRIPTIONS were written for every 100 persons in South Carolina in 2018.³



\$3,351 PER CAPITA

was spent on fatal and nonfatal opioid use disorder overdoses in 2017- 6.9% more than the national rate.⁴

NATIONAL DATA



3.75 MILLION

or 9.2% of patients go on to long-term opioid use after a low-risk surgery (e.g. inguinal hernia repair, knee arthroscopy.)⁵



80 PILLS

is the average amount of opioids that patients receive after orthopedic surgery whether they need them or not.⁶



9.7 MILLION

people misused prescription pain relievers in 2019.⁷

OVER 95,000 DEATHS

from a drug-related overdose were reported in one year's time ending in January 2021. This is the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period.⁸

OVER 71,000 PEOPLE

died of an opioid overdose between January 2020 and 2021 — **44.3% more** people than the estimated number of motor-vehicle fatalities in 2020.^{9,10}

1. Ahmad FB, Rossen LM, Sutton P. (2021) Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

2. See footnote 1

3. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2020). South Carolina Opioid-Involved Deaths and Related Harms. NIDA <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/south-carolina-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>

4. Economic Cost of Opioid Use Disorder and Fatal Overdose, 2017 (2020). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://wisqars-viz.cdc.gov:9002/>

5. Hah, J. M., Bateman, B. T., Ratliff, J., Curtin, C., & Sun, E. (2017). Chronic Opioid Use After Surgery: Implications for Perioperative Management in the Face of the Opioid Epidemic. *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, 125(5), 1733–1740. <https://doi.org/10.1213/ANE.0000000000002458>

6. Bicket M, et al. "Prescription opioid oversupply following orthopedic surgery: A prospective cohort study." American Pain Society annual scientific meeting 2017. [https://www.jpain.org/article/S1526-5900\(17\)30157-8/pdf](https://www.jpain.org/article/S1526-5900(17)30157-8/pdf).

7. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2020). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. HHS Publication No. PEP20-07-01-001, NSDUH Series H-55. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt29393/2019NSDUHFRPDFWHTM/2019NSDUHFR1PDFW090120.pdf>

8. See footnote 1

9. See footnote 1

10. National Safety Council. (2020). Preliminary Monthly Estimate. Injury Facts. <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/overview/preliminary-monthly-estimates/>