



Alaska's Opioid Crisis

How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of Alaska

STATE FACTS



149 DEATHS

or 78% of total overdose deaths involved opioids between June 2020 and 2021.¹



A 64% INCREASE

in opioid overdose deaths was reported between June 2019 and 2021.²



44.9 OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS

were written for every 100 persons in Alaska in 2018.³



\$3,386 PER CAPITA

was spent on opioid use disorder overdoses in 2017 - 8% 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 101,000 DEATHS

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

OVER 76,000 PEOPLE

died of an opioid overdose between June 2020 and 2021 — **49% more** people than the estimated number of motor-vehicle fatalities in 2021.^{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). Alaska Opioid-Involved Deaths and Related Harms. NIDA. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/alaska-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/rpt29393/2019NSDUHFFR1PDW090120.pdf>

8. See footnote 1

9. See footnote 1

10. National Safety Council. (2021). Preliminary Monthly Estimate. Injury Facts. <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/overview/preliminary-monthly-estimates/>