



California's Opioid Crisis

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

VOICES
FOR NON-OPIOID
CHOICES

State Facts



5,107 Deaths

or **58.5% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending February 2026 involved opioids.¹

Rx

5 Million

or 3.3% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2024 - an average of **35 per prescriber**.²



13.5 Million Prescriptions

for opioids were written in California in 2023.³



\$238 Billion

the estimated total societal cost of opioid use disorder (OUD) to the state in 2024.⁴

National Data



90%

of surgical patients receive an opioid prescription following surgery annually.⁵



3 out of 4

illicit users initiated their habit with prescription opioids.⁶



1.2 Million

Medicare beneficiaries suffered from OUD in 2023. **53,165 experienced an opioid overdose**.⁷



\$2 Trillion

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis⁸, with Medicare shouldering \$33 billion.⁹

Over 42,000 Americans

died from an opioid-related overdose between February 2025 and February 2026¹⁰

63% of all drug overdose deaths.

That translates to approximately

117 lives lost every day

in the United States due to an opioid-related drug overdose.¹⁰

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4. Avalere Health (2025). The cost of addiction: Opioid use disorder in the United States. https://advisory.avalerehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Avalere-Health-White-Paper-The-cost-of-opioid-addiction_OUD-in-the-United-States.pdf

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10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>