



North Carolina's Opioid Crisis

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

State Facts



1,724 Deaths

or **75% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending March 2025 involved opioids.¹

Rx

2.5 Million

or 4.4% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **57 per prescriber**.²



952,939 Prescriptions

for opioids were dispensed in 2024 - an average **rate of 8.9%**.³



\$154 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



7.6 Million

people misused prescription opioids in 2024.⁶



1.2 Million

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



\$1.5 Trillion

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis, with Medicare shouldering \$33 billion.⁸

Over 48,000 Americans

died from an opioid-related overdose between April 2024 and April 2025⁹ –

66% of all drug overdose deaths.

That translates to approximately

133 lives lost every day

in the United States due to an opioid-related drug overdose.⁹

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