



Washington's Opioid Crisis

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

State Facts



2,569 Deaths

or **80% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending April 2025 involved opioids.¹

Rx

1.3 Million

or 4.4% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **38 per prescriber**.²



1.7 Million Prescriptions

for opioids were dispensed to patients in Washington in 2024.³



\$90.3 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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3. Washington State Department of Health (2025). Opioid and Drug Use Data. <https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/opioids/overdose-dashboard>

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6. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2025). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56287/2024-nsduh-annual-national/2024-nsduh-annual-national.html-071425-edited/2024-nsduh-annual-national.htm#1111c>

7. Office of the Inspector General (2025). Fewer than One in Five Medicare Enrollees Received Medication to Treat Their Opioid Use Disorder. <https://oig.hhs.gov/documents/evaluation/10253/OEI-02-24-00430.pdf>

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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>