



Washington's Opioid Crisis

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

State Facts



RX

2,569 Deaths

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

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

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>
 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Medicare Part D Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1f051d23738c4980a08002bf301f7d8a>
 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>
 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
 5. Singh, K., Murali, A., Stevens, H., Vydiswaran, V. G. V., Behnert, A., Brummett, C. M., & Fernandez, A. C. (2022). Predicting persistent opioid use after surgery using electronic health record and patient-reported data. *Surgery*, 172(1), 241–248. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surg.2022.01.008>
 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-071425-edited/2024-nsduh-annual-national.html#f1111c>
 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>
 8. Desmarais, M. (2024). Opioid Use Disorder in the Medicare Fee-for-Service Program. The Moran Company, an HMA Company. <https://www.healthmanagement.com/insights/briefs-reports/economic-analysis-of-opioid-use-disorder-in-the-medicare-fee-for-service-program/>
 9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>