



Wisconsin's Opioid Crisis

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

State Facts



654 Deaths

or **67% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending April 2025 involved opioids.¹

Rx

1 in 8

Wisconsinites were prescribed and used an opioid in 2023. **48% received the prescription following surgery.**²



47% of Patients

aged 65+ were prescribed an opioid when treated for pain in 2023.²



\$73 Billion

the estimated total societal cost of opioid use disorder (OUD) to the state in 2024.³

National Data



90%

of surgical patients receive an opioid prescription following surgery annually.⁴



7.6 Million

people misused prescription opioids in 2024.⁵



1.2 Million

Medicare beneficiaries suffered from OUD in 2023. **53,165 experienced an opioid overdose.**⁶



\$1.5 Trillion

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis, with Medicare shouldering \$33 billion.⁷

Over 48,000 Americans

died from an opioid-related overdose between April 2024 and April 2025⁸ –

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.⁸

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5. 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#ill11c>

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7. 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/>

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