



Alaska's Opioid Crisis

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

State Facts



276 Deaths

or 81.4% of total overdose deaths involved opioids in 2024.¹

Rx

75,290 Claims

or 4.4% of all Medicare Part D claims were for prescription opioids in 2022.²



30.4 Opioid Prescriptions

were written for every 100 persons in Alaska in 2023.³



1,380 Beneficiaries

on Medicare Part D had Opioid Use Disorder in 2022.⁴

National Data



90%

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



194,447

Medicare Part D beneficiaries received "high" or "extreme" amounts of prescription opioids in 2022.⁶



1.1 Million

Medicare beneficiaries suffered from Opioid Use Disorder in 2022.⁶



\$33 Billion

was the estimated cost to the Medicare program of Opioid Use Disorder in 2022.⁷

Over 54,000 Americans

died from an opioid-related drug overdose in 2024 - **68% of all overdoses** that year.⁸

148 Americans Everyday

were lost due to an opioid-related drug overdose in 2024.⁸

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 (2024). Medicare Part D Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool. <https://cms-oeda.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5390718d875d4c049b1ac5976a9ff083>

3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2024). Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps. <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/opioid-dispensing-rate-maps.html>

4. Office of the Inspector General (2023). The Consistently Low Percentage of Medicare Enrollees Receiving Medication to Treat Their Opioid Use Disorder Remains a Concern. <https://oig.hhs.gov/documents/evaluation/2722/OEI-02-23-00250-Complete%20Report.pdf>

5. Singh, K., Murali, A., Stevens, H., Vydiswaran, V. G. V., Bohnert, 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. Office of the Inspector General (2023). The Consistently Low Percentage of Medicare Enrollees Receiving Medication to Treat Their Opioid Use Disorder Remains a Concern. <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-02-23-00250.pdf>

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>