



# Colorado's Opioid Crisis

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

## State Facts



**1,013 Deaths**

or 61.9% of total overdose deaths involved opioids in 2024.<sup>1</sup>



**930,569 Claims**

or 5% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2022 - **over 40 claims per prescriber**.<sup>2</sup>



**32.4 Opioid Prescriptions**

were written for every 100 persons in Colorado in 2023.<sup>3</sup>



**\$22 Billion**

was the total estimated cost to Colorado of fatal opioid-related overdoses in 2023.<sup>4</sup>

## National Data



**90%**

of surgical patients receive an opioid prescription following surgery annually.<sup>5</sup>



**194,447**

Medicare Part D beneficiaries received "high" or "extreme" amounts of prescription opioids in 2022.<sup>6</sup>



**1.1 Million**

Medicare beneficiaries suffered from Opioid Use Disorder in 2022.<sup>6</sup>



**\$33 Billion**

was the estimated cost to the Medicare program of Opioid Use Disorder in 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**Over 54,000 Americans**

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

**148 Americans Everyday**

were lost due to an opioid-related drug overdose in 2024.<sup>8</sup>

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. Common Sense Institute Colorado (2024). Colorado's Fentanyl Problem and the Economic Costs. <file:///C:/Users/RachaelPratt/Downloads/CSI-Report-CO-Fentanyl-Report.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>