



Washington, D.C.'s Opioid Crisis

*How the opioid epidemic has continued
to impact the people of Washington, D.C.*

State Facts



277 Deaths

or **76.9% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending April 2025 involved opioids.¹

56,245 Claims

or 2.6% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **11 per prescriber**.²

30.3 Opioid Prescriptions

were written for every 100 persons in Washington, D.C. in 2023.³

\$13.2 Billion

the estimated total societal cost of opioid use disorder (OUD) in Washington, D.C. in 2024.⁴



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. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps. <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/opioid-dispensing-rate-maps.html>
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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>