



Rhode Island's Opioid Crisis

How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of Rhode Island

State Facts



207 Deaths

or **72.4% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending April 2025 involved opioids.¹

Rx

Over 153,000

or 2.5% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **27 per prescriber**.²



30.5 Opioid Prescriptions

were written for every 100 persons in the state in 2023.³



\$17.9 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

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2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Medicare Part D Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f1051d23738c4980a08002bf301f7d8a>

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>

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

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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/2024-nsduh-annual-national.html#111111>

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>