



Arkansas' Opioid Crisis

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

State Facts



144 Deaths

or **40.2% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending April 2025 involved opioids.¹

Rx

941,497 Claims

or 4.9% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **80 per prescriber**.²



71.5 Opioid Prescriptions

were written for every 100 persons in Arkansas in 2023 - the **highest prescribing rate in the country**.³



\$23.3 Billion

the estimated total societal cost of opioid use disorder (OUD) in Arkansas 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

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 (2025). Medicare Part D Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool. <https://cms-oeda.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5390718d875d4c049b1ac5976a9ff083>

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

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. 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#ill1c>

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>