



# South Carolina's Opioid Crisis

*How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of South Carolina*

## State Facts



**931 Deaths**

or **67.2% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending April 2025 involved opioids.<sup>1</sup>

**Rx**

**1.2 Million**

or 4.1% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2023 - an average of **54 per prescriber**.<sup>2</sup>



**48.4 Opioid Prescriptions**

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



**\$65.5 Billion**

the estimated total societal cost of opioid use disorder (OUD) to the state in 2024.<sup>4</sup>

## National Data



**90%**

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



**7.6 Million**

people misused prescription opioids in 2024.<sup>6</sup>



**1.2 Million**

Medicare beneficiaries suffered from OUD in 2023. **53,165 experienced an opioid overdose**.<sup>7</sup>



**\$1.5 Trillion**

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis, with Medicare shouldering \$33 billion.<sup>8</sup>

**Over 48,000 Americans**

died from an opioid-related overdose between April 2024 and April 2025<sup>9</sup> –

**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.<sup>9</sup>

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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>

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](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-071425-edited/2024-nsduh-annual-national.htm#i11.1c>

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>