Washington D.C.'s Opioid Crisis

How the opioid crisis continues to impact D.C.'s Veterans

VOICES FOR NON-OPIOID CHOICES

STATE FACTS

12,167 VETERANS
in D.C. are enrolled in the VA health care system.[1]

30.3 Opioid Prescriptions
were written for every 100 persons in D.C. in 2023.[2]

$899 MILLION
was spent on Veterans Medical Care in D.C. in 2024.[3]

NATIONAL DATA

632,000
Veterans misused opioids in 2023.[4]

~ 50%
Nearly half of combat wounded veterans report misuse of prescription opioids.[5]

$1 BILLION
is spent each year on Veterans abusing prescription opioids.[6]

7.6 MILLION
adults misused prescription opioids in 2024.[7]

$3.94 TRILLION
estimated economic burden of fatal overdoses and OUD between 2025 and 2028.[8]

1 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2024). State Summaries. https://www.data.va.gov/stories/s/57p5-4mwf
2 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
3 Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (2024). National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp
4 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Among the Veteran Population Aged 18 or Older. (2023). SAMHSA. https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt53159/2023-nsduh-pop-slides-veterans.pdf
5 Opioid and sedative misuse among veterans wounded in combat. (2019). Science Direct. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0306460318310141
6 The effect of combat deployments on veteran opioid abuse. (2024). Wiley. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/hec.4812
7 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. (2024). Samhsa. https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56287/2024-nsduh-annual-national-report.pdf
8 Burden of overdoses among persons with opioid use disorder in the United States, 2025–2028: a simulation modeling study. (2026). The Lancet Regional Health. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X(26)00065-7/fulltext

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.NONOPIOIDCHOICES.ORG