



North Carolina's Opioid Crisis

How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of North Carolina

**VOICES
FOR NON-OPIOID
CHOICES**

State Facts



1,419 Deaths

or **73% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending January 2026 involved opioids.¹

Rx

2.5 Million

or 4% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2024 - an average of **55 per prescriber**.²



44.5 Opioid Prescriptions

were written for every 100 persons in North Carolina in 2024.³



\$154 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



3 out of 4

illicit users initiated their habit with prescription opioids.⁶



1.2 Million

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



\$2 Trillion

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis⁸, with Medicare shouldering \$33 billion.⁹

Over 42,000 Americans

died from an opioid-related overdose between February 2025 and February 2026¹⁰

63% of all drug overdose deaths.

That translates to approximately

117 lives lost every day

in the United States due to an opioid-related drug overdose.¹⁰

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10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>