Washington D.C.'s Opioid Crisis

How the opioid epidemic has continued to impact the people of Washington D.C.

VOICES FOR NON-OPIOID CHOICES

State Facts

221 Deaths

or **65% of all overdose deaths** in the year ending February 2026 involved opioids.[1]

Over 64,000

or 2.6% of all Medicare Part D claims were for opioids in 2024 - an average of **27.5 per prescriber**.[2]

25.1 Opioid Prescriptions

were written for every 100 persons in Washington D.C. in 2024.[3]

$13.2 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 Trillon

the estimated cost of the opioid crisis[8], with Medicare shouldering $33 billion.[9]

Over 42,000 Americans

died from an opioid-related overdose between February 2025 and February 2026[10]

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]

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://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
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. Powell D, Jacobson M. Estimates of Illicit Opioid Use in the US. JAMA Health Forum. 2025;6(5):e250809. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2025.0809.
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.Ballreich, J. M., Jeyakumar, S., Garrison, K., Lopez, A., Cohen, B. G., Paffrath, A., Steel, P., & Rubin, J. L. (2025). Societal burden of the US opioid epidemic over the next 15 years and the potential impact of effective non-opioid treatments for pain. Journal of Medical Economics, 28(1), 2247–2257. https://doi.org/10.1080/13696998.2025.2602385.
9. 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/
10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2025). Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm

For more information, please visit: www.nonopioidchoices.org