

Data Brief 428. Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999–2020

Data table for Figure 1. Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates, by sex: United States, 1999–2020

Year	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
1999.	16,849	6.1	11,258	8.2	5,591	3.9
2000.	17,415	6.2	11,563	8.3	5,852	4.1
2001.	19,394	6.8	12,658	9.0	6,736	4.6
2002.	23,518	8.2	15,028	10.6	8,490	5.8
2003.	25,785	8.9	16,399	11.5	9,386	6.4
2004.	27,424	9.4	17,120	11.8	10,304	6.9
2005.	29,813	10.1	18,724	12.8	11,089	7.3
2006.	34,425	11.5	21,893	14.8	12,532	8.2
2007.	36,010	11.9	22,298	14.9	13,712	8.8
2008.	36,450	11.9	22,468	14.9	13,982	8.9
2009.	37,004	11.9	22,593	14.8	14,411	9.1
2010.	38,329	12.3	23,006	15.0	15,323	9.6
2011.	41,340	13.2	24,988	16.1	16,352	10.2
2012.	41,502	13.1	25,112	16.1	16,390	10.2
2013.	43,982	13.8	26,799	17.0	17,183	10.6
2014.	47,055	14.7	28,812	18.3	18,243	11.1
2015.	52,404	16.3	32,957	20.8	19,447	11.8
2016.	63,632	19.8	41,558	26.2	22,074	13.4
2017.	70,237	21.7	46,552	29.1	23,685	14.4
2018.	67,367	20.7	44,941	27.9	22,426	13.6
2019.	70,630	21.6	47,881	29.6	22,749	13.7
2020.	91,799	28.3	63,728	39.5	28,071	17.1

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths are identified using the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* (ICD–10) underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the direct method and the 2000 U.S. standard population.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

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Data table for Figure 2. Drug overdose death rates among those aged 15 and over, by selected age group: United States, 2019 and 2020

Age group	2019		2020	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
15–24.	4,777	11.2	7,095	16.7
25–34.	16,375	35.6	21,784	47.3
35–44.	16,859	40.5	22,710	53.9
45–54.	15,083	36.9	18,919	46.9
55–64.	12,896	30.4	15,819	37.3
65 and over	4,469	8.3	5,209	9.4

NOTE: Drug overdose deaths are identified using the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD–10)* underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

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Data table for Figure 3. Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates, by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 2019 and 2020

Race and Hispanic origin	2019		2020	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
Non-Hispanic White.	50,044	26.2	62,312	33.1
Non-Hispanic Black.	10,517	24.8	15,256	35.8
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native.	723	30.5	1,009	42.5
Non-Hispanic Asian.	679	3.3	935	4.6
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	58	9.5	86	13.7
Hispanic.	7,473	12.7	10,606	17.6

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths are identified using the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* (ICD–10) underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the direct method and the 2000 U.S. standard population. Race and Hispanic origin were categorized based on the Office of Management and Budget 1997 standards for federal statistical and administrative reporting. All of the race categories are “single race,” meaning that only one race was reported on the death certificate. Data shown for the Hispanic population include people of any race. Death rates for non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), and Hispanic people may be affected by misclassification of race and Hispanic origin on death certificates. This misclassification could result in underreporting of deaths for these groups by about 3% for non-Hispanic Asian and Hispanic people, and by an estimated 33% for non-Hispanic AIAN people.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

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Data table for Figure 4. Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths involving opioids, by type of opioid: United States, 1999–2020

Year	Any opioid		Heroin		Natural and semisynthetic opioids		Methadone		Synthetic opioids other than methadone	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
1999.....	8,050	2.9	1,960	0.7	2,749	1.0	784	0.3	730	0.3
2000.....	8,407	3.0	1,842	0.7	2,917	1.0	986	0.4	782	0.3
2001.....	9,496	3.3	1,779	0.6	3,479	1.2	1,456	0.5	957	0.3
2002.....	11,920	4.1	2,089	0.7	4,416	1.5	2,358	0.8	1,295	0.4
2003.....	12,940	4.5	2,080	0.7	4,867	1.7	2,972	1.0	1,400	0.5
2004.....	13,756	4.7	1,878	0.6	5,231	1.8	3,845	1.3	1,664	0.6
2005.....	14,918	5.1	2,009	0.7	5,774	1.9	4,460	1.5	1,742	0.6
2006.....	17,545	5.9	2,088	0.7	7,017	2.3	5,406	1.8	2,707	0.9
2007.....	18,516	6.1	2,399	0.8	8,158	2.7	5,518	1.8	2,213	0.7
2008.....	19,582	6.4	3,041	1.0	9,119	3.0	4,924	1.6	2,306	0.8
2009.....	20,422	6.6	3,278	1.1	9,735	3.1	4,696	1.5	2,946	1.0
2010.....	21,089	6.8	3,036	1.0	10,943	3.5	4,577	1.5	3,007	1.0
2011.....	22,784	7.3	4,397	1.4	11,693	3.7	4,418	1.4	2,666	0.8
2012.....	23,166	7.4	5,925	1.9	11,140	3.5	3,932	1.2	2,628	0.8
2013.....	25,052	7.9	8,257	2.7	11,346	3.5	3,591	1.1	3,105	1.0
2014.....	28,647	9.0	10,574	3.4	12,159	3.8	3,400	1.1	5,544	1.8
2015.....	33,091	10.4	12,989	4.1	12,727	3.9	3,301	1.0	9,580	3.1
2016.....	42,249	13.3	15,469	4.9	14,487	4.4	3,373	1.0	19,413	6.2
2017.....	47,600	14.9	15,482	4.9	14,495	4.4	3,194	1.0	28,466	9.0
2018.....	46,802	14.6	14,996	4.7	12,552	3.8	3,023	0.9	31,335	9.9
2019.....	49,860	15.5	14,019	4.4	11,886	3.6	2,740	0.8	36,359	11.4
2020.....	68,630	21.4	13,165	4.1	13,471	4.0	3,543	1.1	56,516	17.8

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths are identified using the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* (ICD–10) underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Drug overdose deaths involving selected drug categories are identified by specific multiple-cause-of-death codes: any opioid, T40.0–T40.4 and T40.6; heroin, T40.1; natural and semisynthetic opioids, T40.2; methadone, T40.3; and synthetic opioids other than methadone, T40.4. Deaths involving more than one opioid category (such as a death involving both methadone and a natural or semisynthetic opioid) are counted in both categories. Natural and semisynthetic opioids include drugs such as morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone; synthetic opioids other than methadone include such drugs as fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and tramadol. The percentage of drug overdose deaths that identified the specific drugs involved varied by year, ranging from 75%–79% from 1999 through 2013 and increasing from 81% in 2014 to 94% in 2020.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

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Data table for Figure 5. Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths involving stimulants, by type of stimulant: United States, 1999–2020

Year	Cocaine		Psychostimulants with abuse potential	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
1999.	3,822	1.4	547	0.2
2000.	3,544	1.3	578	0.2
2001.	3,833	1.3	563	0.2
2002.	4,599	1.6	941	0.3
2003.	5,199	1.8	1,179	0.4
2004.	5,443	1.9	1,305	0.4
2005.	6,208	2.1	1,608	0.5
2006.	7,448	2.5	1,462	0.5
2007.	6,512	2.2	1,378	0.4
2008.	5,129	1.7	1,302	0.4
2009.	4,350	1.4	1,632	0.5
2010.	4,183	1.3	1,854	0.6
2011.	4,681	1.5	2,266	0.7
2012.	4,404	1.4	2,635	0.8
2013.	4,944	1.6	3,627	1.2
2014.	5,415	1.7	4,298	1.4
2015.	6,784	2.1	5,716	1.8
2016.	10,375	3.2	7,542	2.4
2017.	13,942	4.3	10,333	3.2
2018.	14,666	4.5	12,676	3.9
2019.	15,883	4.9	16,167	5.0
2020.	19,447	6.0	23,837	7.5

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths are identified using the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* (ICD–10) underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Drug overdose deaths involving selected drug categories are identified by specific multiple-cause-of-death codes: cocaine, T40.5; and psychostimulants with abuse potential, T43.6. Psychostimulants with abuse potential include such drugs as methamphetamine, amphetamine, and methylphenidate. Deaths may involve more than one drug. The percentage of drug overdose deaths that identified the specific drugs involved varied by year, ranging from 75%–79% from 1999 through 2013 and increasing from 81% in 2014 to 94% in 2020.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.