

Overview of IVPB Overdose Data Resources

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Where Can I Find Overdose Data?

All the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch (IVPB) overdose data resources can be found on the [NC Overdose Epidemic Data webpage](#). This page includes:

- Summary information on overdose deaths and emergency department (ED) visits in NC over time
- Interactive overdose data
- Monthly reports
- Other data resources and links to overdose prevention information

For help finding the injury data you need, visit the [NC Injury Data Resource Inventory](#). This interactive tool helps you identify which website or IVPB data resource has the information that best meets your needs.

Overview of IVPB Overdose Data Resources and How to Use Them

Monthly Overdose Reports

Use the monthly overdose reports for the most up-to-date data on fatal and nonfatal overdoses in your county and across the state.

[Monthly Overdose Reports](#) use provisional data to monitor overdose trends in NC before final data are available. These reports can be used to:

- Monitor changes in the number of overdoses happening statewide or at the county level to know when to respond or act.
- Know where overdoses are happening in the state and which groups are experiencing overdoses.
- Focus prevention and response activities to groups that are most impacted by overdose.

For more information on using provisional data to monitor overdoses in NC, visit [Using Provisional Overdose Data](#).

Monthly Overdose Reports are shared through a [Google Drive folder](#).

- Open the folder in the Google Drive for the report you are interested in.
- Select the “Download” button on the far right of the screen to download the report.



IVPB CREATES AND SHARES THESE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACROSS NC.

- Permission is not needed to use any of the posted data in your presentations, manuscripts, reports, and other work.
- If you use IVPB published data, please include a version of the following citation:
NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Injury & Violence Prevention Branch. '[data resource name].' [webpage data were accessed from]. Accessed [insert access date]. [insert the website address].

There are four reports that are updated monthly with the most recent data.

Separate reports include data on overdose deaths, the most severe outcome of the overdose epidemic, and non-fatal overdoses. **Use the reports together for a more complete picture of overdoses across the state.**



Suspected Overdose Deaths Monthly Report

- Using toxicology data from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), estimates how many overdose deaths have happened in NC in the last month.
 - There is a one-month delay for these reports (example: May 2025 report includes data through April 2025).
- Monitors change in suspected overdose deaths over time.
 - Shows the total number of suspected overdoses that have happened so far in the current year compared to previous years, and the number of suspected overdoses each month.
- Gives a more accurate and up-to-date estimate of overdose deaths than provisional death certificate data because of delays in death certificate coding.



Fentanyl-Positive Deaths Monthly Report

This report can be used as an early estimate for overdose deaths, since most overdoses (about 80%) in NC involve fentanyl.

- Using OCME toxicology data, tracks deaths that tested positive for fentanyl but have not yet been confirmed with a final cause and intent of death.
 - There is a two-month delay for these reports (example: May 2025 report includes data through March 2025).
- Monitors changes in overdose deaths over time.
 - Shows the total number of fentanyl-positive deaths that have happened so far in the current year compared to previous years, and the number of fentanyl-positive deaths each month over the last two years.
- Available statewide and for many counties.
 - Includes data by county, sex, age group, and race/ethnicity to identify groups most impacted by fentanyl-positive death.
 - Statewide report also includes trends of other substances involved in fentanyl-positive deaths.



Opioid Overdose ED Visits Monthly Report

- Tracks ED visits due to opioid overdose.
 - There is a one-month delay for these reports (example: May 2025 report includes data through April 2025).
- Monitors changes in opioid overdose ED visits over time.
 - Shows the total number of opioid overdose ED visits that have happened in the most recent month and so far in the current year compared to previous years.
- Available statewide and for many counties.
 - Includes data by county, sex, age group, and race/ethnicity to identify groups most impacted by overdose.
 - Includes data on the type of opioid contributing to these opioid overdose ED visits.



All Drug Overdose ED Visits Monthly Report

- Tracks ED visits related to drug overdose, a broader category that includes opioid overdoses as well as overdoses due to other drug types.
 - There is a one-month delay for these reports (example: May 2025 report includes data through April 2025).

- Monitors changes in drug overdose ED visits over time.
 - Shows the total number of drug overdose ED visits that have happened in the most recent month and so far in the current year compared to previous years.
- Available statewide and for many counties.
 - Includes data by county, sex, age group, and race/ethnicity to identify groups most impacted by overdose.
 - Includes data on the drug classes contributing to drug overdose ED visits.

There are additional overdoses that may not be captured in these reports, for example if someone does not seek medical treatment after an overdose. But these reports can provide important context to support planning and response.

Interactive Overdose Data

Use the interactive overdose data tool to access overdose data if you are comfortable using data dashboards to query and filter data.



The [interactive overdose data](#) can be used to:

- Filter data for metrics by place, statewide or by county.
- Monitor changes in the number and rate of overdose metrics to help know when to respond or act in your community.
 - Compare the change in the selected metric from year to year.
 - Compare the rates for the selected metric to the statewide rate and across counties.
 - Monitor whether rates for a selected place (state/county) are high, low, or about the same as the rate for other places in NC over time.

Overview of Overdose Metrics

The [interactive overdose data](#) include metrics that describe overdose deaths, ED visits, opioid and buprenorphine dispensing, opioid use disorder treatment services, and foster care due to parental substance use.

- Some metrics are reported as a rate per 100,000 while others are reported as a percentage (rate per 100).
 - For more information on the differences between these rates, visit [Understanding Counts and Rates](#).
- The timeframe of data used for each metric and how often data are updated depends on the source of the data.
- For more detailed information on the case definitions used for each metric, visit [NC IVPB Injury Case Definitions](#).

Death Data Metrics

- Include annual data for 2010 forward.
- The death metrics for the most recent year are projected yearly estimates based on what has been reported so far. For example:
 - There were 1,071 overdose deaths from Jan – Apr 2024, representing a projected 3,213 overdose deaths in 2024.

$$\frac{1,071 \text{ deaths}}{4 \text{ months}} = 199.25 \text{ deaths per month} \times 12 \text{ months} = 3,213 \text{ projected deaths for the year}$$

- Estimates will always be made using at least three months of provisional data.
 - For example, estimates of 2025 overdose deaths will not be reported until data for Jan-Mar 2025 are close to being complete, likely in March 2026.
 - Because of these data-availability requirements and the delay in death data, there is at least a 3-month lag in reporting projected deaths for the previous year.
- These estimates of overdose death are updated monthly and likely become more accurate as additional cases are finalized.
 - For more information, visit [Using Provisional Overdose Data](#) or the [general injury provisional factsheet](#).

ED Visit Data Metric

- Includes annual data for 2016 forward. See [Using Provisional Data for Monitoring Injuries](#) for more information.
- ED visit data are the timeliest data available but take time to finalize.
 - ED visit data are updated monthly with a one-month delay in reporting.
 - The most recent ED visit data are provisional and subject to change as visit data are finalized. For more information, visit [Using Provisional Overdose Data](#).
- The ED visit data metric for the most recent year is also a projected yearly estimate based on what has been reported so far.
 - See the example above for Death Data Metrics.

Other Metrics

- All other metrics are updated annually with the most recent year of final data.
- Controlled Substances Reporting System (CSRS) metrics include data for 2013 forward.
- Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services (DMH) treatment metric includes data 2014 forward.
- Division of Social Services (DSS) metric includes data for 2015 forward.

Downloadable Statewide Overdose Data

Use the downloadable statewide overdose data to conduct your own analyses and create your own data visualizations using NC overdose data.

- All of the data used to populate the [Interactive Overdose Data](#) on the NC Overdose Epidemic Data webpage are included in a [downloadable overdose CSV file](#).
- Data are available for each metric at the state and county level.
- Each row represents the data for a given metric for each year and each place (county/statewide).
 - Data include the number of events for each metric, the rate (percentage or rate per 100,000 NC population), and the change in the rate compared to the previous year.
- There is an accompanying [data dictionary](#) available that describes each of the variables included in the downloadable data.



Overdose Slide Set

Use the overdose prepared PowerPoint slides to include overdose data in your next presentation, or as a resource to understand more about overdoses in NC.

These [Overdose PowerPoint slides](#) give an overview of the history of the epidemic in NC, present statewide overdose trends, our state's actions to prevent overdoses, and the connection between overdoses and other public health topics.



These slides can be used to:

- Understand the **who, what, when, where, and why** of overdose in NC.
 - These PowerPoint slides are meant to offer a state-level background on drug overdose.
 - The slides were created to provide basic data trends and public health surveillance around the drug overdose epidemic.
- Incorporate overdose data into your own presentations, grant proposals, reports, or any other way they may be useful.
 - Each slide includes detailed notes explaining the information on the slide.
 - Technical notes are also available to help with understanding and presenting data.

NC State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (NC-SUDORS) Data

NC-SUDORS combines data from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and toxicology results. The system is a critical tool for understanding the overdose epidemic and providing high quality data to guide public health interventions.

These data include information on circumstances surrounding unintentional overdose deaths, like overdose and substance abuse treatment history, routes of drug use, and if naloxone was given.



Case-Level Data

Use case-level NC-SUDORS data to research overdose deaths of unintentional and undetermined intent or to inform local overdose response efforts.

- Researchers may request NC-SUDORS data to conduct their own research.
- Local health departments may request their jurisdiction's NC-SUDORS data to aid in their response efforts, including overdose fatality reviews.
- More information on how to request detailed case-level NC-SUDORS data is available on the [NC Overdose Epidemic Data webpage](#).

NC-SUDORS Fact Sheets

Use [NC-SUDORS fact sheets](#) for data on overdose deaths by county and congressional district.

NC-SUDORS creates fact sheets for each NC county and congressional district that include data specific to that area of the state. These fact sheets can be used to understand:

- which groups are experiencing overdoses within a given county or congressional district.
- how overdoses in a county or congressional district compare to overdoses across the state.
- the circumstances surrounding overdoses in a given county or congressional district to help inform overdose prevention in that area.

Other Overdose-Related Resources

Use [these additional data resources](#) to understand factors that contribute to the overdose crisis in NC.

Resources include information on mental health and overdose, homelessness and overdose, and other overdose-related topics.

