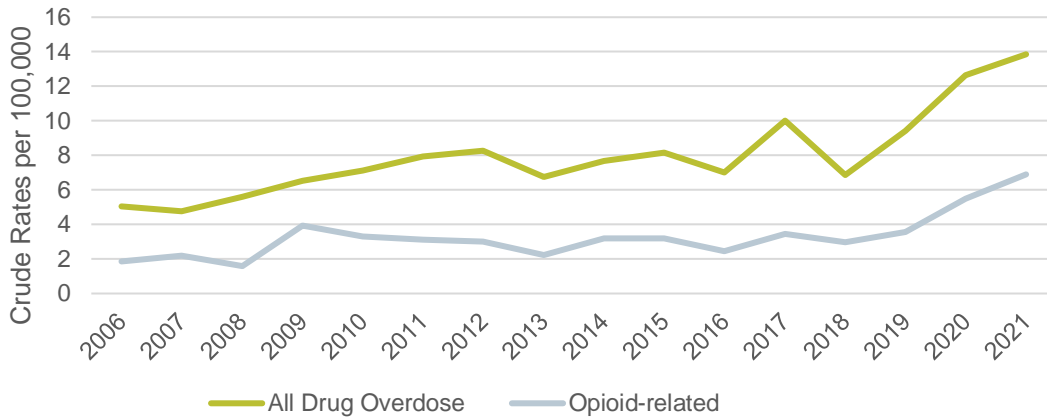


Nebraska Drug Overdose Deaths Fact Sheet for 2021

All Drug and Opioid-related Fatal Overdose Rates, Nebraska 2006-2021



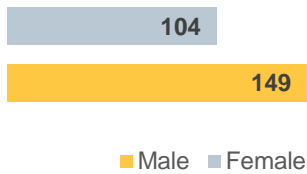
A National Public Health Crisis Continues

In the United States, 106,699 Americans died from a drug overdose in 2021. Of those, 75.4% involved opioids.¹

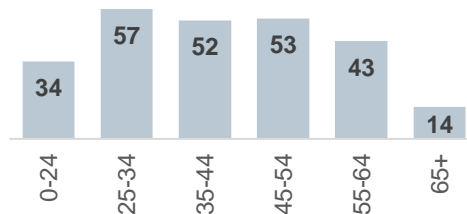
In Nebraska, during the same period of time, 253 people died from a drug overdose. Of those, at least half (50%) involved an opioid (including prescription pain relievers, heroin, fentanyl, or other opioids).²

Number of Deaths by Demographic Characteristics and Intent ²

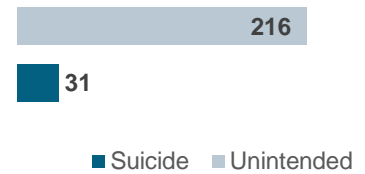
Number by Sex



Number by Age Group

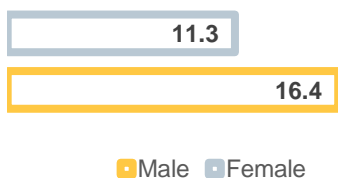


Number by Intent

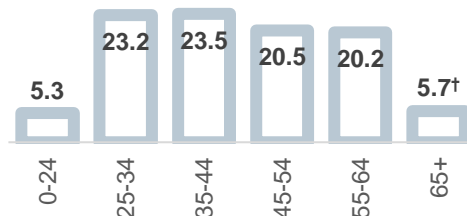


Death Rate per 100,000 persons by Demographic Characteristics and Intent ^{2 †}

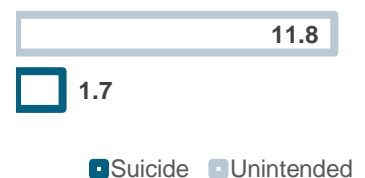
Rate by Sex



Rate by Age Group



Rate by Intent



† Rates provided for groups with numbers less than 20 may be unreliable, these rates are provided for context and should be used with caution.

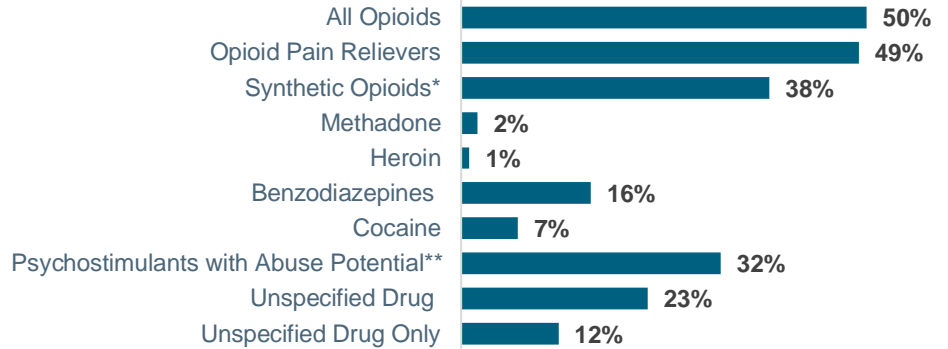
In 2021, 12.3% of all drug overdoses were identified as a suicide or intentional, while the majority were identified as unintentional (85.4%). Females accounted for 41.1% of overdose deaths, while males accounted for 58.9%. Individuals aged 35-44 had the highest death rates of all age categories, followed by those aged 25-34.

Proportion of Deaths Involving Selected Drugs ²

Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 49% of Drug Overdose Deaths

Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 124 (49%) of the 253 drug overdose deaths in 2021. These results may be undercounted because the percent of drug overdose deaths that had only unspecified drug(s) listed as contributing to the death accounted for 12% percent in 2021.

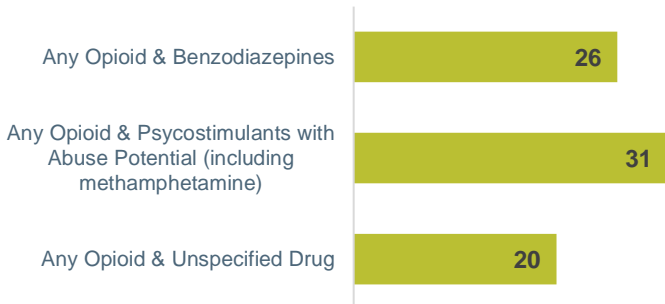
Proportion of Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Selected Drugs[‡], Nebraska, 2021 ²



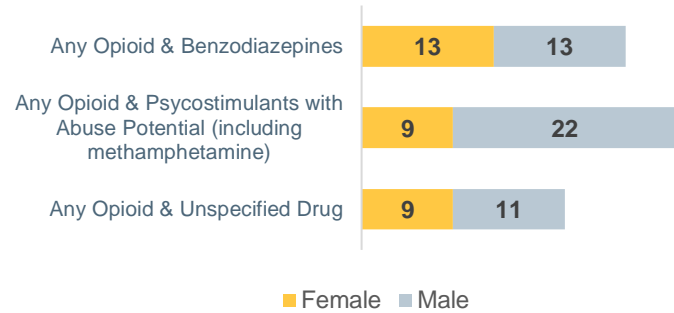
[‡] Categories are not mutually exclusive * Includes fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, & similar drugs **Includes prescription stimulants, methamphetamine, & similar drugs

Number of Deaths Involving Selected Drug Combinations ^{2 †}

Select Drug Combinations



Select Drug Combinations by Sex



Addressing the Issue in Nebraska



Narcan is a nasal spray of Naloxone that can help counteract an opioid overdose. Nebraskans can receive Narcan at a participating pharmacy for free without a prescription. **Stop Overdose Nebraska** provides education about NARCAN and where to obtain it.

www.stopodne.com



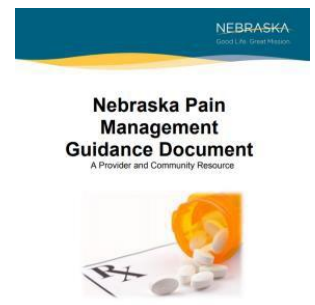
Nebraska MEDS Coalition
Medication Education for Disposal Strategies

The **Nebraska MEDS Coalition** has received funding to implement a Statewide Medication Disposal Initiative to reduce the availability of unused medication that may result in unintentional poisoning or illegal use and to provide education.

www.nebraskameds.org

Nebraska DHHS in collaboration with an expert advisory task force, actively practicing providers, and senior state officials have developed a **guidance document for clinicians** who are helping people live better lives. The document promotes consistent, safe and effective pain management practices to assist in making clinical decisions easier, ensure patient safety, & provide effective options to treat pain.

www.dhhs.ne.gov/PDMP



Nebraska DHHS in collaboration with CyncHealth have implemented the statewide **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**, a tool that collects dispensed prescription information. The tool is to help prevent the misuse of controlled substances and for patient safety.

www.dhhs.ne.gov/PDMP

1. Spencer MR, Miniño AM, Warner M. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2001–2021. *NCHS Data Brief*, no 457. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; 2022. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:122556>.

2. Nebraska Vital Statistics data, 2006–2021.