

A RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING OPIOID CRISIS



“Uniting and strengthening the voice for public health in Iowa”

Health Impact

Between 2017 and 2021, fatal opioid overdoses increased **69%**. Opioid overdose has become the leading cause of injury-related death within the United States.

The increasing rates of opioid overdose and associated death can be attributed to synthetic opioids (fentanyl).

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is an infectious disease primarily transmitted through shared needle use. HCV rates are often used as an indicator to monitor opioid use.

Health Equity Impact

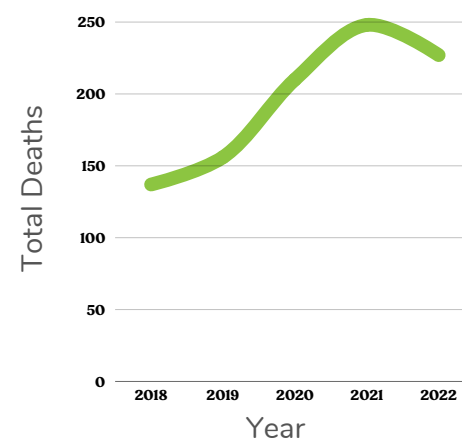
Opioid abuse and overdose disproportionately affect vulnerable populations.

Populations at risk include education less than a high school degree, income less than \$35,000 per year, and minority populations.

Overdose deaths are **4-6 times higher** among Blacks compared to their White counterparts.

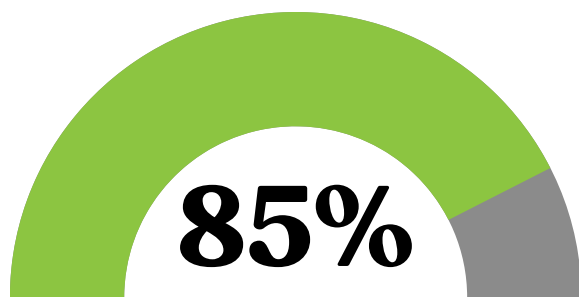


Opioid Involved Mortality

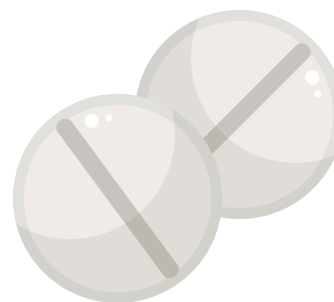


Similar to national trends, Iowa is experiencing an increase in opioid overdose deaths.

Iowa Data



85% of opioid deaths in 2021 involved illicitly manufactured fentanyl



The age-adjusted death rate in Iowa involving opioids is **8.3 deaths per 100,000**. This is lower than the national rate of 32.4 opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 in 2021.

Actions and Strategies Supported by IPHA

- Increase funding for surveillance of opioid use and IV substance use associated diseases.
- Exempt hypodermic needles, syringe possession, and fentanyl test strip possession from classification as drug paraphernalia.
- Improve equitable access to comprehensive, integrated Medications for Opioid Use Disorder treatment and overdose prevention.
- Creation and funding for programs that teach family and community members about overdose prevention and harm reduction.

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