



OPIOID USE IN MONTANA

About Opioids¹:

Opioids are a class of drug that produces a variety of effects such as pain relief, relaxation, or euphoria. Pharmaceutical opioids are prescribed by doctors to treat acute or chronic pain (for example, oxycodone). Illicit opioids include illicitly manufactured fentanyl and heroin. Both illicit and prescription opioids can lead to addiction.

Key Points:

- In 2023, 185 Montanans died from a drug overdose. Of these drug overdose deaths, 123 (68%) involved opioids.³
- About \$4.8 million was charged by Montana hospitals for opioid overdose-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in 2023.³
- The Department of Public Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Montana Legislature, has worked to increase access to life-saving naloxone to Montanans and empower Montanans to help each other prevent drug overdose deaths. In 2023, over 78,000 naloxone kits were distributed throughout the state.⁴

	United States	Montana
Percent of people aged 12+ who report misusing opioid pain relievers in the past year ⁵	3.1 (2021-2022)	2.6 (2021-2022)
Number of opioid prescriptions per 100 people ⁶	37.5 (2023)	40.4 (2023)

References:

1. US Department of Justice (2022). [Opioid Facts](#).
2. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (2024). [Drug Overdose Deaths in Montana, 2014-2023](#).
3. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, [2023]. Office of Epidemiology and Scientific Support, Public Health and Safety Division. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Data provided courtesy of participating MHA members.
4. Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division. (2021). Internal records.
5. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). [2021-2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Prevalence Estimates \(50 States and the District of Columbia\)](#).
6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). [Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps](#).

For more information on what the Department of Public Health and Human Services is doing to address substance use disorder in Montana, please visit <https://dphhs.mt.gov/opioid>