



Opioid Use in Montana

	United States	Montana
Percent of people aged 12+ who report misusing opioid pain relievers in the past year ¹	3.4% 2019-2020	3.9% 2019-2020
Number of opioid prescriptions per 100 people ²	43.3 2020	46.1 2020

Key Points

Opioids are a class of drug that work in the brain to produce a variety of effects such as pain relief, relaxation, or euphoria. Some opioids are prescribed by doctors to treat acute or chronic pain, and others are misused as ‘street drugs.’ Occasionally, prescription opioids are also misused.

- Between 2019 and 2020, **287 Montanans** died from a drug overdose. **145** of these drug overdose deaths (**51%**) were due to opioids.³
- Nearly **\$5 million** were charged by Montana hospitals for opioid-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits in 2021.⁴
- 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 in need and empower Montanans to help each other.
 - Between October 2021 and October 2022, **over 26,000** naloxone kits were distributed throughout the state.⁵
 - As of December 2022, **445 Master Trainers** have received certification in Montana who are eligible to conduct further trainings in their communities on how to use naloxone.⁵



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1. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, State Estimates, 2019-2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/nsduh/state-reports-NSDUH-2020>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. US Opioid Dispensing Maps, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/state2020.html>
3. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Vital Statistics Analysis Unit, 2019-2020
4. Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, 2021 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
5. Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division, 2021

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>