

2024 Data Brief | Fatal and Non-Fatal Drug Overdoses in Pennsylvania

3,341

Any Drug
Overdose Deaths
in 2024

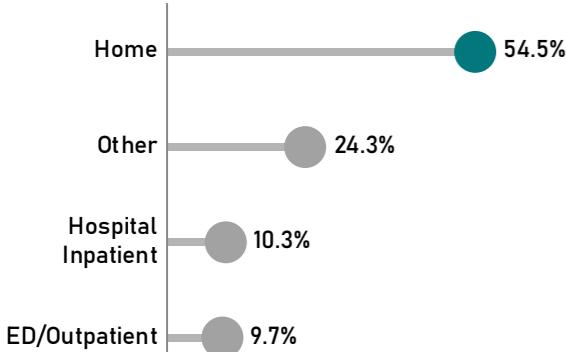
29.2%

DECREASE
in total overdose
deaths from
2023



9 people,
on average, died every
day from an overdose.

Of all drug overdose deaths, **54.5%**
occurred at the decedent's **own home**.
Percent of Any Drug overdose deaths by death location



ED: Emergency Department; Locations accounting for <2% of overdose deaths were excluded.

Any Drug overdose deaths include overdoses from illicit, prescription, or over-the-counter drugs, and exclude alcohol-only related overdoses. Counts do not include suicides or homicides where someone intended to harm another person by poisoning.

*All rates represent crude overdose rates and are not age adjusted. Rates were calculated using population denominators from the United States Census Bureau Population Estimates, Vintage 2024. Data is current as of January 2026.

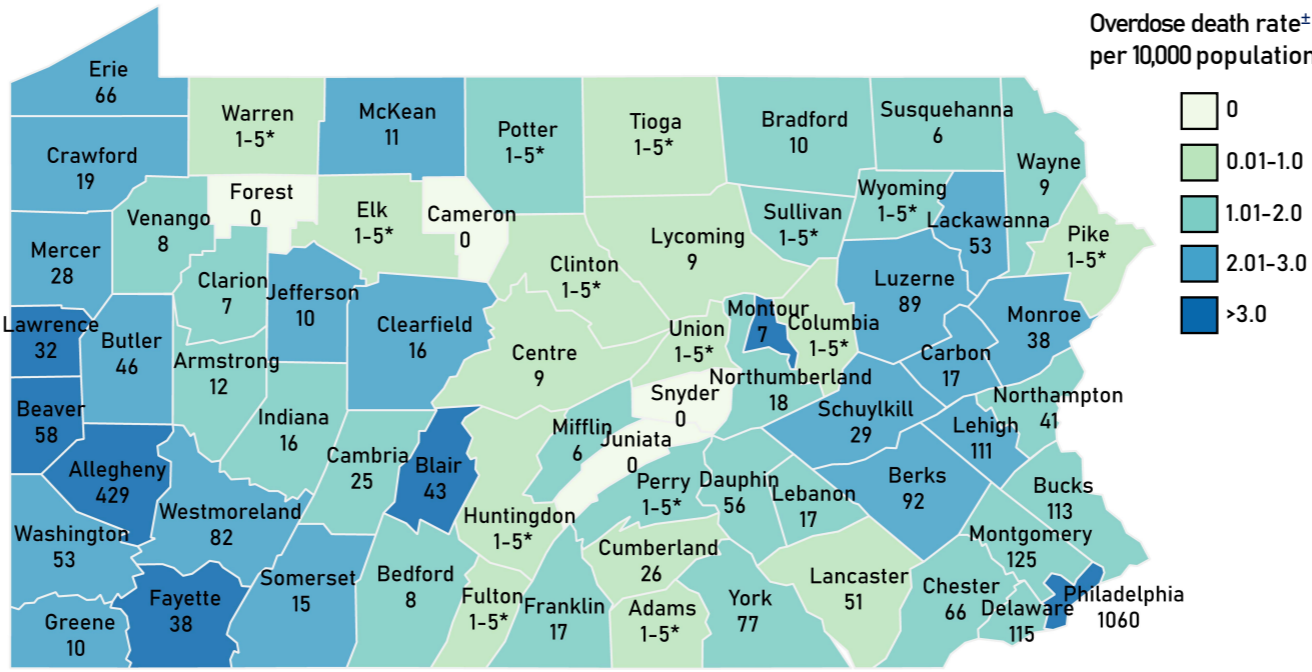
1-5* indicates a suppressed count between 1 and 5.



Pennsylvania
Department of Health

The state average Any Drug overdose death rate was 2.6 deaths per 10,000 population in 2024, substantial differences in the rate exist across Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

County-level counts and rates of Any Drug overdose deaths[±]



© OpenStreetMap

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, contributed to death in **67%** of fatal overdoses, down from 77% in 2023.¹

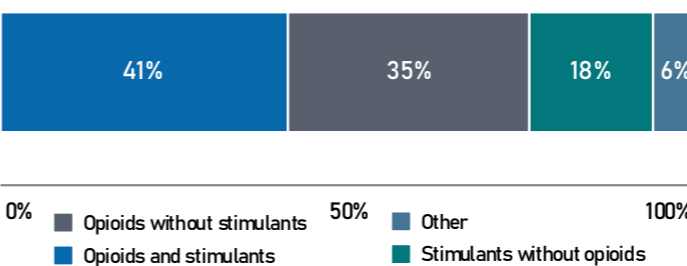
Percent of fentanyl-involved deaths



¹ Overdose deaths can involve more than one substance, 2% of overdose deaths are missing toxicology data. ² Opioid deaths had at least one opioid as cause of death (fentanyl, heroin, prescription opioids, or any other opioid). Stimulant deaths had at least one stimulant as cause of death (cocaine, amphetamines, central nervous stimulants, or any other stimulant). ³ Not all standard toxicology testing includes these emerging substances, counts are likely under-reported.

41% of Any Drug overdose deaths involved the combination of **opioids and stimulants**.^{1,2}

Percent: Any Drug overdose deaths by drug combination



From 2023 to 2024, the overdose death rate declined by **50% or more** in 17 counties.

County-level rates of Any Drug overdose deaths[±]

	2023	2024	Percent change from 2023
Fayette	6.2	3.1	▼ -50%
Schuylkill	4.2	2.0	▼ -52%
Dauphin	4.0	1.9	▼ -52%
Venango	3.6	1.6	▼ -56%
Susquehanna	3.7	1.6	▼ -57%
Cambria	5.0	1.9	▼ -62%
Lycoming	2.1	0.8	▼ -62%
Montour	11.1	3.9	▼ -65%
Snyder	1.5	0.0	▼ -100%

Counties whose rate declined by 50% or more without reportable rates include Cameron, Juniata, Huntingdon, Pike, Elk, Columbia, Warren, and Clinton.

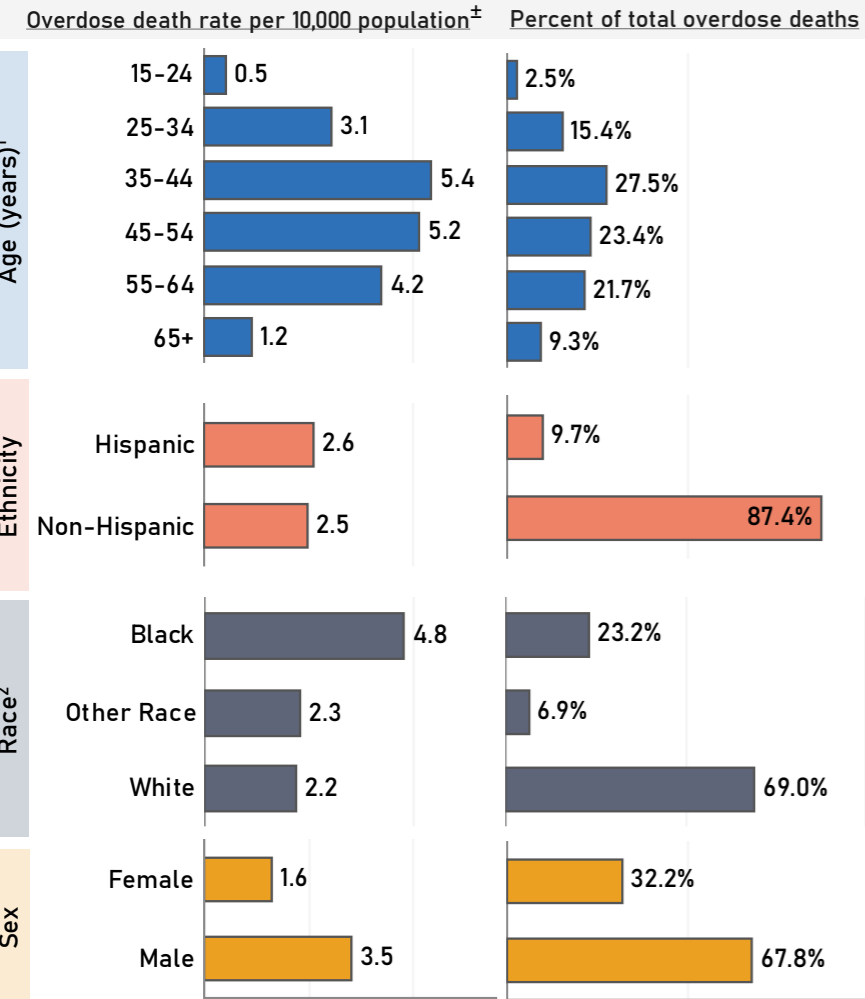
Overdose deaths involving emerging substances increased in 2024.^{1,3}

State-level counts of overdose deaths

	2023	2024
"Designer" Benzodiazepines	149	153
Nitazenes	16	31
Carfentanil	1-5*	14
Tianeptine	1-5*	1-5*
Medetomidine	0	75

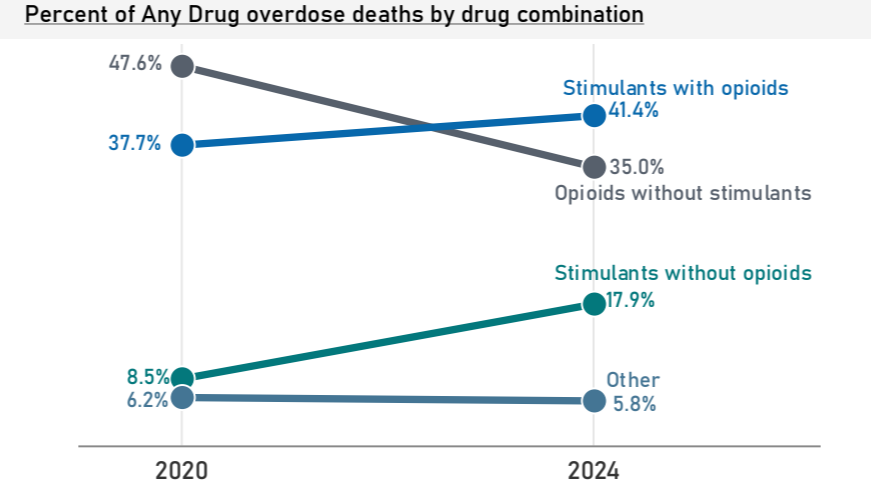
2024 Data Brief | Fatal and Non-Fatal Drug Overdoses in Pennsylvania

Overdose death rates were the highest among those **ages 35-44 years old**, **Hispanic persons**, **Black persons**, and **males**.

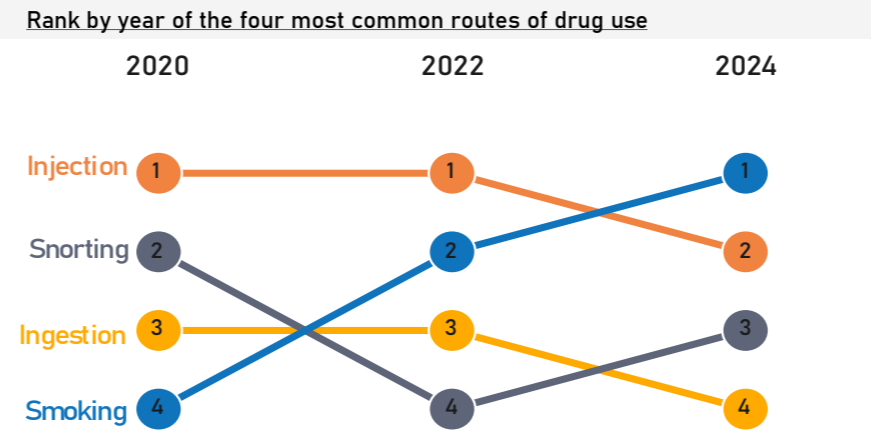


1) Decedents aged 0-14 years were excluded
2) Other Race include persons who identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Other Race

The proportion of deaths involving stimulants, both **stimulants with opioids** and **stimulants without opioids**, increased over time.

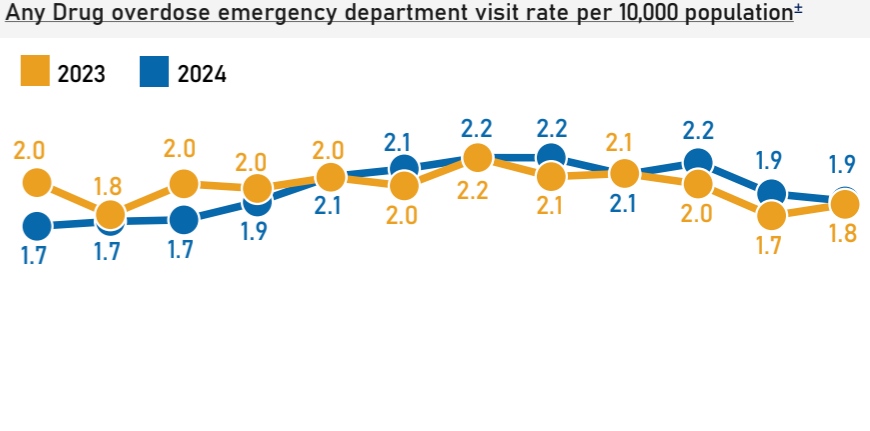


Between 2020 and 2024, the primary route of drug use involved in overdose deaths shifted from **injection** to **smoking**.

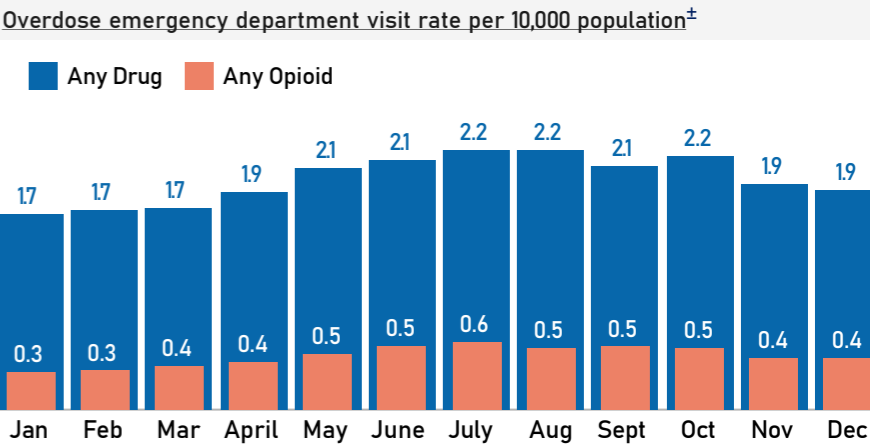


Routes of drug use are not mutually exclusive; a death could have evidence of more than one route of drug use. Circumstance data is collected through enhanced data collection efforts in participating counties, only decedents with sufficient circumstance data are included.

In **2024**, fatal overdoses declined, but emergency department visits for non-fatal overdoses remained at levels similar to **2023**.



Emergency department visits for **Any Drug** and **Any Opioid** overdoses vary seasonally, rates typically peak in summer.



Any Drug includes overdoses from any substance (illicit, prescription, over-the-counter). Any Opioid includes overdoses from illicit or prescription opioids.

Through grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has collected both fatal and non-fatal overdose data from a variety of sources. Fatal overdose data includes death record data from the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries at the Pennsylvania DOH, as well as toxicology and coroner/medical examiner reports through partnerships with individual county coroners/medical examiners and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Non-fatal overdose data includes syndromic surveillance data through partnerships with emergency departments. Rates were calculated using population denominators from the United States Census Bureau Population Estimates, Vintage 2024. Data is current as of January 2026.