

# Dallas County overdose deaths are declining - but its still a major public health issue.



Overdose (OD) remains a leading cause of injury-related death in Dallas County, with high rates of non-fatal opioid ODs and unequal impacts across communities.

## SOME PROGRESS



529

drug OD deaths in 2024<sup>1</sup>

↓ 15% decrease from 2023<sup>1</sup>



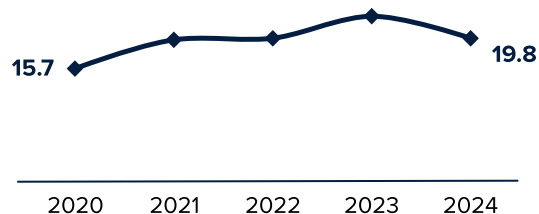
2,020

non-fatal opioid-related EMS responses in 2024<sup>2</sup>

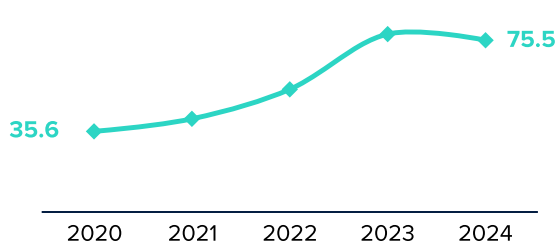
↓ 4% increase from 2023<sup>2</sup>

## TRENDS OVER TIME

Drug OD Death Rate<sup>1</sup>



Non-Fatal Opioid-Related EMS Response Rate<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 residents



These declines indicates some progress, but drug overdose continues to impact many Dallas County residents each year.

Most drug OD deaths and non-fatal EMS responses are **opioid-related**. Most of which continue to be driven predominantly by **fentanyl**.

51%

of OD deaths involved opioids.<sup>1</sup>

31%

of non-fatal EMS responses involved opioids.<sup>2</sup>

## Overdose does not affect everyone equally.



### MEN

Have an OD death rate nearly **3 times** higher than women.<sup>1</sup>



### BLACK/AA RESIDENTS

Have the **highest** OD death rate compared to all other race/ethnicities.<sup>1</sup>



### MIDDLE-AGED ADULTS

Adults 35-64 have the **highest** OD death rate compared all other age groups.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dallas County Health and Human Services. (n.d.). Alcohol and substance use prevention data dashboard. Dallas County.

<sup>2</sup>Texas Department of State Health Services. (n.d.). EMS-reported non-fatal drug poisonings. Texas Health Data.

Note: All data collected and analyzed were derived from the Massachusetts DPH and CHIA. All interpretations and conclusions were developed by Shatterproof.

# Substance Use, Impact, and Treatment in Texas



Substance use continues to affect many individuals and families in Texas. Treatment capacity remains limited, and many people do not receive the care they need.

## PREVALENCE AND USE

Texas residents experience lower rates of **substance use disorder (SUD)** than the national average.



On average, about **1 in 7** people in Texas had SUD within the past year.<sup>1</sup>

(National average - 17%)<sup>1</sup>

### Past Month Substance Use, 2021-2023



Binge drinking is **similar** in Texas (21.5%) compared to the national average (21.7%).<sup>1</sup>



Illicit drug use is **lower** in Texas (10.7%) compared to the national average (15.9%).<sup>1</sup>



Marijuana use is **lower** in Texas (9.5%) compared to the national average (14.5%).<sup>1</sup>



Opioid misuse is **similar** in Texas (3.4%) compared to the national average (3.2%).<sup>1</sup>

## THE HUMAN IMPACT

Among Texas residents



**47%** report knowing someone with SUD.<sup>2</sup>



**60%** report being concerned about opioid use and misuse in their community.<sup>3</sup>

## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT



Opioid use disorder is estimated to have cost Texas

**\$163 Billion**

in 2024.<sup>4</sup>

### Texas continues to face major gaps in substance use treatment access.



Texas has only 15 specialty SUD treatment centers per 100,000 people, **below** the national average of 20.<sup>5</sup>



Texas **ranks 46th nationally** with just 19 inpatient and residential treatment beds per 100,000 people.<sup>6</sup>



While Texas saw a **7% increase** in treatment facilities from 2022 to 2024, provider shortages and limited capacity continue to create barriers to care.<sup>6</sup>

**Despite some growth in treatment infrastructure, 75% of people with SUD still do not receive the care they need.<sup>7</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Behavioral Health Barometer, Texas, Volume 8, 2021-2023

<sup>2</sup>Shatterproof & Irsay Institute, Indiana University. (2024). Shatterproof Addiction Stigma Index (SASI) [Raw dataset]. Shatterproof.

<sup>3</sup>Preventive Medicine Reports (Ory et al., 2022); Central Texas community health assessment (2019)

<sup>4</sup>Avalere Health. (2025, May). The cost of opioid addiction: Opioid use disorder in the United States. [https://advisory.avalerehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Avalere-Health-White-Paper\\_The-cost-of-opioid-addiction\\_OUD-in-the-United-States.pdf](https://advisory.avalerehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Avalere-Health-White-Paper_The-cost-of-opioid-addiction_OUD-in-the-United-States.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>Texas Overdose Data to Action. Dshs. Published 2021

<sup>6</sup>KFF Analysis of the National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS), 2024.

<sup>7</sup>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.). NSDUH state estimates: State data. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://datatools.samhsa.gov/saes/state>