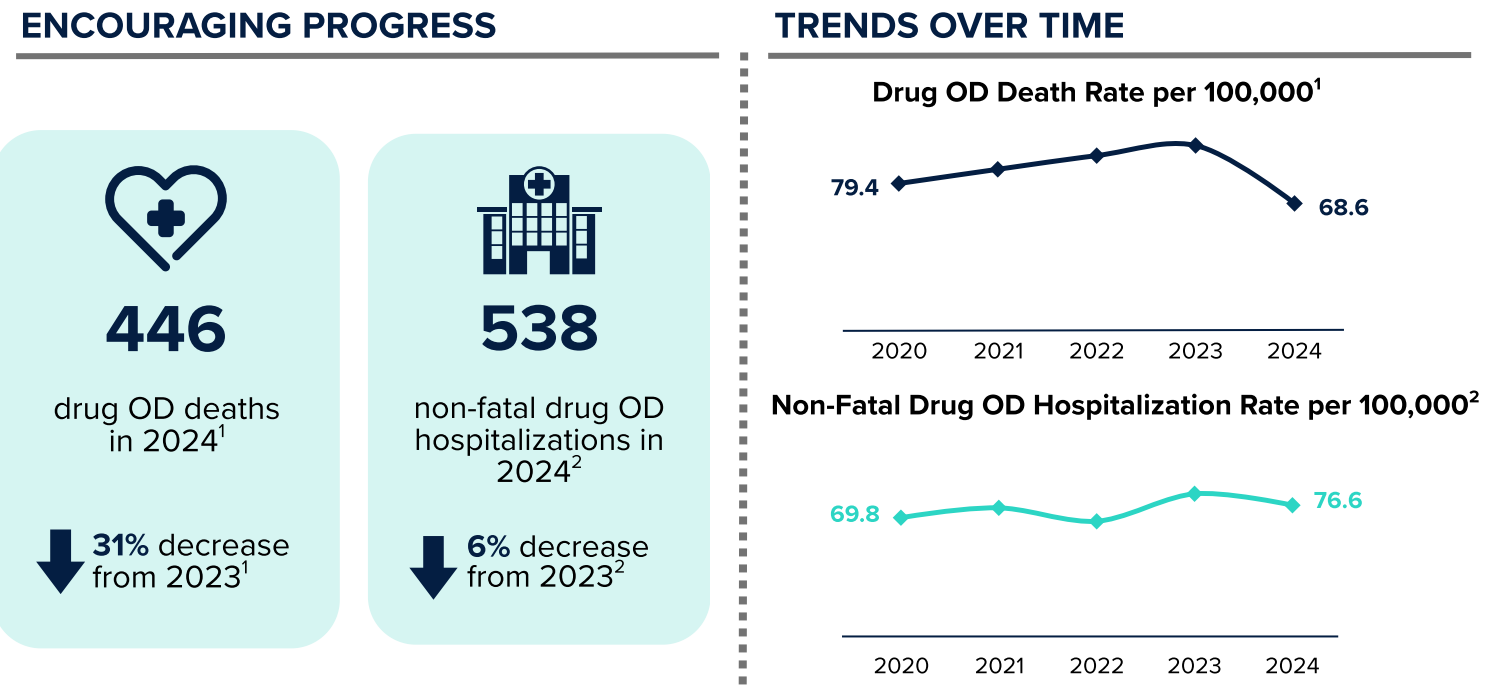


Washington D.C. overdose deaths and hospitalizations are declining - but its still a major public health issue.

Although drug overdose (OD) deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations are down, OD remains a leading cause of accidental death and continues to disproportionately impact Washington D.C. residents.



Substance Use, Impact, and Treatment in Washington D.C.



Substance use continues to affect many individuals and families in Washington, D.C. Despite ongoing treatment investment, many people are not receiving the treatment they need.

PREVALENCE AND USE

Washington, D.C. residents experience higher rates of **substance use disorder (SUD)** than the national average.



On average, about **1 in 4** people in Washington, D.C. are affected by SUD.¹

(National average - 17%)¹

Past Month Substance Use, 2022-2023



Binge drinking is **higher** in Washington, D.C. (31.9%) compared to the national average (21.7%).¹



Illicit drug use is **higher** in Washington, D.C. (24.1%) compared to the national average (15.9%).¹



Marijuana use is **higher** in Washington, D.C. (21.6%) compared to the national average (14.5%).¹



Opioid misuse is **similar** in Washington, D.C. (3.2%) to the national average (3.2%).¹

THE HUMAN IMPACT

Among Washington, D.C. residents



47% report knowing someone with SUD.² (broad DMV area residents)



36% report that neighborhood drug activity has changed the way their family lives.³

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT



Opioid use disorder is estimated to have cost Washington, D.C.

\$13 Billion

in 2024.⁴

Washington, D.C. is working to expand substance use treatment access, but major gaps remain.



In 2024, Washington, D.C. had the **lowest** residential treatment bed capacity (9 treatment beds per 100,000) in the nation.⁵



The District's treatment system emphasizes outpatient care, medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), and community-based behavioral health services rather than large inpatient or residential treatment infrastructure.⁶



Washington, D.C. is expanding stabilization and recovery-oriented services. In 2023, the first stabilization center opened, exceeding **1,000 admissions** within its first few months.⁷

Despite new investments, about **8 in 10** people with SUD still do not receive the care they need.¹

¹Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.). NSDUH state estimates: State data. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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

³Drug Strategies. (1998). City views on drug abuse: A Washington, DC survey. Peter D. Hart Research Associates

⁴Avalere Health. (2025, May). The cost of opioid addiction: Opioid use disorder in the United States.

⁵Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2025). National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS): 2024 data on substance use and mental health treatment facilities. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁶District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health. (n.d.). DC Stabilization Center. Government of the District of Columbia.

⁷Portnoy, J. (2024, February 13). D.C. sobering center sees over 1,000 admissions in its opening months. The Washington Post.