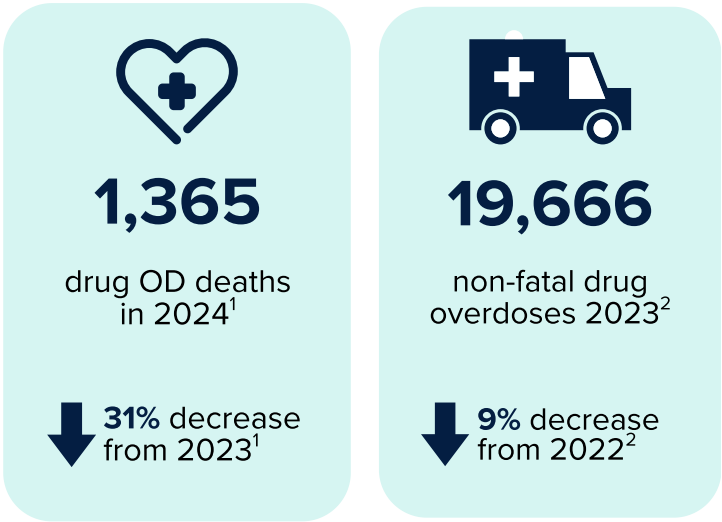


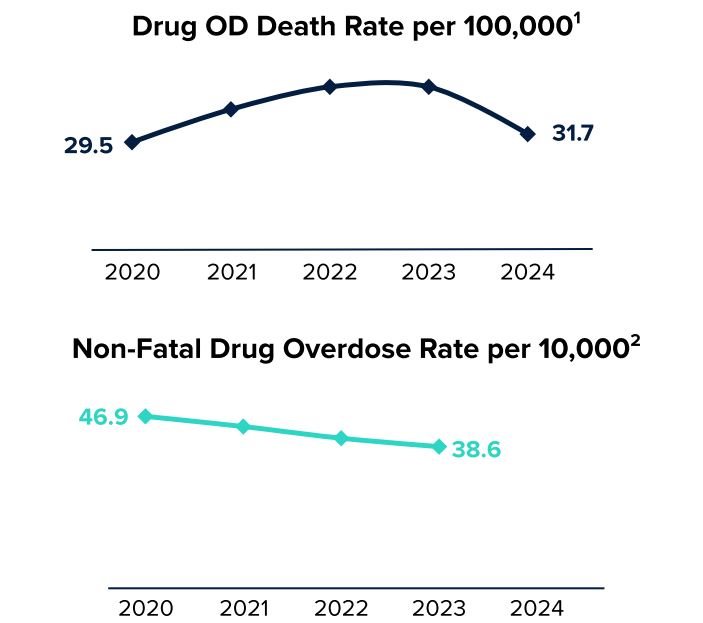
Cook County fatal and non-fatal overdoses are declining - but its still a major public health issue.

Although drug overdoses (OD) are declining, they remain a leading cause of accidental death and continue to disproportionately impact Cook County residents.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS



TRENDS OVER TIME



Note: 2024 non-fatal overdose death rate was not available at time of reporting.



These declines reflect real progress, but drug overdose continues to impact thousands of Cook County residents each year.

Most fatal and non-fatal drug ODs are **opioid-related** and continue to be driven predominantly by **fentanyl**.

88%

of drug OD deaths involved opioids.³

48%

of non-fatal ODs involved opioids.²

Overdose does not affect everyone equally.



MEN

Have fatal and non-fatal OD rates nearly **3.5 times** than women.^{1,2}



BLACK/AA RESIDENTS

Have the **highest** fatal and non-fatal OD death rates among all racial or ethnic groups.^{1,2}



OLDER ADULTS

Adults 55-64 have the **highest** fatal and non-fatal OD rates compared to all other age groups.^{1,2}

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Mortality 2018-2024 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2026

²Illinois Department of Public Health. (n.d.). Overdose data dashboard. State of Illinois.

³Cook County Government. (2025, January 3). Opioid overdose deaths, homicides, suicides and overall medical examiner caseload drop in Cook County. Cook County, Illinois.

Substance Use, Impact, and Treatment in Illinois



Substance use continues to affect many individuals and families in Illinois. Despite new statewide investments, many people are not receiving the treatment they need.

PREVALENCE AND USE

Illinois residents experience similar rates of **substance use disorder (SUD)** to the national average.



On average, about **1 in 6** people in Illinois had SUD within the past year.¹

(Similar to the national average - 17%)¹

Past Month Substance Use, 2021-2023



Binge drinking is **higher** in Illinois (24.8%) compared to the national average (21.7%).¹



Illicit drug use is **higher** in Illinois (17.4%) compared to the national average (15.9%).¹



Marijuana use is **higher** in Illinois (16.3%) compared to the national average (14.5%).¹



Opioid misuse is **similar** in Illinois (3.1%) compared to the national average (3.2%).¹

THE HUMAN IMPACT

Among Illinois residents



47% report knowing someone with SUD.²



51% report that opioid use is a 'big problem' in their community.³

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT



Opioid use disorder is estimated to have cost Illinois

\$187 Billion

in 2024.⁴

Illinois faces significant gaps in treatment access.



Nearly half of Illinois behavioral health survey respondents reported that insurance coverage (44.5%) and treatment costs (46.4%) made it difficult to access care.⁵



Illinois ranks **38th nationally** with only 19 treatment beds per 100,000 residents - much lower than the national average (35).⁶



In 2024, Illinois was selected as one of 10 states to participate in the **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Medicaid Demonstration Program**.⁷

Despite new statewide investments, nearly 80% of people with SUD still do not receive the care they need.⁸

¹Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Behavioral Health Barometer, Illinois, Volume 8, 2021-2023

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

³Pickett, S., Powell, K., Lang, D., & Carpenter, J. (n.d.). Illinois opioid crisis community survey results. Illinois Department of Human Services.

⁴Avalere 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

⁵Illinois Behavioral Health Workforce Center. (2024). Behavioral health needs assessment (BHNA). University of Illinois Chicago.

⁶Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2025). 2024 National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS): State profile - New York. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

⁷Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2024). HHS expands Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Medicaid demonstration program.

⁸Substance 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>