



MIDWEST HIDTA 2025 MISSOURI OVERDOSE REPORT



Background Information

The results of the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) 2025 Threat Assessment revealed that fentanyl and methamphetamine were again the top two drug threats to the region.^[1] This conclusion was made utilizing Midwest HIDTA initiative responses to a law enforcement survey (LES) and public health partner responses to the public health survey (PHS), as well as drug trend and other related information collected over the past 12 months. This is the third year in a row that fentanyl was ranked as the number one drug threat.

Ongoing Causes for Concern

- Law enforcement initiatives in the Midwest HIDTA identify fentanyl as the region's primary drug concern. As the dominant synthetic opioid, fentanyl creates major risks in the area through its connection to criminal activity, widespread accessibility, and elevated overdose potential.^[1]
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) laboratory testing in 2024, revealed 5 out of 10 fentanyl-laced counterfeit prescription pills now contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl, down from 7 out of 10 in 2023.^[2]
- Fentanyl will likely continue to be the greatest driver of drug poisoning deaths. Adulterants such as xylazine and medetomidine are of great concern in the Midwest HIDTA area of responsibility (AOR) and will continue to be, especially as they have an increased impact on poisoning deaths in the region.^[1]
- The trend continues of mixing fentanyl and other synthetic opioids into other drugs in the region's illicit drug supply, specifically cocaine and methamphetamine, as reported by both law enforcement and public health agencies.^[1]
- Methamphetamine will continue to pose a significant threat to the region with its high levels of demand, use, and its transportation to and through the region.^[1]
- Low-cost, high potency methamphetamine transported from the Southwest Border continues to saturate both rural and metropolitan drug markets, exemplified by methamphetamine being ranked the most available drug in the Midwest HIDTA AOR by LES respondents.^[1]
- The level of violence and crime surrounding methamphetamine production, trafficking, and use will also remain a threat to both law enforcement officials and the public.^[1]

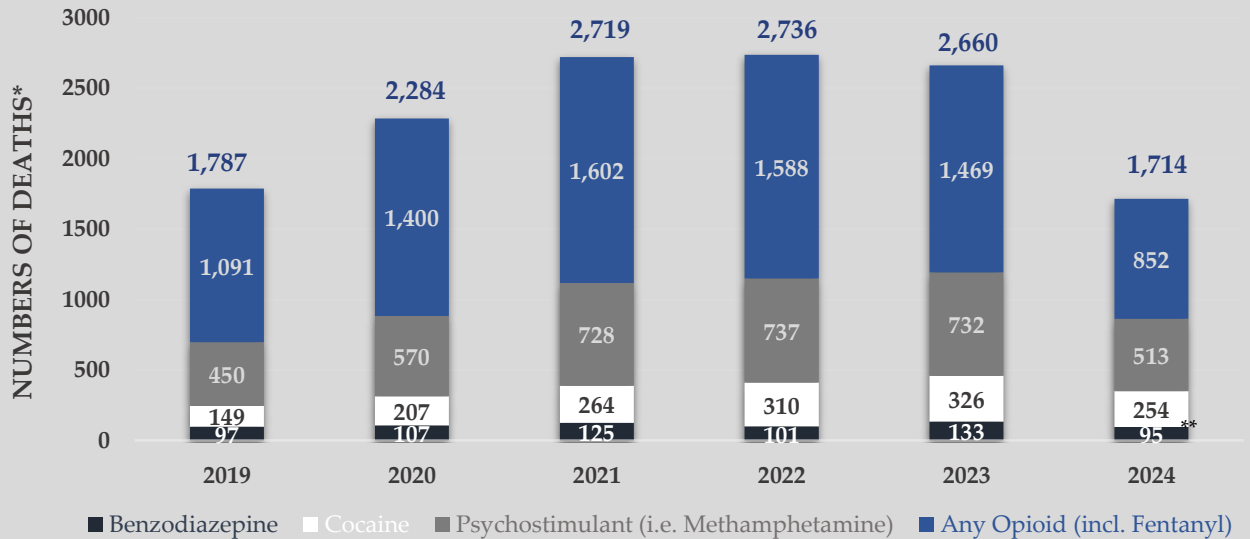
Missouri Outlook

The LES and PHS responses for Missouri coincided with the overall Midwest HIDTA results, ranking fentanyl as the primary threat and methamphetamine as the secondary threat in the state. The majority of Missouri LES responses also indicated the availability and usage of fentanyl, in both pill and powder form, and methamphetamine in the state were all considered to be "high."^[1]

Missouri National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey – 2023

As of March 31, 2023, there were 246 substance use treatment facilities in Missouri, 200 of which were private non-profit (81.3%), 40 private for-profit (16.3%), 2 state government (0.8%), and 3 federally operated (1.2%). These facilities were treating 17,637 clients, the majority of which were on an outpatient basis, 16,740 (94.9%). These facilities may accept more than 1 type of payment, the following are some of the payment options: cash or self-payment 92.3% (227), private health insurance 79.3% (195), Medicare 63.8% (157), Medicaid 79.3% (195), and treatment at no charged or minimal payment for clients who could not pay 61% (150).^[3]

Missouri Resident Overdose Deaths Top 4 Drug Categories From 2019 to 2024 ^[4]



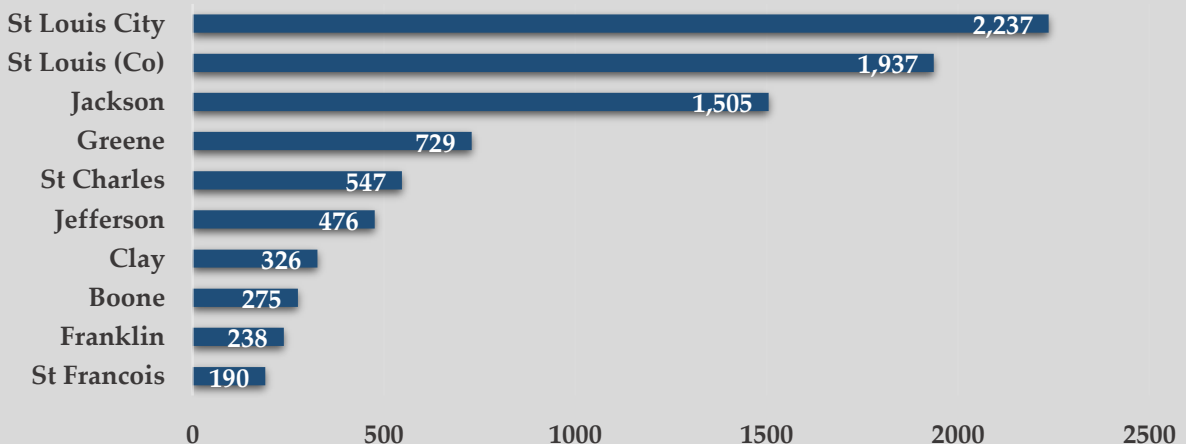
Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC) WONDER

*Deaths can be counted in more than 1 category due to polysubstance use

**Provisional Numbers

- Cocaine overdose deaths increased 70.5% (149 to 254) from 2019 to 2024; the highest annual % increase was from 2019/2020, 38.9% (149 to 207) ^[4]
- Any opioid deaths increased 34.6% (1,091 to 1,469) from 2019 to 2023, but showed a provisional decrease of 42% (1,469 to 852) from 2023 to 2024; 94% of the 2023 deaths were attributed to synthetic opioids (1,381 of 1,469) ^[4]
- Psychostimulant overdoses deaths increased 62.7% (450 to 732) from 2019 to 2023; provisional numbers indicate a 29.9% decrease (732 to 513) from 2023 to 2024 ^[4]
- From 2019 to 2023, the overall overdose deaths increased 48.9% (1,787 to 2,660) with a provisional decline of 35.6% (2,660 to 1,714) from 2023 to 2024 ^[4]

Top 10 Counties- Highest Mortality Counts - All Drugs - 2019-2024 ^[4]



Source: CDC WONDER

Missouri Overdose Deaths by Region – All Drugs – 2020-2024^[4] ^[5]



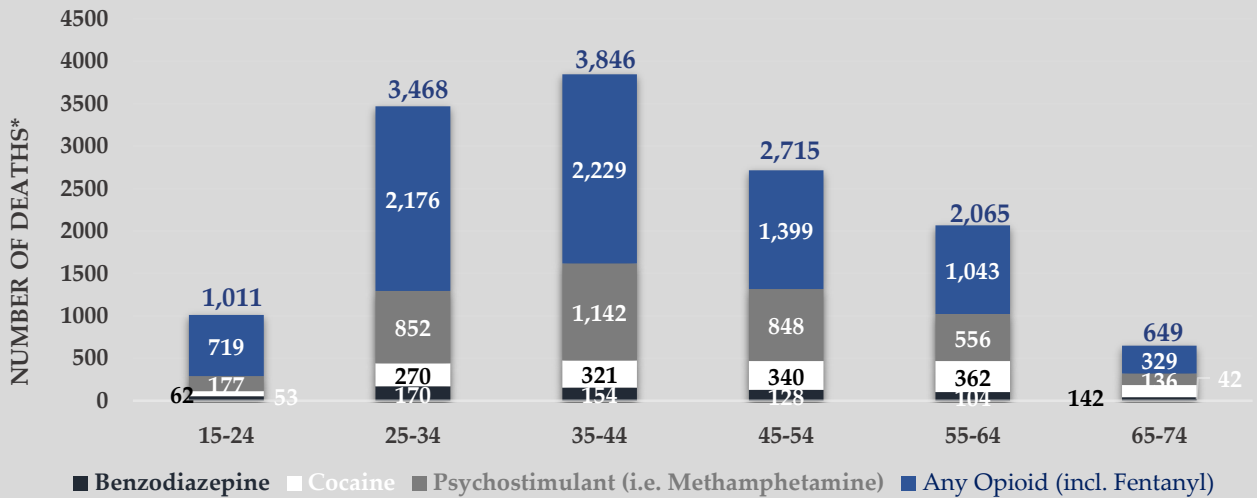
Source: Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Region	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	TOTAL	% CHANGE 2023/2024
Central	171	215	190	191	113	880	-40.8%
Kansas City	289	391	461	424	375	1,940	- 11.6%
North	60	82	88	82	60	372	- 26.8%
Southeast	100	92	102	82	58	434	- 29.3%
Southwest	193	275	251	241	180	1,140	- 25.3%
St Louis	1,065	1,108	1,088	921	613	4,795	- 33.4%
TOTAL	1,878	2,163	2,180	1,941	1,399	9,561	- 27.9%

Source: 2020-2023 numbers from Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) / 2024 Data from CDC WONDER site as 2024 numbers not available from MDHSS *Numbers are provisional

- From 2023 to 2024, there was a reduction in the number of overdose deaths in each of the six regions. The Central Region had the greatest percentage decrease, 40.8 percent (191 to 113), followed by the St Louis Region, which had a decrease of 33.4 percent (921 to 613). The total overall numbers from 2023 to 2024 decreased by 27.9 percent (1,941 to 1,399), though the 2024 numbers are provisional and could increase.^[4]

Missouri Resident Overdose Death Rates by Age Group - Top 4 Drug Categories 2019-2024 ^[4]

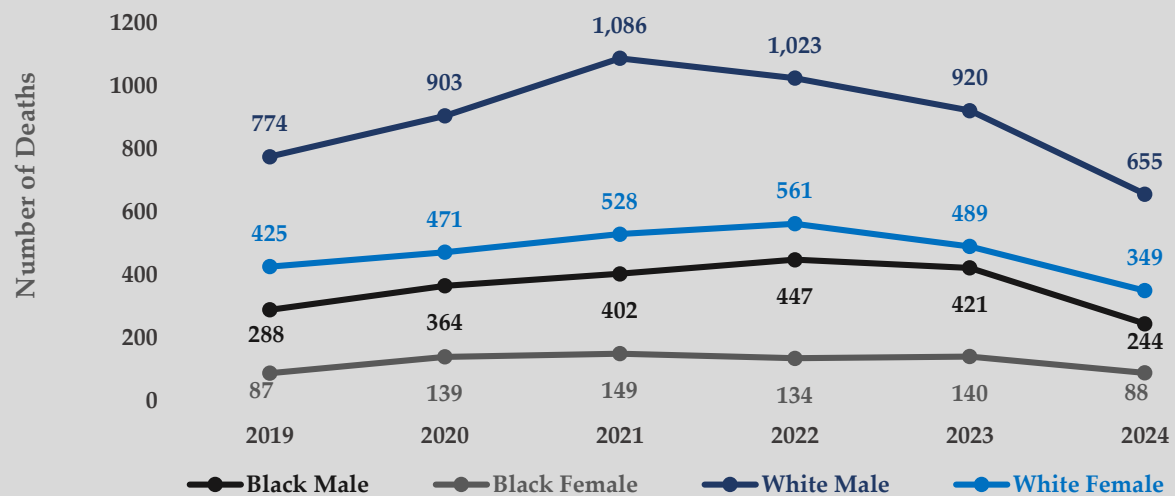


Source: CDC WONDER

*Deaths can be counted in more than 1 category due to polysubstance use

- There is a 221% difference in benzodiazepine overdose fatalities between age groups 15-24 and 25-34 (53 to 170). ^[4]
- There is a 336% difference in cocaine overdose fatalities between age groups 15-24 and 25-34 (62 to 270). ^[4]
- There is a 381% difference in psychostimulant overdose fatalities (including methamphetamine) between age groups 15-24 and 25-34 (177 to 852). ^[4]
- There is a 203% difference in opioid overdose fatalities (including fentanyl) between age groups 15-24 and 25-34 (719 to 2,176). ^[4]

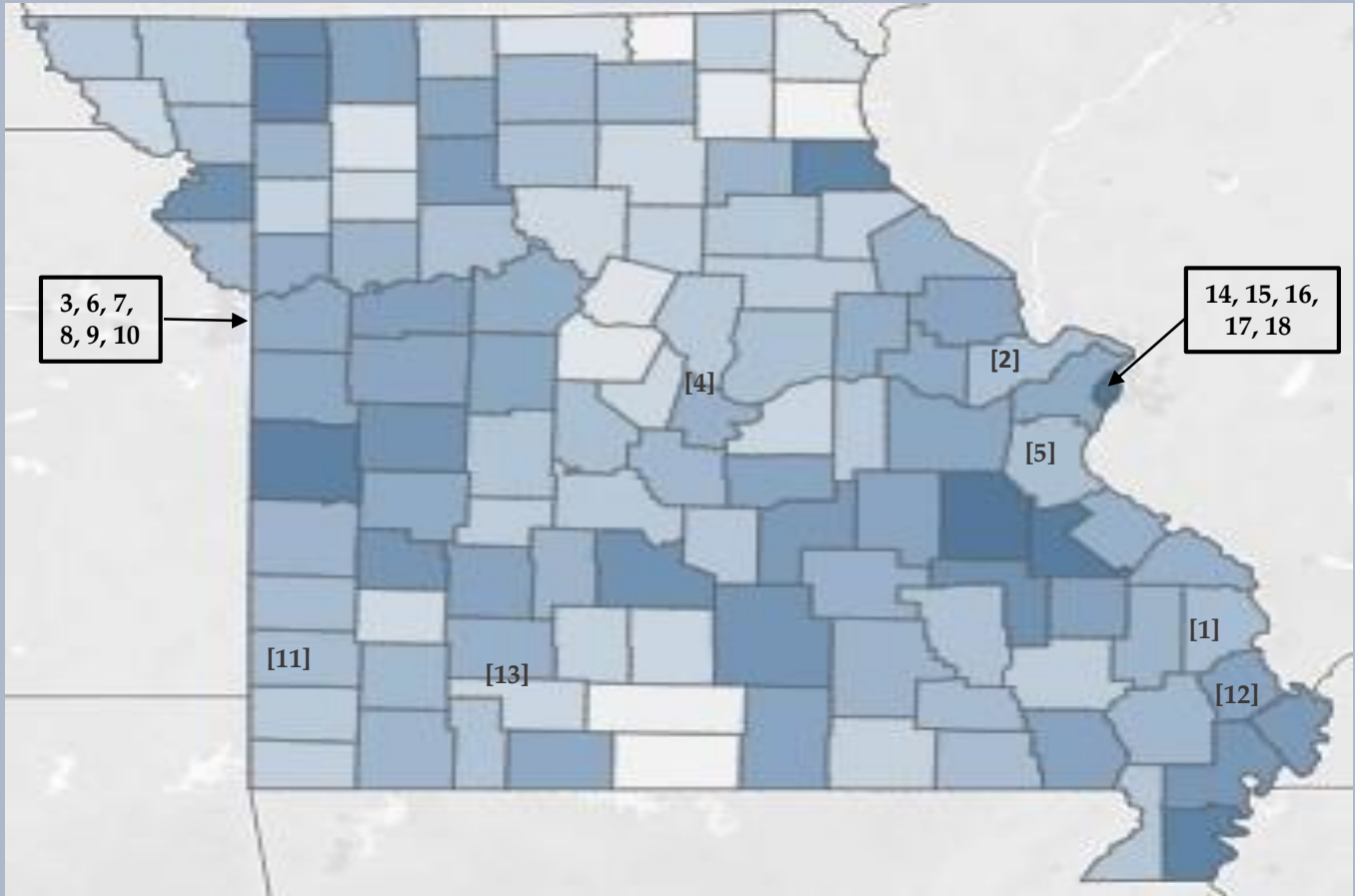
Missouri Overdose Deaths - Gender & Race - 2019 to 2024 ^[4]



Source: CDC WONDER

- Black male overdose deaths increased 46.2% (288 to 421) from 2019 to 2023, provisional numbers indicate a 42% decrease (421 to 244) from 2023 to 2024 ^[4]
- Black female overdose deaths increased 60.9% (87 to 140) from 2019 to 2023, provisional numbers indicate a 37.1% decrease (140 to 88) from 2023 to 2024 ^[4]

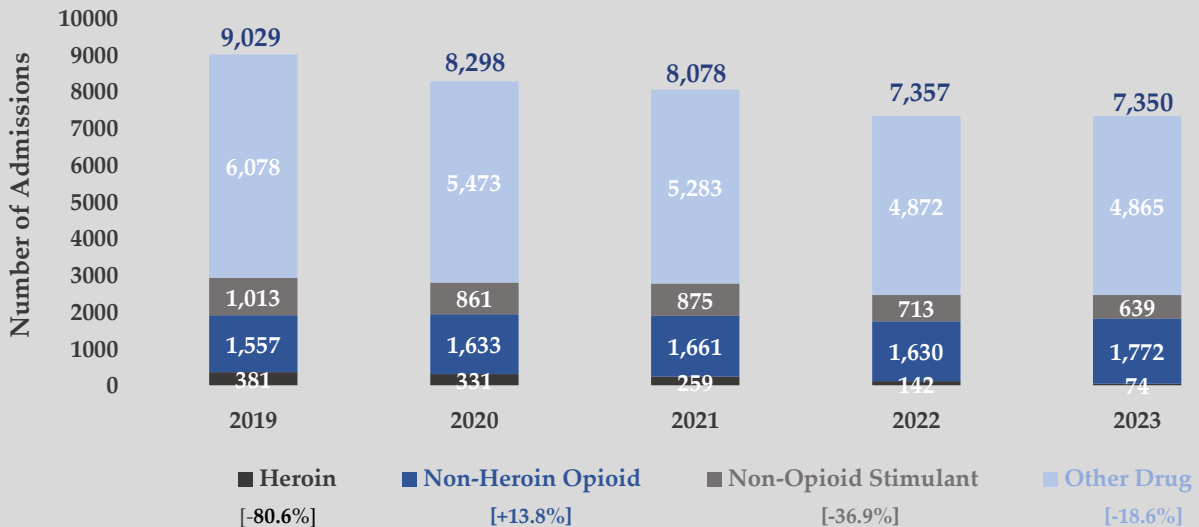
Missouri HIDTA Initiative Drug Seizures 2023-2024 ^[6]



HIDTA INITIATIVE	SEIZED DRUG - YEAR - AMOUNT								
	FENTANYL (GRAMS)			FENTANYL PILLS (GRAMS)			METH/ICE (GRAMS)		
(Does not include non-HIDTA seizures)	2023	2024	TOTAL	2023	2024	TOTAL	2023	2024	TOTAL
1 - CAPE GIRARDEAU DEA DTF	1,823	935	2,758	547	179	726	3,935	2,401	6,336
2 - FRANKLIN COUNTY NEU	1,745	463	2,208	4	0	4	2,931	3,066	5,997
3 - JACKSON COUNTY DTF	13,838	1,218	15,056	5,305	9,593	14,898	162,730	189,106	351,836
4 - JEFFERSON CITY DEA TF	11	158	169	659	3	662	1,730	33,692	35,422
5 - JEFFERSON COUNTY MEG	390	154	544	397	2,173	2,570	4,469	7,704	12,173
6 - KC DEA INTERDICTION	2,123	16,234	18,357	7,194	6,380	13,574	96,611	95,791	192,402
7 - KC DEA NORTHLAND DTF	14,503	678	15,181	36	1,813	1,849	25,750	16,990	42,740
8 - KC FBI COMBINED TF	52,169	902	53,071	4,603	292	4,895	230,348	128,205	358,553
9 - KCMO METRO TF	45,105	15,350	60,455	14,360	20,177	34,537	228,370	239,794	468,164
10 - KC/OVERLAND PARK DEA TF	17,628	9,278	26,906	23,962	16,167	40,129	78,600	103,623	182,223
11 - OZARK DET	2,957	1,595	4,552	68	7,223	7,291	8,202	63,600	71,802
12 - SOUTHEAST MO DTF	84	730	814	989	2,373	3,362	21,304	33,210	54,514
13 - SPRINGFIELD DEA TF	6,341	5,515	11,856	0	982	982	43,213	91,406	134,619
14 - SAINT CHARLES COUNTY DTF	31,436	4,538	35,974	207	1,112	1,319	58,410	43,327	101,737
15 - SAINT LOUIS COUNTY MJDET	61,334	18,123	79,457	0	0	0	71,796	205,370	277,166
16 - SAINT LOUIS DEA GROUP 37	14,340	8,530	22,870	522	0	522	42,645	49,288	91,933
17 - ST LOUIS DEA VIOLENT TRAFFICKERS TF	4,931	8,908	13,839	11,234	2,571	13,805	12,464	169,671	182,135
18 - SAINT LOUIS FBI SQUAD 5	6,294	3,374	9,668	0	0	0	3,598	52,002	55,600
TOTALS	277,052	96,683	373,735	70,087	71,038	141,125	1,097,106	1,528,246	2,625,352

➤ In 2023 & 2024 these initiatives seized approximately **187,000,000** potentially lethal doses of fentanyl.^[6]

Missouri Resident Overdose Inpatient Visits* 2019 to 2023 / Overall Reduction of 18.6% ^[7]



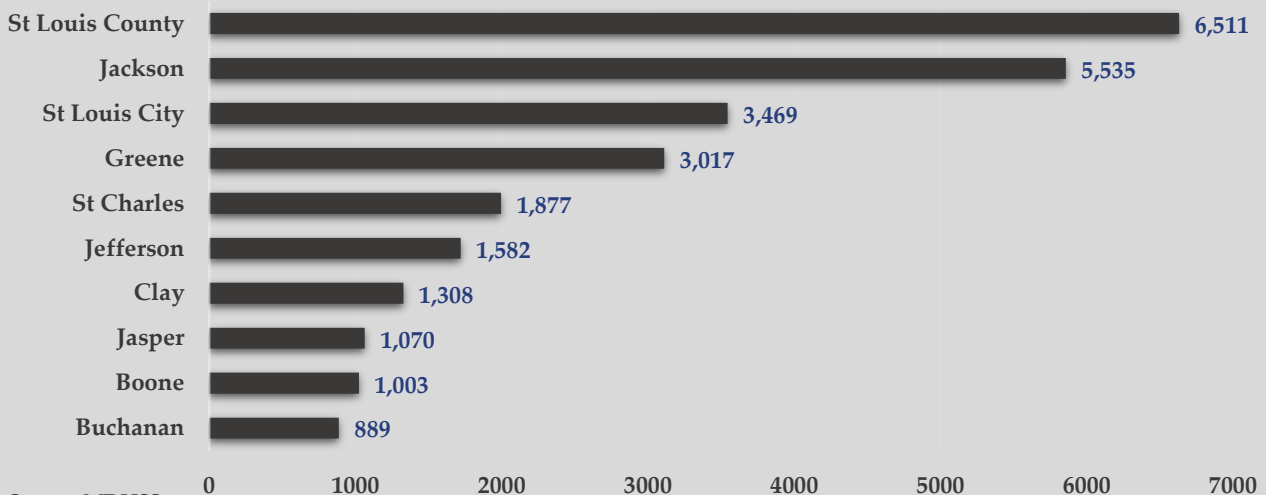
Source: MDHSS

* Patient admitted and spent at least 1 night in hospital

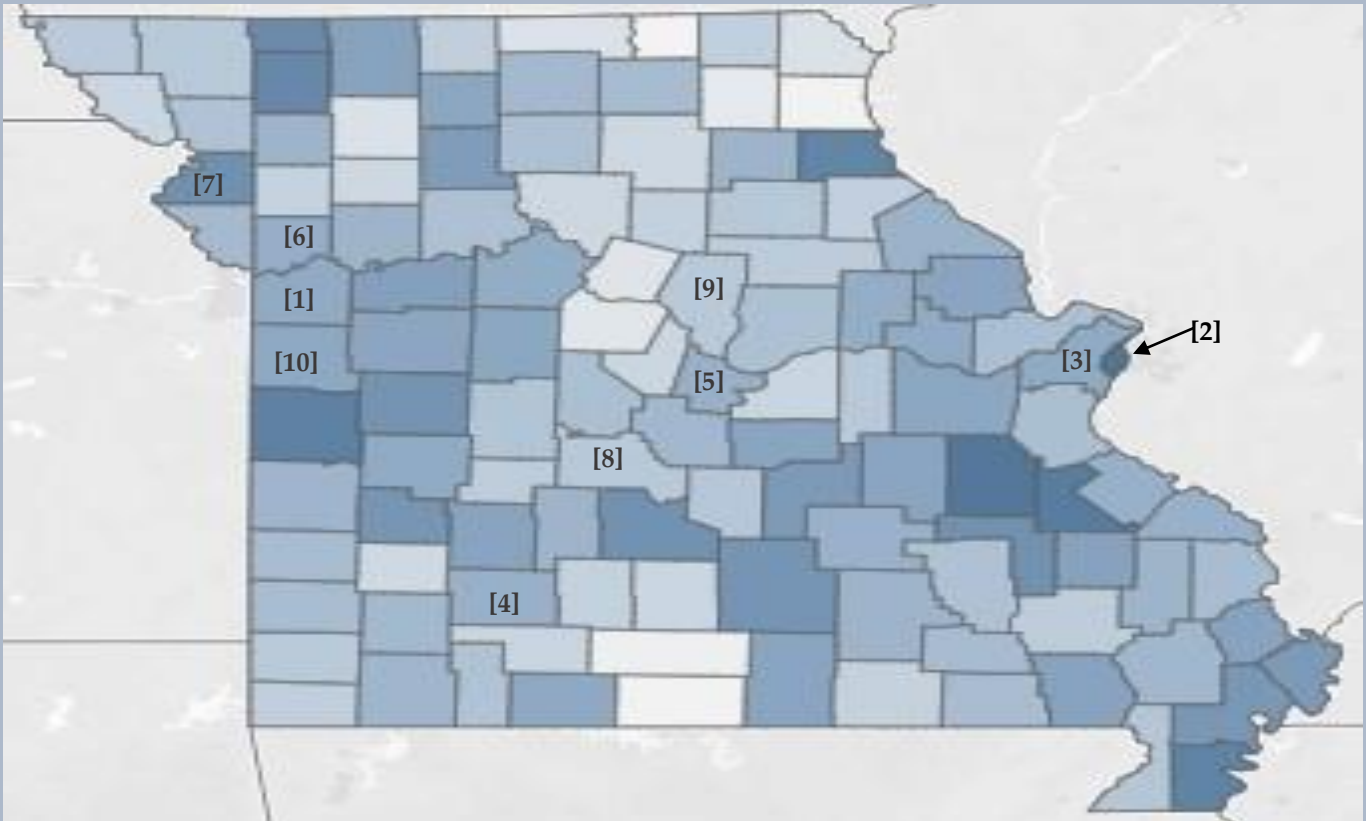
Missouri Resident Overdose Inpatient Visits Age & Drug Type- 2019-2023 ^[7]

- Age Group < 15: 2,573 overdoses (2,252 other drug, 319 non-heroin opioid, 2 heroin)
- Age Group 15-24: 7,530 overdoses (6,604 other drug, 803 non-heroin opioid, 123 heroin)
- Age Group 25-34: 6,099 overdoses (4,170 other drug, 1,487 non-heroin opioid, 442 heroin)
- Age Group 35-44: 5,526 overdoses (3,829 other drug, 1,406 non-heroin opioid, 291 heroin)
- Age Group 45-54: 4,829 overdoses (3,539 other drug, 1,141 non-heroin opioid, 149 heroin)
- Age Group 55-64: 4,903 overdoses (3,152 other drug, 1,605 non-heroin opioid, 146 heroin)
- Age Group 65+ : 4,761 overdoses (3,203 other drug, 1,520 non-heroin opioid, 38 heroin)

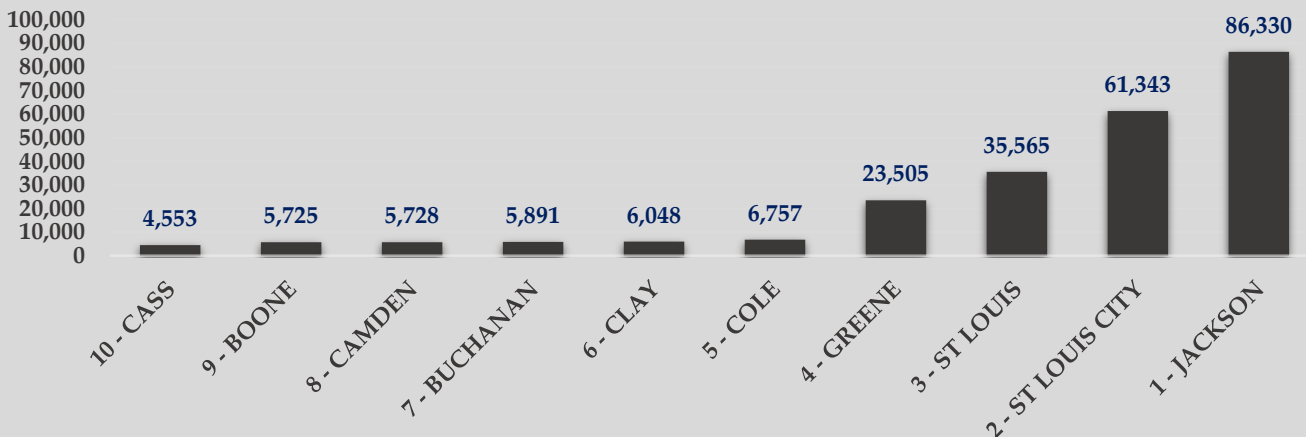
Top 10 Counties with the Highest Inpatient Visits - All Drug Types - 2019-2023 ^[7]



Source: MDHSS



Top 10 Counties Naloxone Kits Supplied to in Fiscal Year 2024 by MIMH-AST* [8]



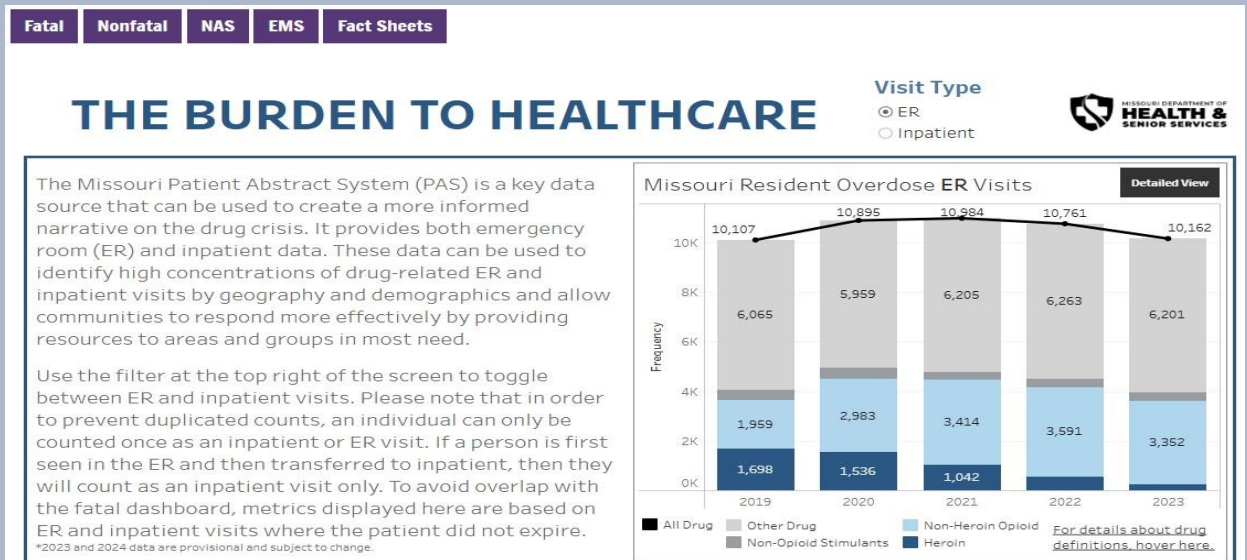
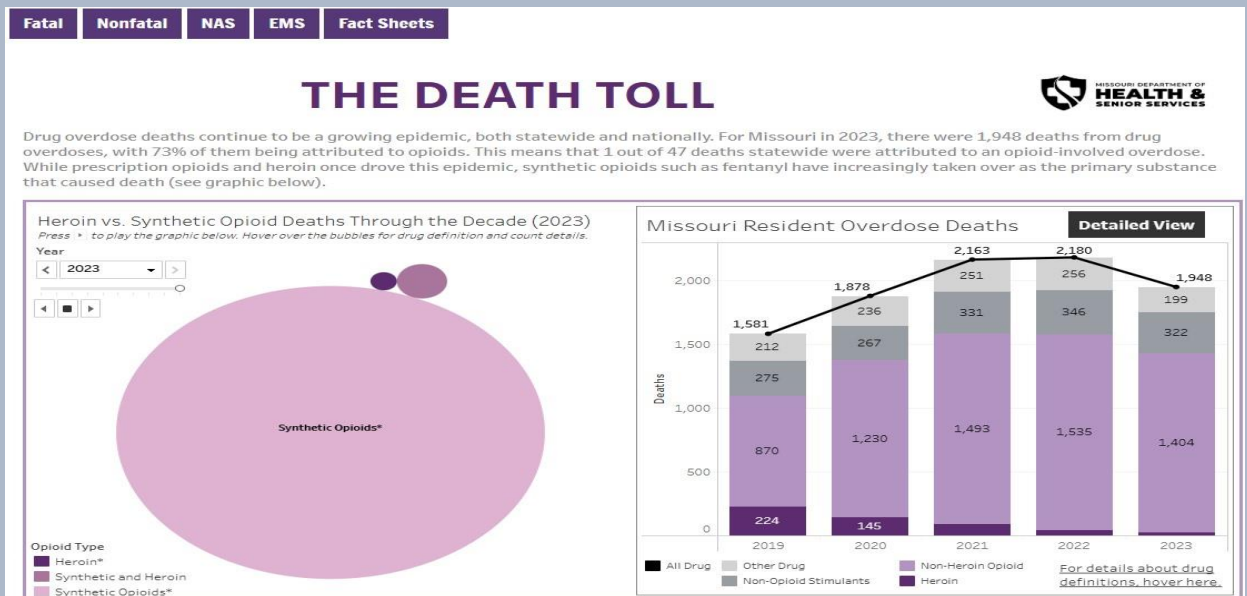
*MISSOURI INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SCIENCE TEAM

- Of these 10 counties, 6 of the 10 were also included on the list of Top 10 Counties with the highest death counts (exceptions Buchanan, Camden, Cass, and Cole), and 7 out of 10 were in the Top 10 Counties for Inpatient Visits (exceptions Camden, Cass, and Cole). [8]
- In Fiscal Year 2024 (07-01-2023 to 06-30-2024) MIMH-AST distributed 300,230 Naloxone Kits to 1,295 different agencies in Missouri. [8]
- Naloxone kits were distributed to 111 of Missouri's 114 counties, plus the city of St Louis, which functions as a county equivalent. [8]

The Missouri Overdose Response Strategy (ORS) Team strives to meet its mission by working closely with numerous partners from both Public Health and Public Safety. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is one of those tremendous partners.

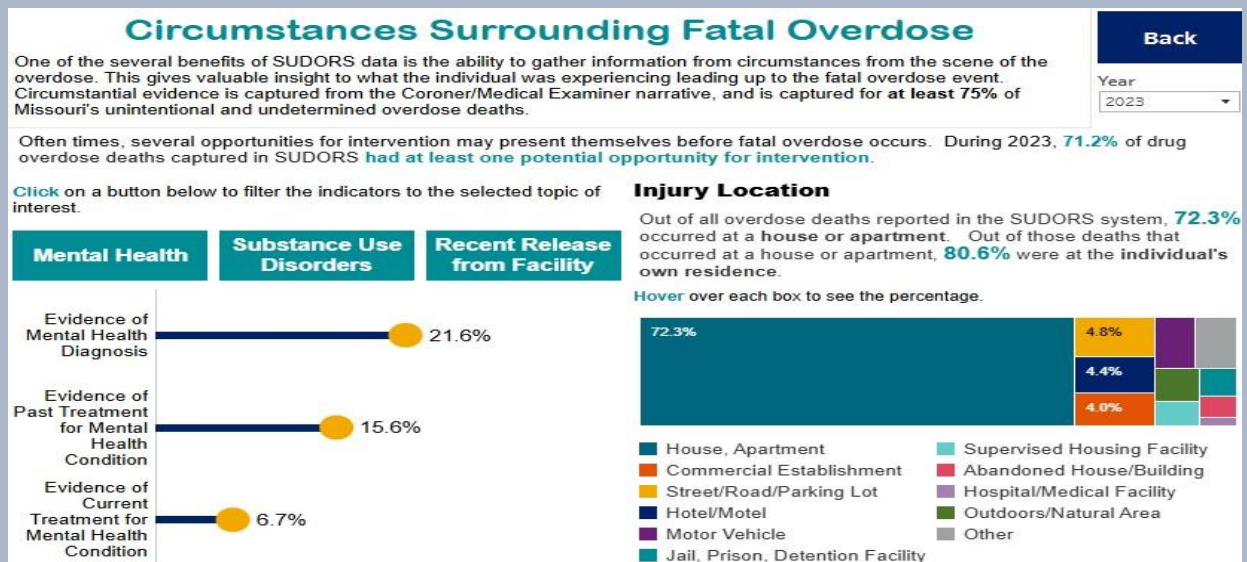
DHSS utilizes an [interactive dashboard](#), showing data regarding both fatal and nonfatal overdoses, where they occurred in the state and the demographic makeup of those who overdosed. The dashboard also has tabs that allow the user to view data on neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), and naloxone use statistics provided by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This extensive data sharing effort allows both public health and public safety partners to engage in effective community overdose prevention efforts.

Screenshots of DHSS Drug Overdose Dashboard



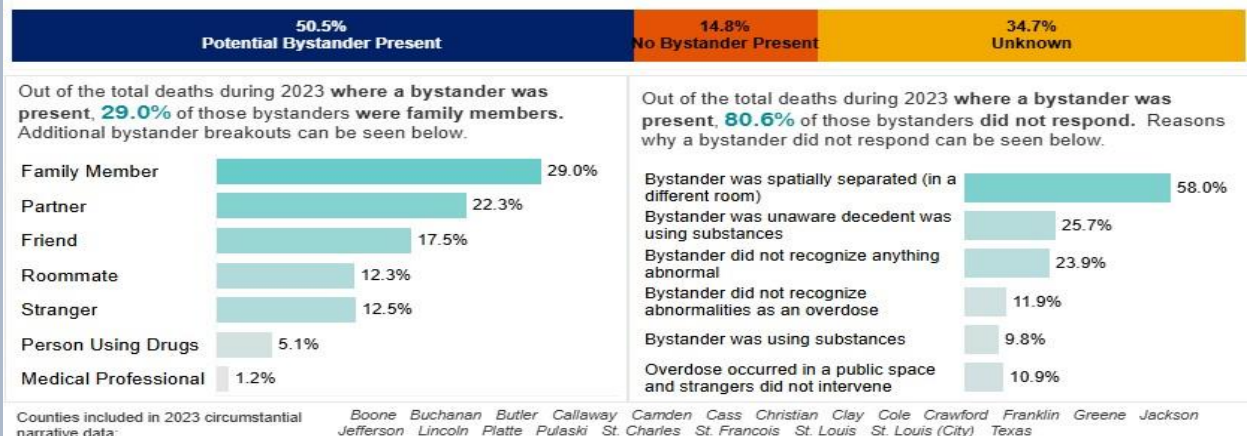
In 2025, DHSS initiated the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) [dashboard](#), funded through an Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) grant, administered by the CDC. This grant enables Missouri DHSS to collaborate with medical examiners and coroners across the state to collect detailed information about the circumstances and context surrounding drug overdose deaths that are classified as accidental/undetermined intent; SUDORS monitors approximately 75% of these drug-related fatalities in Missouri. Since participation is optional, statewide coverage remains incomplete. The SUDORS dashboard provides access to data pertaining to demographics, circumstances around the overdose, bystander presence, and drug types that caused the overdose.

Screenshots of SUDORS Dashboard



Bystander Presence

Bystanders play a crucial role in preventing a drug overdose death as the overdose is occurring. The data below shows that during 2023, **50.5%** of overdose deaths captured within SUDORS data **had a potential bystander present**, meaning an individual was nearby that could have intervened. Additional data can be seen below, indicating the most common type of bystander present, as well as common reasons why a bystander did not respond. Identifying individuals who are most commonly at the scene of the overdose can help pinpoint priority populations for overdose prevention & education. By educating these individuals and providing the tools needed to identify a potential overdose, future drug overdose deaths could be prevented.





REFERENCES:

1. Midwest HIDTA 2025 Threat Assessment Report; Midwest HIDTA Intelligence Support Center; pages 4, 11-29.
2. Drug Enforcement Administration, Press Release (December 16, 2024), *Overdose Deaths Decline, Fentanyl Threat Looms*; <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2024/12/16/overdose-deaths-decline-fentanyl-threat-looms>.
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey, 2023 Missouri State Profile, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2023-n-sumhss-state-profiles>
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Provisional Mortality on CDC WONDER Online Database. Data are from the final Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2018-2023, and from provisional data for years 2024 and later, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10-provisional.html> in June 2025
5. Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services; Drug Overdose Dashboard- Fatal Overdoses; Accessed at <https://health.mo.gov/data/opioids/index.php> in June 2025
6. Frazier, R. (2025, June), Midwest HIDTA Performance Management Process Data, 2024, Kansas City, Midwest HIDTA; Raw Unpublished Data.
7. Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services; Drug Overdose Dashboard – Nonfatal Overdoses; Accessed at <https://health.mo.gov/data/opioids/nonfatal-overdoses.php> in June 2025
8. Missouri Institute of Mental Health – Addiction Science Team, Annual Naloxone Report Fiscal Year 2024; <https://mimhaddisci.org/reports>