Fentanyl and Opioid Overdose Deaths in New Hampshire

Union of Saints

Public Health Statistics, Community Impact, Drug Trafficking, and Public Safety

Research and Public Information Document
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1. Overview

Fentanyl continues to be a major contributor to fatal drug overdoses in New Hampshire. Although overall overdose deaths have declined, fentanyl and other synthetic opioids remain a significant public safety and public health concern.

In 2024, preliminary medical examiner data reported 282 confirmed drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire. Of those, 135 involved fentanyl alone and another 82 involved fentanyl in combination with other substances.

This represents 217 fentanyl-involved deaths.

2. New Hampshire overdose statistics

Year	Reported opioid-related deaths
2020	357
2021	404
2022	427
2023	386
2024	242*

These figures are from the earlier opioid-specific reporting series and should not be confused with all-drug overdose totals or later revised estimates.

In 2024, fentanyl was involved in 217 of the 282 confirmed drug overdose deaths reported in the March 2025 medical examiner update.

3. Free news articles and reporting

Article 1: NH sees largest decline in drug-related deaths, study shows

New Hampshire Public Radio — October 1, 2025

Discusses New Hampshire's decline in drug-related deaths, prevention programs, treatment services, and state funding.

https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2025-10-01/nh-sees-largest-decline-in-drug-related-deaths-study-shows

Article 2: National Fentanyl Awareness Day highlights opioid overdose concerns in New Hampshire

WMUR — April 30, 2026

Examines the continuing effects of fentanyl in New Hampshire, including suspected opioid overdoses in Manchester and Nashua and the work of recovery organizations.

https://www.wmur.com/article/fentanyl-awareness-day-nh-opioid-overdoses-042926/71170356

Article 3: CDC reports overdose deaths falling nationwide, including in New Hampshire

WMUR — May 14, 2026

Reports on national overdose trends and preliminary information about New Hampshire's 2025 overdose deaths.

https://www.wmur.com/article/cdc-overdose-deaths-drop-nationwide-05132026/71301326

Article 4: Number of New Hampshire drug overdose deaths at lowest level in past 10 years

WMUR — December 13, 2024

Examines the availability of Narcan, overdose prevention programs, and the continued presence of fentanyl in illicit drugs.

https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-drug-overdose-deaths-2024/63187682

Article 5: Fentanyl Archives

New Hampshire Bulletin

A collection of reporting on fentanyl, drug enforcement, federal policy, opioid deaths, and public safety.

https://newhampshirebulletin.com/tag/fentanyl/

4. Free research and official data

New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute

Substance Use Disorder Services Funding in New Hampshire.

Provides historical overdose statistics, state spending, prevention funding, county comparisons, and information about treatment and recovery services.

https://nhfpi.org/resource/substance-use-disorder-funding-in-new-hampshire/

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

Official state public health information and substance use resources.

https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National overdose prevention statistics, fentanyl information, and public health research.

https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/

5. Community impact and public safety

The impact of fentanyl extends beyond individual overdose deaths. Communities must also consider the effects on families, emergency medical services, law enforcement, hospitals, schools, and local government resources.

Important areas of public concern include:

- Illicit fentanyl distribution and trafficking.
- Drug contamination and exposure to unexpected synthetic opioids.
- Fatal overdoses involving multiple substances.
- Emergency response demands and access to naloxone.
- Family displacement, financial hardship, and loss of life.
- Community safety and the prevention of drug-related criminal activity.

6. Conclusion

New Hampshire has made measurable progress in reducing fatal drug overdoses. However, the continued presence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids demonstrates the importance of sustained public safety efforts, reliable reporting, community education, and prevention resources.

Understanding the statistics requires looking beyond the total number of deaths. It also requires examining where drugs are entering communities, how distribution networks operate, and how local communities are affected.

Research priority: Continue monitoring fentanyl-specific deaths, county-level overdose trends, drug trafficking investigations, and the effectiveness of public safety and prevention programs.