

Substance	Approx Annual U.S. Deaths	Addiction Potential	Overdose / Lethality Risk	Economic / Social Cost	Production / Market Notes
Cannabis	0 from cannabis overdose	Low–moderate	No known lethal overdose	~\$30B industry; low social cost	High demand; regulated markets
Alcohol	>140,000	Moderate–high	Yes; lethal in high doses	~\$249B burden	Cheap to produce; universal access
Tobacco	>480,000	Very high	Chronic lethal effects	~\$300B burden	Major global commodity
Prescription Opioids	~50,000	Very high	Extremely high overdose risk	Large share of epidemic	Over 100 years prescription history
Illicit Synthetic Opioids (fentanyl)	~73,000+	Extremely high	Extremely high; micrograms lethal	Largest share of overdose deaths	Clandestine production
Heroin	~13,000	High	High overdose risk	High health + legal costs	Often contaminated with fentanyl
Pharmaceuticals (non-opioid)	Thousands	Moderate–high	Moderate–high	Large healthcare burden	Diversion risk
Other Illicit Drugs	Thousands	High	High	High criminal + health costs	Variable purity; illicit trade