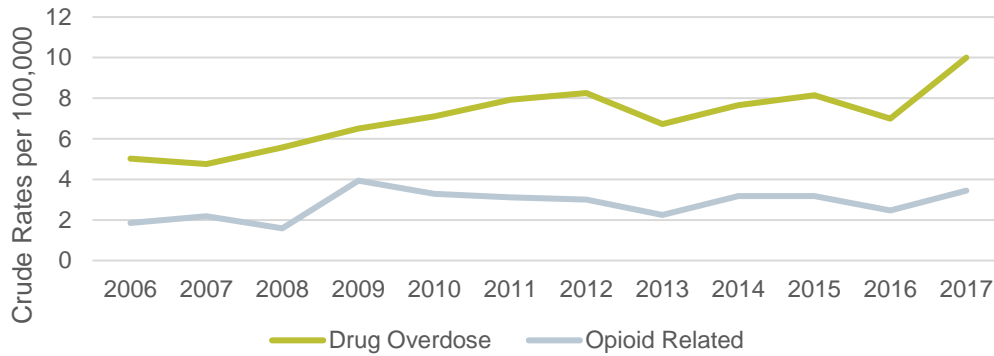


# Nebraska Drug Overdose Deaths Fact Sheet for 2017

## All Drug-Involved and Opioid-Involved Overdose Fatalities, Nebraska, 2006-2017<sup>2</sup>



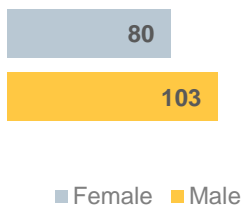
## A National Public Health Crisis Continues

In the United States, 70,237 Americans died from a drug overdose in 2017. Of those, 57.8% involved opioids.<sup>1</sup>

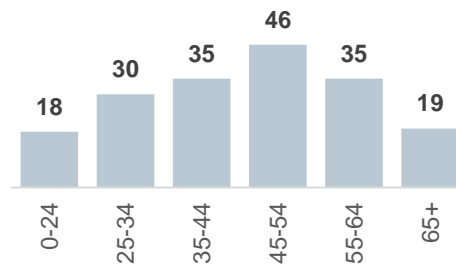
In Nebraska during the same period of time, 183 people died from a drug overdose. Of those, at least 34% involved an opioid (including prescription pain relievers, heroin, fentanyl, or other opioids).<sup>2</sup>

## Number of Deaths by Demographic Characteristics and Intent<sup>2</sup>

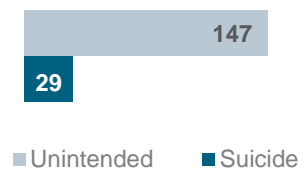
Number by Sex



Number by Age Group

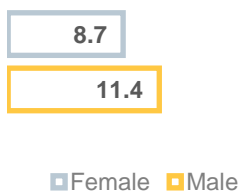


Number by Intent

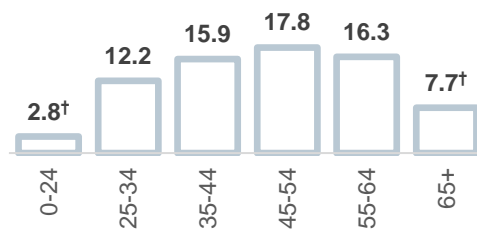


## Death Rate per 100,000 persons by Demographic Characteristics and Intent<sup>2†</sup>

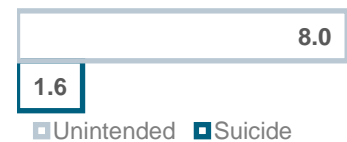
Rate by Sex



Rate by Age Group



Rate by Intent



† Rates provided for groups with numbers less than 20 may be unreliable, these rates are provided for context and should be used with caution.

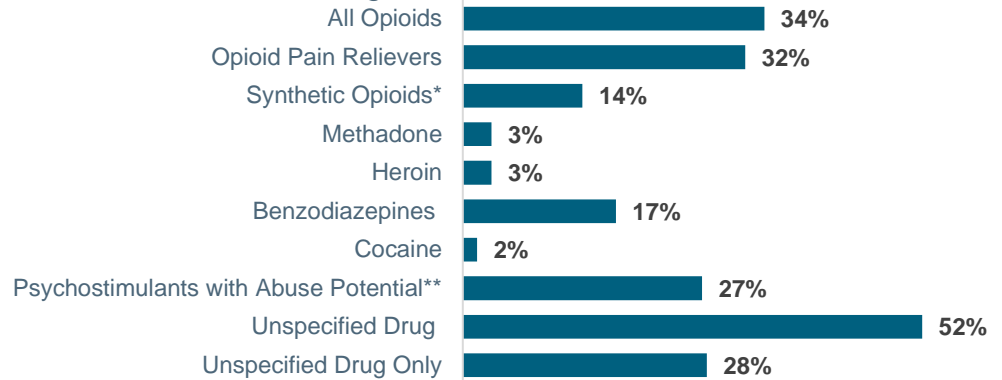
In 2017, 15.8% of all drug overdoses were identified as a suicide or intentional, while the majority were identified as unintentional (80.3%). Females accounted for 43.7% of overdose deaths, while males accounted for 56.8%. Individuals aged 45-54 had the highest death rates of all age categories, followed by those aged 55-64.

## Proportion of Deaths Involving Selected Drugs <sup>2</sup>

### Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 32% of Drug Overdose Deaths

Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 59 (32%) of the 183 drug overdose deaths in 2017. These results may be an undercount, because the percent of drug overdose deaths that had only unspecified drug(s) listed as contributing to the death accounted for 28% percent in 2017.

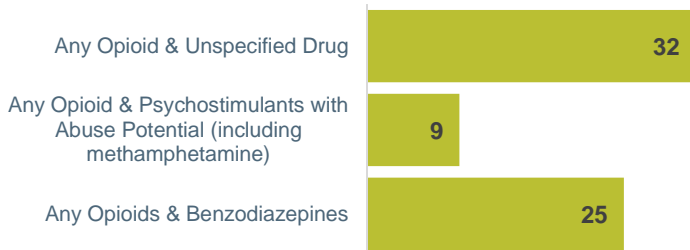
### Proportion of Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Selected Drugs<sup>‡</sup>, Nebraska, 2017 <sup>2</sup>



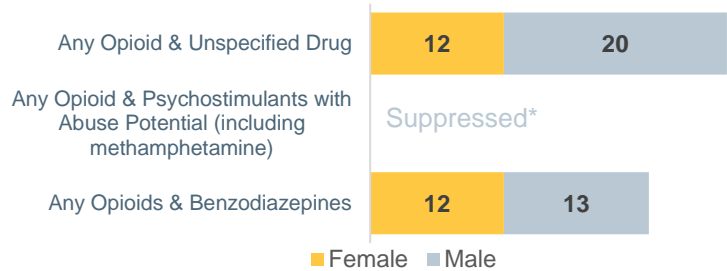
<sup>‡</sup> Categories are not mutually exclusive \* Includes fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, & similar drugs \*\*Includes prescription stimulants, methamphetamine, & similar drugs

## Number of Deaths Involving Selected Drug Combinations <sup>2</sup> †

### Selected Drug Combinations



### Selected Drug Combination by Sex



<sup>†</sup> Categories are not mutually exclusive \* Data is suppressed if the number of deaths for the group are less than 5.

## Addressing the Issue in Nebraska



Nebraska DHHS in collaboration with CyncHealth have implemented the statewide **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**, a tool that collects dispensed prescription information. The tool is to help prevent the misuse of controlled substances and for patient safety.

[www.dhhs.ne.gov/PDMP](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/PDMP)

Narcan is a nasal spray of Naloxone that can help counteract an opioid overdose. Nebraskans can receive Narcan at a participating pharmacy for free without a prescription. **Stop Overdose Nebraska** provides education about NARCAN and where to obtain it.

[www.stopodne.com](http://www.stopodne.com)



**Nebraska MEDS Coalition**  
Medication Education for Disposal Strategies

The **Nebraska MEDS Coalition** has received funding to implement a Statewide Medication Disposal Initiative to reduce the availability of unused medication that may result in unintentional poisoning or illegal use and to provide education.

[www.nebraskameds.org](http://www.nebraskameds.org)

Nebraska DHHS in collaboration with an expert advisory task force, actively practicing providers, and senior state officials have developed a **guidance document for clinicians** who are helping people live better lives. The document promotes consistent, safe and effective pain management practices to assist in making clinical decisions easier, ensure patient safety, & provide effective options to treat pain.

[www.dhhs.ne.gov/PDMP](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/PDMP)



**Nebraska Pain Management Guidance Document**  
A Provider and Community Resource



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths — United States, 2013–2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;67:1419–1427

2. Nebraska Vital Statistics data, 2006-2017.

Notes: Data is suppressed if number of individuals in a group are less than 5. Rates provided for groups with numbers less than 20 may be unreliable, these are provided for context and should be used with caution.