

## NC Opioid Settlements Dashboard Technical Notes

The purpose of this Technical Notes document is to provide more specific information about each indicator (opioid indicators and community drivers of health indicators), including any limitations or changes with data sources.

### ***Opioid Indicators***

#### **Overdose Deaths**

- Metrics track all medication and drug deaths.
- These all-intent medication and drug overdose deaths are defined as having a primary cause of death via ICD-10 codes X40-X44 (unintentional), X60-X64 (self-inflicted), X85 (assault), or Y10-Y14 (undetermined).
- Data are limited to North Carolina resident deaths and include deaths to North Carolina residents occurring both in North Carolina and out of state.
- There is usually at least a six-month lag in reporting of death data. Because of this lag time, the most recent data are provisional and subject to change as additional cases are finalized.
- County data are based on the county of residence, which may not be the same as the county where the death occurred.
- The data provided here are part of the Vital Registry System of the State Center for Health Statistics and have been used to historically track and monitor the drug overdose burden in NC using ICD10 codes. The definitive data on deaths come from the NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

Data source: NC State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS) Vital Statistics Death Certificates, 2001-2020. Available at: <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/>.

#### **ED Visits for Overdose**

- Metrics track all ED visits for an overdose by a medication and drug with dependency potential.
- There are known data quality gaps for May-June 2021 that impact trends. Please interpret the data for these months with caution.
- These are numbers of drug overdose visits to North Carolina EDs and include initial encounters of unintentional and undetermined intent for ICD-10-CM overdose codes of drugs and medicaments with dependency potential within T40, T42, T43, T50.7, and T50.9.
- Data are restricted to NC residents between the ages 15 to 65 years.
- County data are based on the county of residence, which may not be the same as the county where the ED visit occurred.

Data source: NC Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT), 2016-2020. Available at: <https://ncdetect.org/>.

## **Overdose Deaths Involving Illicit Drugs**

- These data reflect the percentage of unintentional opioid-involved overdose deaths which involved an illicit opioid such as heroin, fentanyl, or fentanyl analogues.
- These are unintentional opioid poisoning deaths defined as having a primary cause of death via ICD-10 codes X40-X44 and any mention of T-codes for heroin (T40.1) and/or other synthetic opioids (T40.4).
- For this analysis, other synthetic narcotics were included in the illicit opioid category. While the other synthetic narcotics ICD-10 code (T40.4) does include some prescription drugs, the majority of these cases are due to illicitly manufactured fentanyl or fentanyl analogues and therefore included this code in the illicit opioid grouping.
- Data are limited to North Carolina resident deaths and include deaths to North Carolina residents occurring both in North Carolina and out of state.
- There is usually at least a six-month lag in reporting of death data. Because of this lag time, the most recent data are provisional and subject to change as additional cases are finalized.
- County data are based on the county of residence, which may not be the same as the county where the death occurred.
- The data provided here are part of the Vital Registry System of the State Center for Health Statistics and have been used to historically track and monitor the drug overdose burden in NC using ICD10 codes. The definitive data on deaths come from the NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

Data source: NC State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS) Vital Statistics Death Certificates, 2001-2020. Available at: <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/>.

## **People with Opioid Prescriptions**

- Data reflect the number of people who were prescribed and dispensed outpatient opioid pills in North Carolina.
- County data are based on the county of residence of the individual receiving the pills, which may not be the same as the county where the pills were dispensed.

Data source: NC Division of Mental Health (DMH) Controlled Substance Reporting System (CSRS), 2013-2020. Available at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse/north-carolina-drug-control-unit/nc-controlled-substances-reporting-system>.

## ***Community Drivers of Health***

### **Poverty**

- Data show the percentage of individuals making below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- The data represent 5-year estimates.

Data source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2019. Available at: <https://data.census.gov/>.

### **Uninsured**

- The percentage uninsured is shown as the percent of the total civilian noninstitutionalized population that is uninsured
- The data represent 5-year estimates

Data source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2019. Available at: <https://data.census.gov/>. See also: US Census Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>.

### **Unemployment**

- The unemployment rate is shown as a percent of the civilian labor force.
- Rates are based on place of residence.
- Estimates for prior months are subject to revision.
- State annual data is represented by December monthly data of the same year.
- *Civilian labor force* includes all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population ages 16 and older classified as either employed or unemployed.

Data source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 2010-2020. Available at: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/#tables>.

### **Housing Problems**

- Data represent the percentage of owner and renter occupied housing units that have 1 or more severe housing problems
- Percentage denominators are based the total number of occupied housing units
- The data reflect 5-year estimates

Data source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data (CHAS), 2011-2017. Available at: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html>.

## **Incarceration**

- Data reflect North Carolina prison population as of 12/31 of each year.
- County data are based on the individual's county of residence.
- Rate denominators are based on county population data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Data source: NC Department of Public Safety (DPS) Automated System Query (AQS), 2000-2020.  
Available at: <https://webapps.doc.state.nc.us/apps/asqExt/ASQ>.

## **Suicide**

- Suicide rates built from counts the NC Violent Death Reporting System (VDRS), a combination of death certificates and post-mortem data collection from law enforcement, medical examiner, and toxicology.

Data source: NC Violent Death Reporting System (VDRS), 2015-2019. Available at:  
<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>.