

Data Brief 440. Urban–Rural Differences in Drug Overdose Death Rates, 2020

Data table for Figure 1. Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths, by sex and urban–rural status: United States, 2020

Sex	Urban		Rural	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
Total	80,889	28.6	10,910	26.2
Male	56,516	40.4	7,212	34.1
Female	24,373	17.0	3,698	17.9

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths were identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the direct method and the 2000 U.S. standard population. Decedent’s county of residence was classified as urban or rural based on the 2013 NCHS Urban–Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

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Data table for Figure 2. Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths, by race and Hispanic origin and urban–rural status: United States, 2020

Race and Hispanic origin	Urban		Rural	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	647	44.3	362	39.8
Non-Hispanic Asian	912	4.6	23	4.5
Non-Hispanic Black	14,584	37.4	672	18.9
Non-Hispanic White	53,107	33.9	9,205	28.8
Hispanic	10,081	17.9	525	13.7

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths were identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the direct method and the 2000 U.S. standard population. Decedent’s county of residence was classified as urban or rural based on the 2013 NCHS Urban–Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. Rates for non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people were not reported due to small numbers.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

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Data table for Figure 3. Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths, by type of drug and urban–rural status: United States, 2020

Type of drug	Urban		Rural	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000	Number	Deaths per 100,000
Cocaine	18,225	6.4	1,222	3.0
Heroin	11,886	4.2	1,279	3.2
Natural and semisynthetic opioids.	11,534	4.0	1,937	4.5
Psychostimulants with abuse potential	19,997	7.2	3,840	9.4
Synthetic opioids other than methadone.	50,772	18.3	5,744	14.3

NOTES: Drug overdose deaths were identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Among deaths with drug overdose as the underlying cause, the following multiple cause-of-death codes indicate the drug type(s) involved: T40.5 (cocaine), T40.1 (heroin), T40.2, (natural and semisynthetic opioids), T43.6 (psychostimulants with abuse potential), and T40.4 (synthetic opioids other than methadone). Natural and semisynthetic opioids include drugs such as morphine, oxycodone, and hydrocodone. Synthetic opioids other than methadone include drugs such as fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and tramadol. Psychostimulants with abuse potential include drugs such as methamphetamine, amphetamine, and methylphenidate. Deaths involving more than one drug (both cocaine and methamphetamine, for example) are counted in both categories. Deaths may involve other drugs in addition to those listed. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the direct method and the 2000 U.S. standard population. Decedent’s county of residence was classified as urban or rural based on the 2013 NCHS Urban–Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.

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Data table for Figure 4. Urban–rural differences in age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths, by jurisdiction of residence: United States, 2020

Jurisdiction	Urban		Rural		Category
	Number of deaths	Deaths per 100,000	Number of deaths	Deaths per 100,000	
Total	80,889	28.6	10,910	26.2	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Alabama	889	24.8	140	13.8	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Alaska	123	25.0	37	16.4	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Arizona	2,433	35.6	117	39.8	No significant difference between rates
Arkansas	361	19.5	185	18.4	No significant difference between rates
California	8,642	21.6	266	31.7	Rural rate higher than urban rate
Colorado	1,339	25.4	153	20.9	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Connecticut	1,290	38.6	81	51.0	Rural rate higher than urban rate
Delaware	444	47.3	No rural counties in state or jurisdiction
District of Columbia	424	58.1	No rural counties in state or jurisdiction
Florida	7,053	35.3	178	25.5	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Georgia	1,593	17.8	323	19.3	No significant difference between rates
Hawaii	235	19.5	39	14.1	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Idaho	206	16.4	81	14.7	No significant difference between rates
Illinois	3,272	29.0	277	21.2	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Indiana	1,902	37.7	419	32.7	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Iowa	301	16.0	131	11.7	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Kansas	391	19.8	99	11.8	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Kentucky	1,342	52.6	741	43.8	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Louisiana	1,697	44.9	199	29.9	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Maine	302	39.2	194	40.5	No significant difference between rates
Maryland	2,701	44.3	70	59.4	Rural rate higher than urban rate
Massachusetts	2,270	33.9	32	32.9	No significant difference between rates
Michigan	2,428	30.3	331	21.0	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Minnesota	889	20.2	161	14.8	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Mississippi	346	25.5	240	17.1	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Missouri	1,543	34.4	332	24.5	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Montana	69	18.5	93	13.9	No significant difference between rates
Nebraska	170	13.4	44	6.9	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Nevada	773	26.3	59	23.5	No significant difference between rates
New Hampshire	267	31.0	126	29.4	No significant difference between rates
New Jersey	2,840	32.1	No rural counties in state or jurisdiction
New Mexico	570	41.3	214	34.1	Urban rate higher than rural rate
New York	4,614	25.2	351	29.0	Rural rate higher than urban rate
North Carolina	2,400	29.3	746	37.9	Rural rate higher than urban rate
North Dakota	45	12.1	69	19.9	Rural rate higher than urban rate
Ohio	4,231	47.3	973	47.0	No significant difference between rates
Oklahoma	528	19.9	234	18.6	No significant difference between rates
Oregon	675	18.5	128	20.1	No significant difference between rates
Pennsylvania	4,733	43.5	435	34.3	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Rhode Island	397	38.2	No rural counties in state or jurisdiction

See footnotes at end of table.

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Data table for Figure 4. Urban–rural differences in age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths, by jurisdiction of residence: United States, 2020—Con.

Jurisdiction	Urban		Rural		Category
	Number of deaths	Deaths per 100,000	Number of deaths	Deaths per 100,000	
South Carolina	1,540	35.7	199	30.0	Urban rate higher than rural rate
South Dakota	51	12.4	32	8.1	No significant difference between rates
Tennessee	2,513	47.9	521	37.6	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Texas	3,799	14.3	373	12.8	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Utah	567	20.9	55	17.4	No significant difference between rates
Vermont	46	20.6	144	40.5	Rural rate higher than urban rate
Virginia	1,898	25.3	342	37.0	Rural rate higher than urban rate
Washington	1,563	22.0	170	23.3	No significant difference between rates
West Virginia	889	87.6	441	70.6	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Wisconsin	1,262	30.0	269	21.3	Urban rate higher than rural rate
Wyoming	33	19.1	66	16.4	No significant difference between rates

... Category not applicable.

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