



OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY

PUBLIC HEALTH | PUBLIC SAFETY | PARTNERSHIP



August 2024
GCHIDTA-ARORS-BU014-2024

Situational Awareness Bulletin

Overdoses in the U.S. and Arkansas for 2023-2024

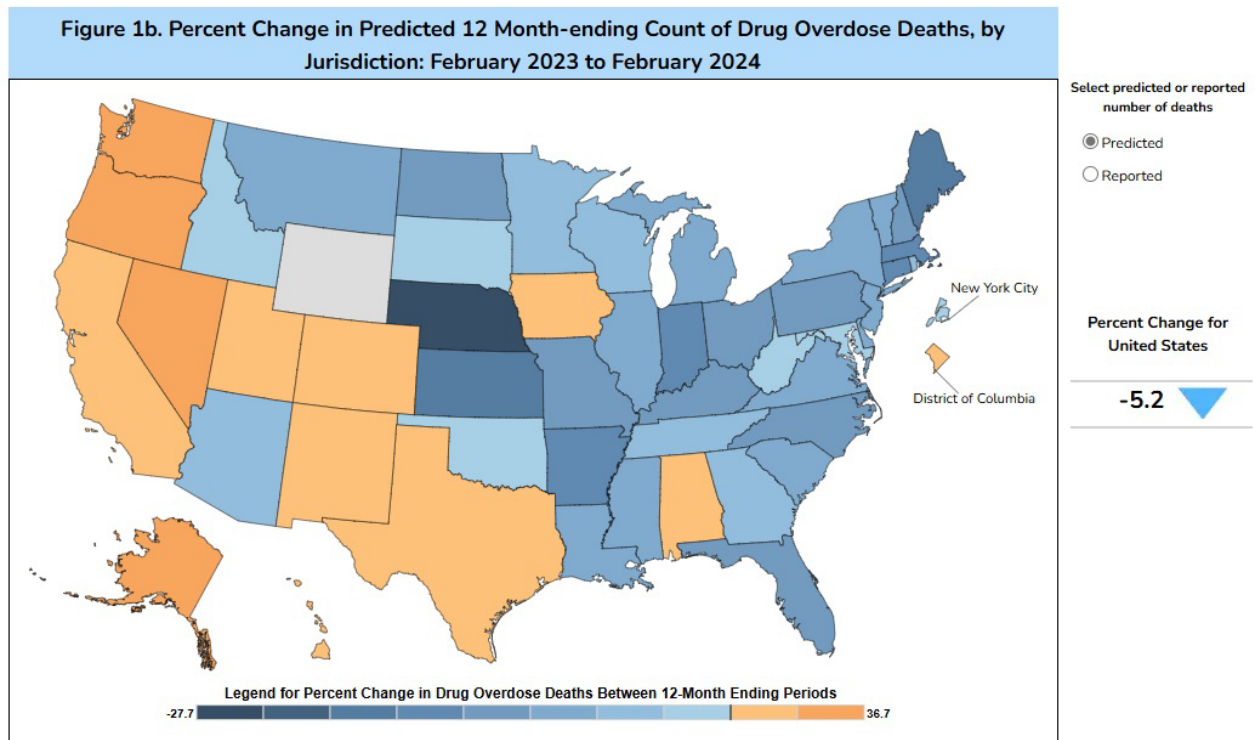
Overview

(U) The purpose of this bulletin is to promote awareness among law enforcement, public health, and first responder agencies, and it offers a look in to drug overdose trends in Arkansas.

Percent Change in Overdose Deaths by State

(U) From the yearlong interval ending February 2023 to the one ending in February 2024, U.S. drug overdose deaths fell overall, signaling a possible shift after years of increases. Not all states saw a decrease with increased numbers in overdose rates occurring in states in the western portion of the United States.

Color shows percentage change in **predicted overdose deaths** between 12-month period ending in February 2023 and the one ending in February 2024. See notes below on predicted and reported counts.



Source: Center for Disease Control



The Overdose Response Strategy, jointly sponsored by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Centers for Disease Control, is a unique collaboration between public health and public safety to help local communities reduce drug overdoses and save lives by sharing timely data, pertinent intelligence and innovative strategies.

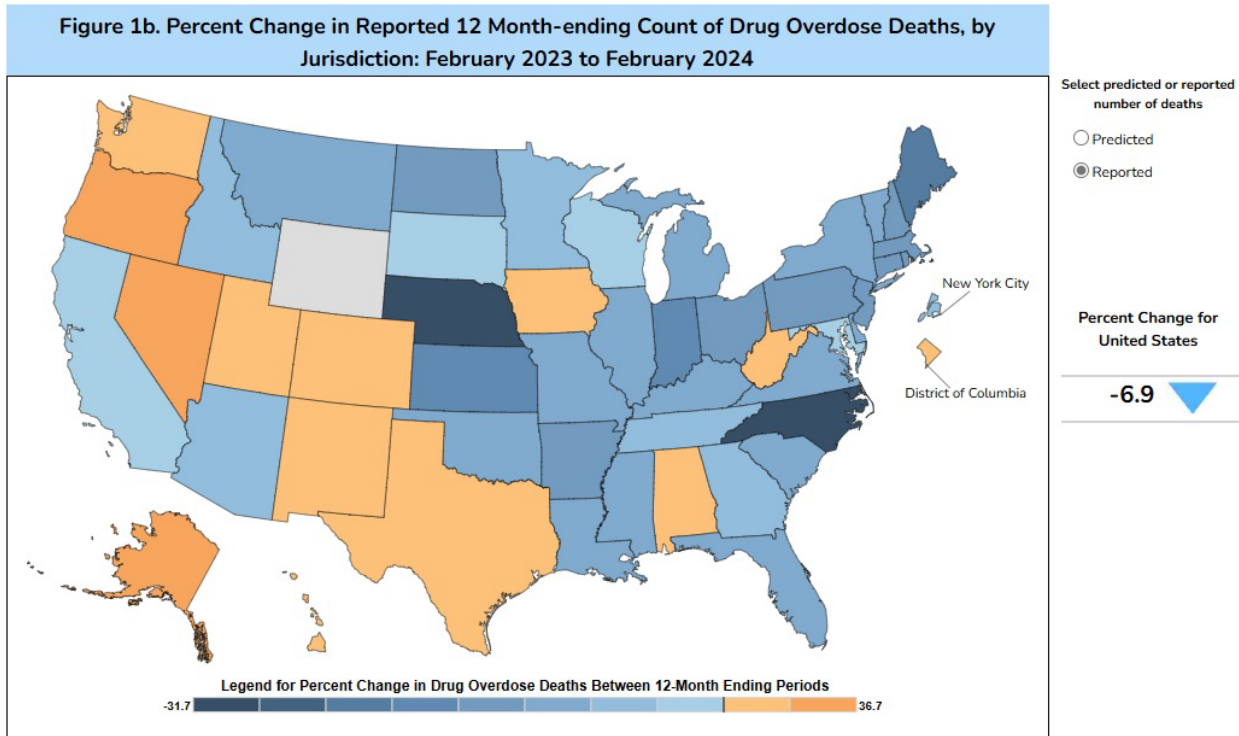


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Color shows percentage change in **reported overdose deaths** between 12-month period ending in February 2023 and the one ending in February 2024. See notes below on predicted and reported counts



Source: Center for Disease Control

NOTES: Reported provisional counts for 12-month ending periods are the number of deaths received and processed for the 12-month period ending in the month indicated. Drug overdose deaths are often initially reported with no cause of death (pending investigation), because they require lengthy investigation, including toxicology testing. Reported provisional counts may not include all deaths that occurred during a given time period. Therefore, they should not be considered comparable with final data and are subject to change. Predicted provisional counts represent estimates of the number of deaths adjusted for incomplete reporting (see Technical Notes). Deaths are classified by the reporting jurisdiction in which the death occurred. Percent change refers to the relative difference between the reported or predicted provisional numbers of deaths due to drug overdose occurring in the 12-month period ending in the month indicated compared with the 12-month period ending in the same month of the previous year. Drug overdose deaths are identified using ICD-10 underlying cause-of-death codes: X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14.



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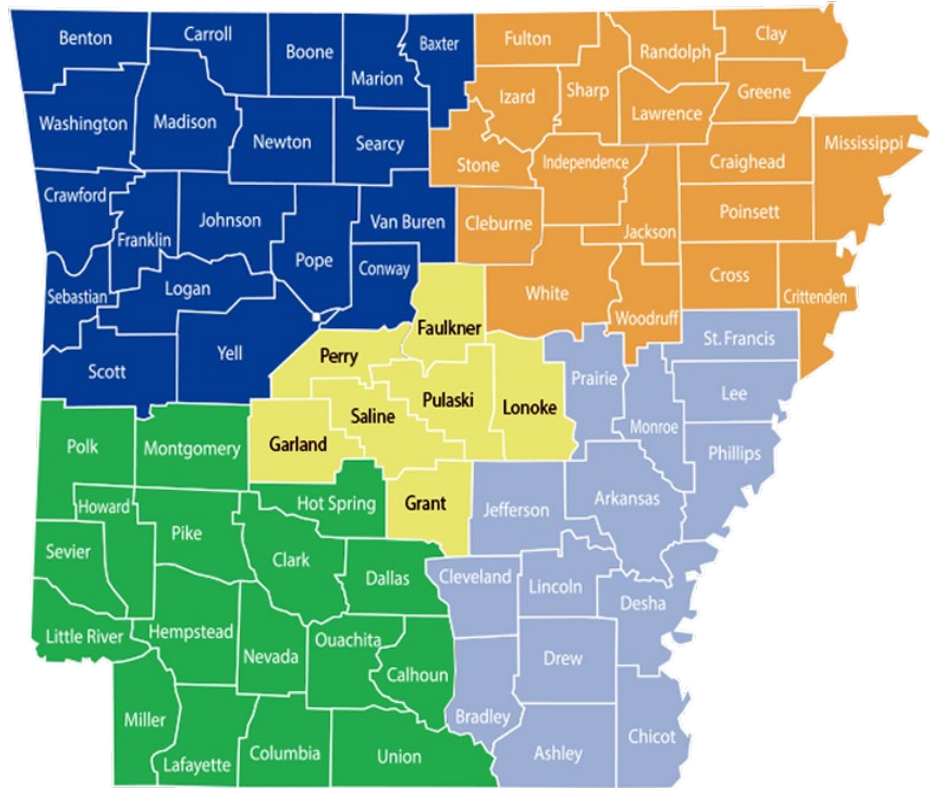
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Overdose Deaths Reported by the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory

(U) The following overdose data covers the period of April 13, 2021 through July 26, 2024. The following data is not all inclusive due to complex variables that go in to counting and calculating overdose numbers.

2024	
Totals	151
Region	
NW	32% (48)
NE	28% (43)
SE	7% (10)
SW	7% (11)
Central	26% (39)
Age	
0-19	3% (5)
20-29	7% (10)
30-39	23% (35)
40-49	18% (27)
50-59	27% (41)
60-69	18% (27)
70+	3% (5)
UNK	1% (1)
Race	
W	75% (113)
B	20% (30)
Unk	2% (3)
Hispanic	3% (4)
Asian	1% (1)
Sex	
M	68% (102)
F	32% (49)



Note: This map shows the breakdown of which counties were counted in the NW, NE, SE, SW, and Central Regions overdose numbers.

This product summarizes current reporting of decedent referrals by Arkansas coroners to the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory (ASCL) for an autopsy due to a suspected drug overdose. Of note, not all decedents referred to the ASCL for a suspected drug overdose are drug overdose deaths. Furthermore, some decedents referred to the ASCL for reasons other than a suspected drug overdose are ultimately determined to be drug overdose deaths.



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(U) According to Arkansas Department of Health Vital Records data, Arkansas saw a 13% decrease in overdose deaths from 2022-2023. The total number of overdose deaths in Arkansas were 591¹ and 510² for 2022 and 2023 respectively. The official confirmed number of overdose deaths from the Arkansas Department of Health for 2024 is currently 80.³ The current number of non-fatal overdoses from the Arkansas Department of Health is 2,557.⁴ There is a lag in reporting these numbers because it takes several months to thoroughly investigate and process these numbers so the number is much likely higher than this and no firm conclusions can yet be drawn from this data.

For questions or to provide additional information please contact arorsa@gchidta.org.

Feedback can be provided at: <https://www.nhac.org/SurveySite/SurveyPage.aspx?LMSID=ea3fd276-a7f2-43dd-af56-b039e95dc333>

This report was prepared based on information received from: The Arkansas State Crime Lab and the following sources

¹ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2ad87ac5b6934707a7625fc6068bb198/page/Home/?views=Fatal-Overdoses%2C2022->

² <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2ad87ac5b6934707a7625fc6068bb198/page/Home/?views=Fatal-Overdoses%2C2023->

³ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2ad87ac5b6934707a7625fc6068bb198/page/Home/?views=2023-%2CNon-Fatal-Overdoses%2C2022>

³ [ADH Data Hub - Overdoses \(arcgis.com\)](#)

⁴ [ADH Data Hub - Overdoses \(arcgis.com\)](#)



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