

Iowa Overdose Data to Action Grant

Emergency Department Overdose Admissions, 2020

Emergency Department Overdose Admissions Among Iowa Residents

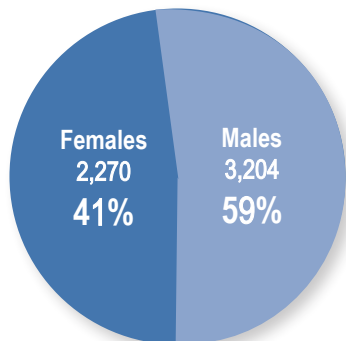
- In 2020, there were 892,168 admissions to an Iowa Hospital Emergency Department (ED).
- Of those admissions, 5,474 were due to a drug overdose.

Drug overdose is defined as: Poisoning by drugs, medicaments, and biological substances.¹

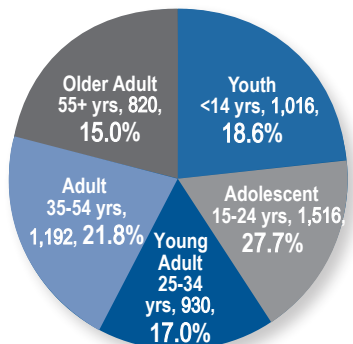
ED Overdose Admissions in Iowa

- State Rates. Iowa's ED drug overdose rate in 2020 was 171.58 per 100,000 residents.
- Sex. Males accounted for 59% and females for 41% of ED admissions due to drug overdose in 2020.
- 18.6% of all ED drug overdose admissions were among Iowans in the youngest age group (14 years of age or younger).

ED Drug Overdose Admissions by Sex, 2020



ED Drug Overdose Admissions by Age Group, 2020



The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) administers the Iowa Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Grant, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This grant supports a statewide surveillance system to collect information on overdoses in Iowa resulting from opioids, stimulants, and other drugs from unintentional and/or undetermined intent. Data sources include death certificates, medical examiner and toxicology reports, and Emergency Department (ED) admission reports. This effort aims to aid researchers, policymakers, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce drug overdoses.

This data brief is a summary of drug overdose admissions to Iowa Hospital EDs in 2020.

Differences by Age Group in ED Overdose Admissions

- Among all opioid overdose ED admissions, 62.8% were among Iowans 25 to 54 years of age.
- Among all stimulant overdose ED admissions, 49.1% were among Iowans 25 to 54 years of age.

Drugs Involved in ED Overdose Admissions

In 2020, opioids were involved in 13.6% of all drug overdoses treated in Iowa EDs, followed by stimulants (5.2%). 41.6% of the opioid admissions were due to heroin.

Differences in Cause by Sex

Among all female ED overdose admissions: Opioids (19.1%) and stimulants (6.9%). 47.5% of the opioid admissions were due to heroin.

Among all male ED overdose admissions: Opioids (9.8%) and stimulants (4.0%). 33.5% of the opioid admissions were due to heroin.

¹ Iowa Department of Public Health. Division of Behavioral Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse. Inpatient and Outpatient Data. Des Moines: Iowa Dept. of Public Health, 2020.

This report was revised in October 2021 to include unintentional and intentional overdoses. Therefore, the numbers reported herein differ from the previously published report for the same time period.



More information on prevention efforts and resources can be found at:
Your Life Iowa <https://yourlifeiowa.org/>
1-855-581-8111 (phone), 1-855-895-8398 (text)