

# Iowa Overdose Data to Action Grant

## Emergency Department Overdose Admissions, 2021

### Emergency Department Overdose Admissions Among Iowa Residents

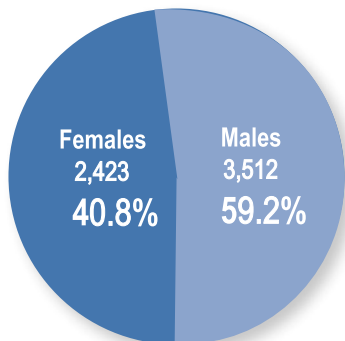
- In 2021, there were 1,003,309 admissions to an Iowa Hospital Emergency Department (ED).
- Of those admissions, 5,935 were due to a drug overdose.

**Drug overdose is defined as:** Poisoning by drugs, medicaments, and biological substances.<sup>1</sup>

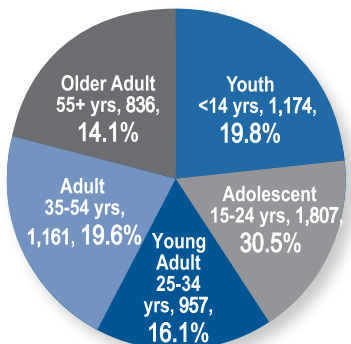
### ED Overdose Admissions in Iowa

- State Rates. Iowa's ED drug overdose rate in 2021 was 185.87 per 100,000 residents.
- Sex. Males accounted for 59.2% and females for 40.8% of ED admissions due to drug overdose in 2021.
- 19.8% 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, 2021



ED Drug Overdose Admissions by Age Group, 2021



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 2021.

### Differences by Age Group in ED Overdose Admissions

- Among all opioid overdose ED admissions, 59.2% were among Iowans 25 to 54 years of age.
- Among all stimulant overdose ED admissions, 46.2% were among Iowans 25 to 54 years of age.

### Drugs Involved in ED Overdose Admissions

In 2021, opioids were involved in 12.9% of all drug overdoses treated in Iowa EDs, followed by stimulants (4.9%). 34.4% of the opioid admissions were due to heroin.<sup>2</sup>

### Differences in Cause by Sex

**Among all female ED overdose admissions:** Opioids (19.6%) and stimulants (7.1%). 38.2% of the opioid admissions were due to heroin.

**Among all male ED overdose admissions:** Opioids (8.3%) and stimulants (3.3%). 28.2% of the opioid admissions were due to heroin.

<sup>1</sup> Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Behavioral Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse.

Inpatient and Outpatient Data. Des Moines: Iowa Dept. of Public Health, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> There are many drugs included in the All Drug category. Common causes include:

- Acetaminophen
- Insulin
- SSRI
- Antipsychotics
- Benzodiazepine

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)