

# State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) South Dakota Data Report

December 2022  
Data Source: NVDRS



## State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

SUDORS is a surveillance strategy requirement of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) funding. SUDORS aims to enhance state surveillance of drug overdoses to inform the development of prevention efforts across the state with the goal of reducing overdose deaths. States funded for SUDORS collect information on unintentional and undetermined intent drug overdose deaths. This information comes from death certificates, coroner reports, and toxicology reports. The information collected is then entered into the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). Data used in this report are provisional as of December 2021 and are subject to change as information is added or clarified.

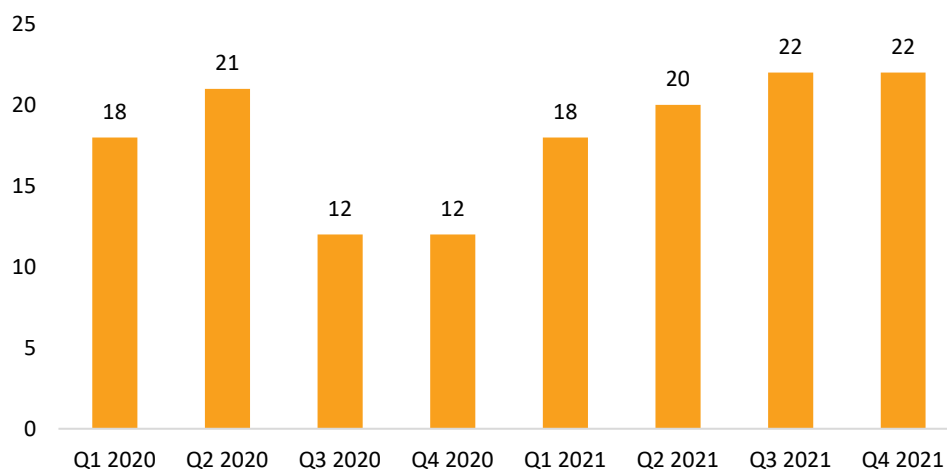
SUDORS Case Inclusion Criteria:

- Presence of any of the following underlying cause-of-death codes: X40-X44 (unintentional drug poisoning) or Y10-Y14 (undetermined intent drug poisoning)
- Acute toxicity must have caused the death (i.e., be the underlying cause of death)
- Substance types include illicit drugs, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and dietary supplements
- Deaths that occurred in South Dakota, irrespective of residency

## Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths

In 2020, 63 unintentional and undetermined drug overdose deaths that occurred in South Dakota. There were 82 deaths in 2021, which was a 30% increase in deaths (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths by Quarter, 2020-2021



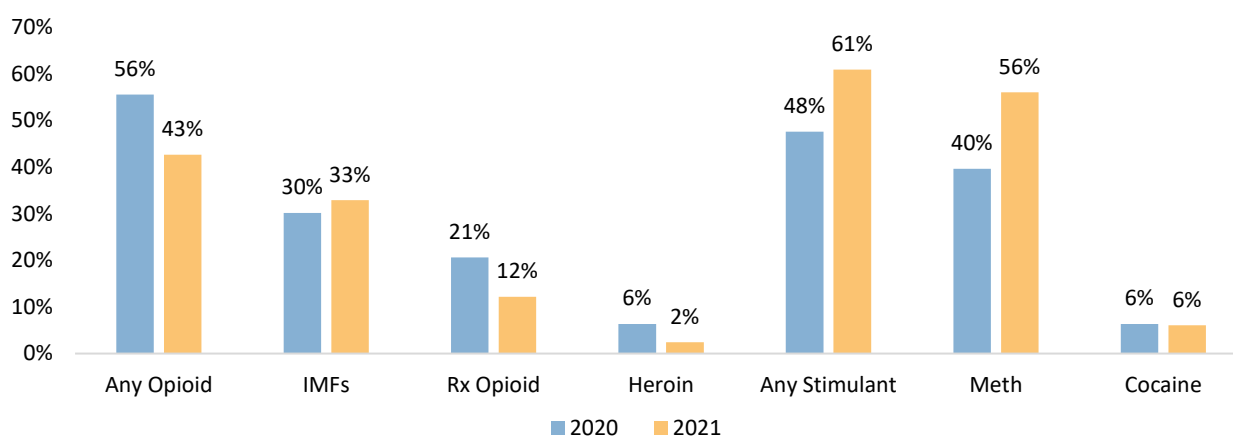
### Overdose Death Manner and Type

Of the 145 overdose deaths from 2020 and 2021, 97% were unintentional overdoses and 3% were of undetermined intent. The SUDORS death data are further categorized into overdose types, such as substance use/misuse, overmedication, took prescribed dosage, decedent unintentionally takes a drug or wrong dosage, other, and unknown. The most common overdose category was overdose related to substance use/misuse at 80%.

## Substance(s) Listed as Cause of Death

A substance can be listed on the death certificate as being involved with the cause of death. Some deaths may be attributed to more than one substance. Figure 2 represents the percentage of deaths by substance(s) attributed to the cause of death. In 2020, the largest proportion of deaths involved an opioid (56% any opioid) and 48% of deaths involved a stimulant (48% any stimulant). There was a slight shift in drugs seen listed as the cause of death from 2020 to 2021. In 2021, 43% of deaths involved an opioid, which decreased from 2020, and 61% of deaths involved at least one stimulant, which was an increase from 2020. The largest proportion of deaths in 2021 involved methamphetamine. During both 2020 and 2021, when a stimulant was involved in a death, methamphetamine was the drug most commonly identified and when an opioid was involved, illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF) was the drug most commonly identified.

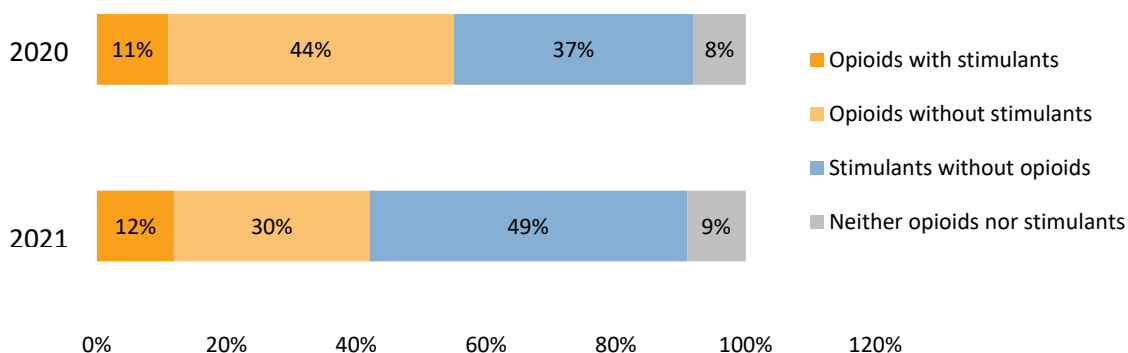
Figure 2: Deaths by Substance(s) Listed as Cause of Death



## Opioid and Stimulant Involvement

Opioids and stimulants account for the largest proportion of overdose deaths in South Dakota. Figure 3 shows the different combinations of opioid and stimulant involvement in deaths. In 2020, opioids without any stimulants accounted for 44% of deaths, while stimulants without opioids accounted for 37% of deaths. In 2021, the largest proportion of deaths were related to stimulants without any opioids (49%), followed by opioids without any stimulants (30%).

Figure 3: Deaths by Opioid and Stimulant Involvement



## High-Risk Populations

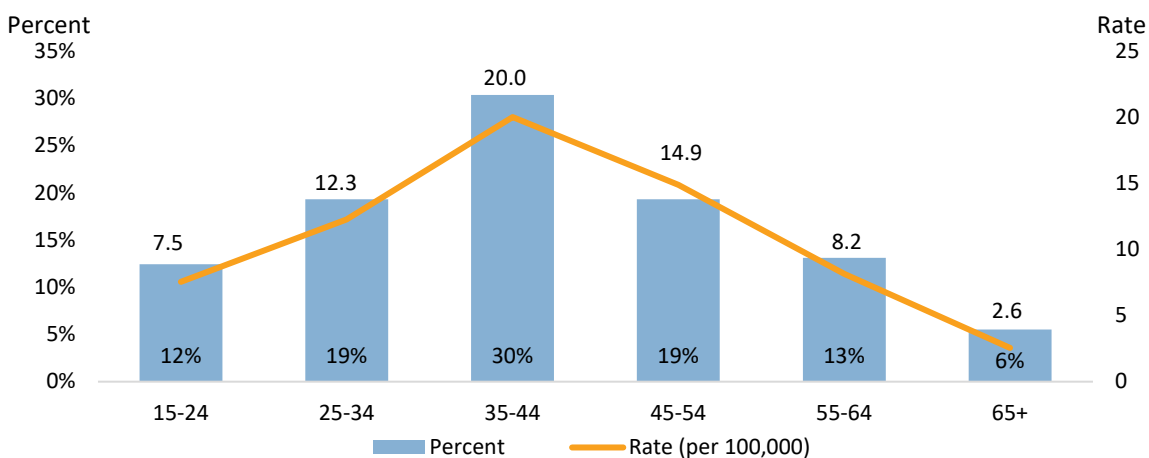
### Sex

Overall, males made up the largest proportion of unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths compared to females. From 2020-2021 males made up 61% of overdose deaths and had a rate of 9.7 deaths per 100,000. Females made up 39% of overdose deaths and had a rate of 6.5 deaths per 100,000.

### Age

Overdoses impact many different age groups. Individuals aged 35 to 44 years were at the highest risk for unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths compared to all other ages (Figure 4).

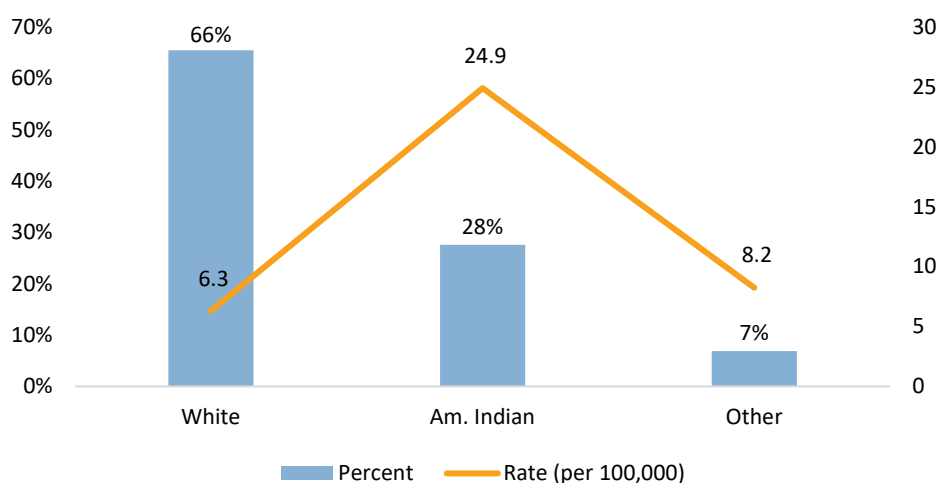
Figure 4: Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths by Age Group, 2020-2021



### Race

From 2020-2021, 66% of unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths were White, 28% were American Indian, and 7% Other (Black, Asian, or unknown). American Indians died of overdose deaths at a rate almost four times higher than Whites (24.9 vs. 6.3 per 100,000) (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths by Race, 2020-2021



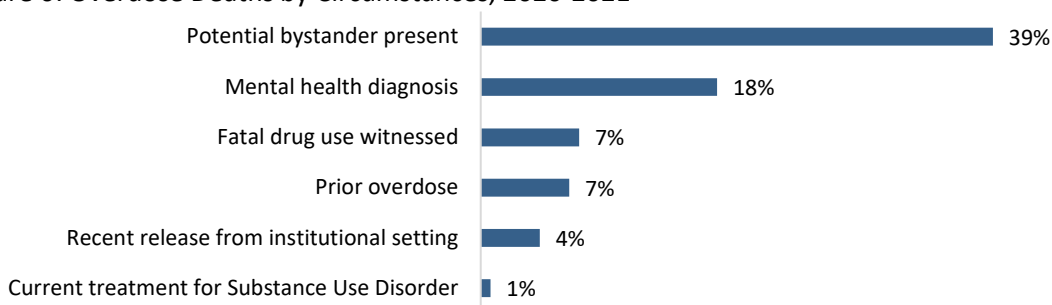
## Overdose Death Circumstances

This section includes the circumstances surrounding overdose deaths documented in coroner reports. Persons who died by overdose may have had multiple circumstances, and it was possible that other circumstances could have been present and not diagnosed, known, or reported.

### Opportunity for Intervention

Certain circumstances could indicate that there was an opportunity for intervention. Of the deaths with a coroner report available, 56% had at least one opportunity for intervention. A potential bystander was present in 39% of deaths, indicating there may have been an opportunity to provide life-saving actions at the time of the overdose. A bystander is someone physically nearby either during or shortly preceding a drug overdose. Figure 5 below shows the percentage of deaths that had a circumstance that might have provided an opportunity for intervention.

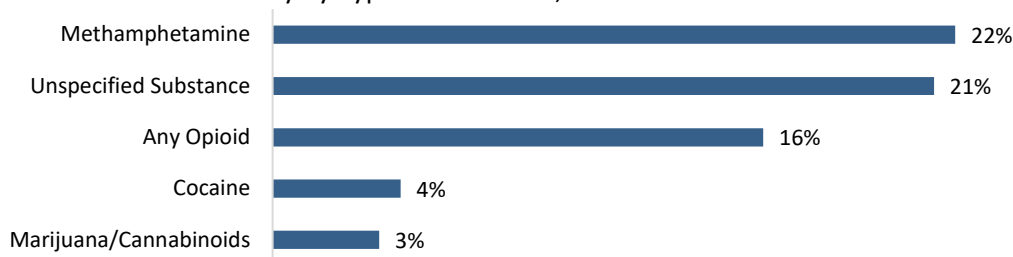
Figure 6: Overdose Deaths by Circumstances, 2020-2021



### Substance Use History

Based on information in the coroner report, 60% of overdose deaths reported a known substance use history. Of these deaths with a known substance use history, 22% had a history of methamphetamine use, 16% had a history of opioid use, and 21% had an unspecified substance use history. Unspecified substance use history indicates they had a substance use/drug use history, but no specific substance/drug was reported. An individual could have a substance use history for multiple types of drugs.

Figure 7: Substance Use History by Type of Substance, 2020-2021



### Place of Death

During 2020-2021, most unintentional and undetermined deaths (46%) occurred at the decedent's home. Other common locations included 'other place or residence' (28%) and 'outpatient/inpatient facility' (25%).

## Overdose Prevention

Drug addiction is a complex disease but there are treatments available to help individuals successfully manage daily life. For people, or loved ones, struggling with addiction, call the South Dakota Resource Hotline at 1-800-920-4343. The Resource Hotline offers free and confidential support that is available 24 hours a day. Trained staff can answer all kinds of questions and help get you and your family on the path to recovery. For more information and data around opioids or overdoses, visit the Avoid Opioid website <https://www.avoidopioidsd.com/>.

## Conclusion and Acknowledgements

The data in this report represents information about unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths, collected through the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) on deaths that occurred in South Dakota. The purpose of collecting and presenting this data was to increase knowledge around overdose deaths and to support prevention programs by identifying potential opportunities to intervene and prevent overdoses. The contents of this report were solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thanks to our partners and contributing staff for making this work possible.