

State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System 2020 Data Report

South Dakota

February 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 and aid in the development of prevention efforts across the state to reduce overdose deaths. The SUDORS strategy requires states to collect information on unintentional and undetermined intent drug overdose deaths that occur in their state and enter that information into the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). This information comes from death certificates, coroner reports, and toxicology reports. Data entered into the web-based system is anonymized, so the data cannot be used to identify a person. Data in this report reflects numbers and information as of December 2021 and are subject to change as information is added or clarified.

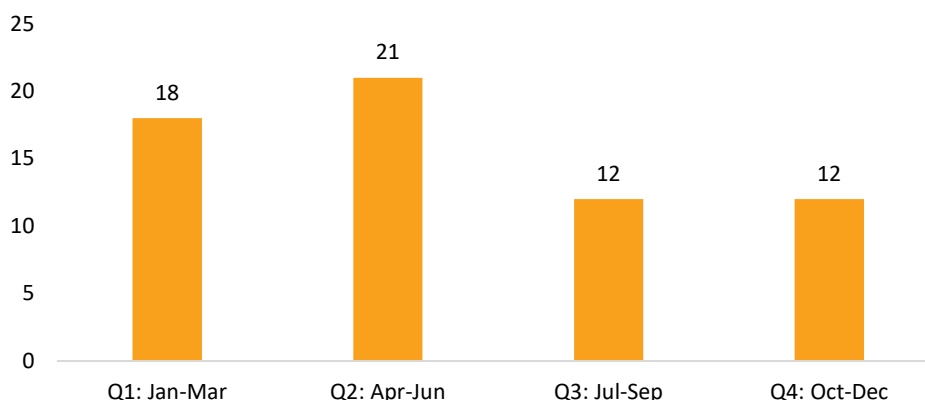
SUDORS Case Inclusion Criteria:

- 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, there were 63 unintentional and undetermined drug overdose deaths that occurred in South Dakota (Figure 1). All (100%) cases had death certificate information available and 86% had coroner report information available.

Figure 1: Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths by Quarter, 2020 (N=63)



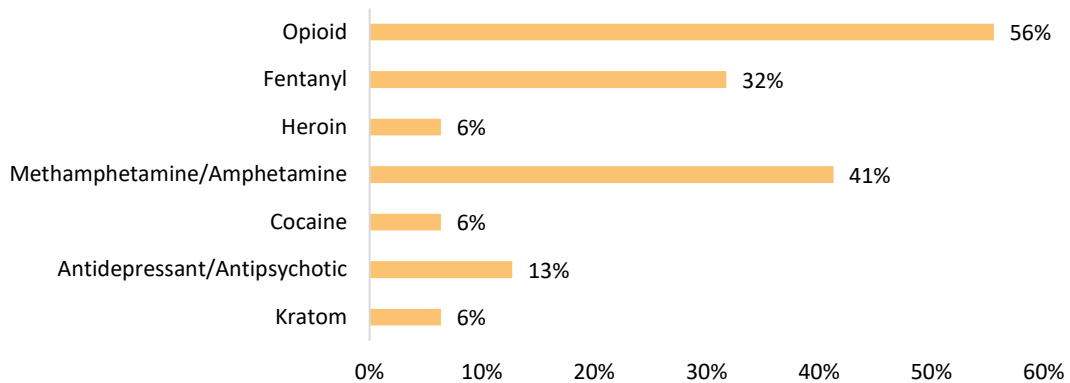
Overdose Death Manner and Type

Of the 63 overdose deaths, 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 substance misuse (87%), followed by unknown (11%), and decedent unintentionally takes a drug or wrong dosage (2%).

Substances Involved in Overdose Deaths

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; each substance was counted separately even though it's one death. Figure 2 below represents the percentage of deaths by substance(s) that were attributed to the cause of death. Of the 63 deaths, 56% were attributed to an opioid.

Figure 2: Overdose Deaths by Substances Identified as Cause of Death, 2020



High Risk Populations

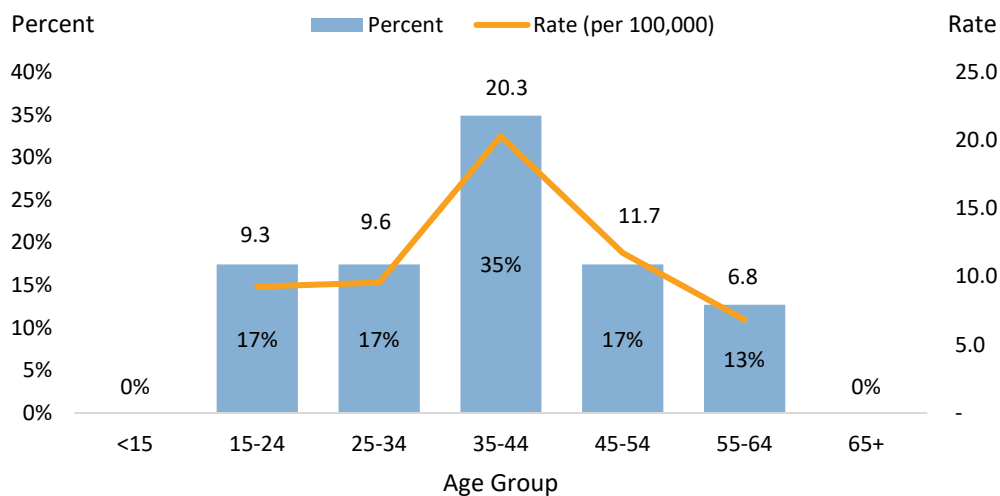
Sex

Overall, males made up the largest proportion of unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths compared to females. Males made up 63% of overdose deaths in 2020 and had a rate of 8.9 per 100,000. Females made up 37% of overdose deaths and had a rate of 5.2 per 100,000.

Age

Overdoses impact many different age groups. For unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths, individuals aged 35 to 44 years were at the highest risk compared to all other ages (Figure 3).

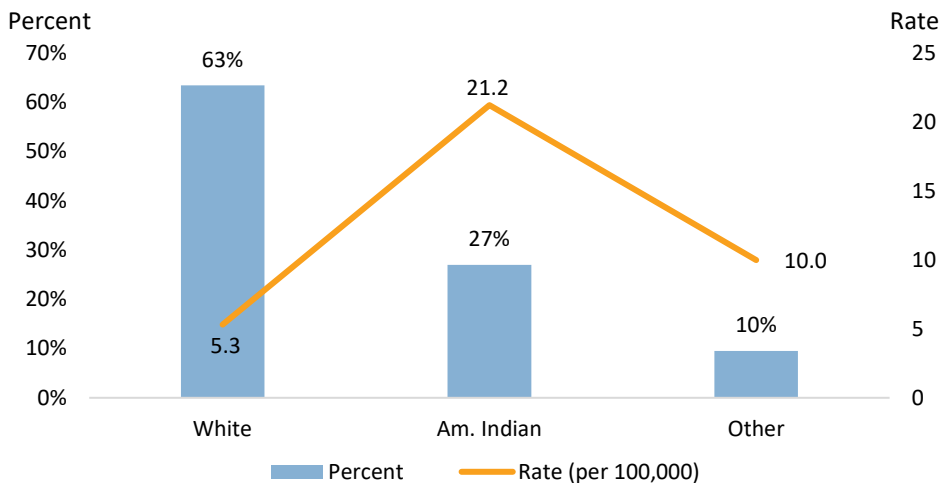
Figure 3: Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths by Age Group, 2020



Race

In 2020, 63% of unintentional and undetermined overdose deaths were White, 27% were American Indian, and 10% Other (Black, Asian, multiracial, or unknown). American Indians died of overdose deaths at a rate almost four times higher than Whites (21.2 vs. 5.3 per 100,000) (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Unintentional and Undetermined Overdose Deaths by Race, 2020



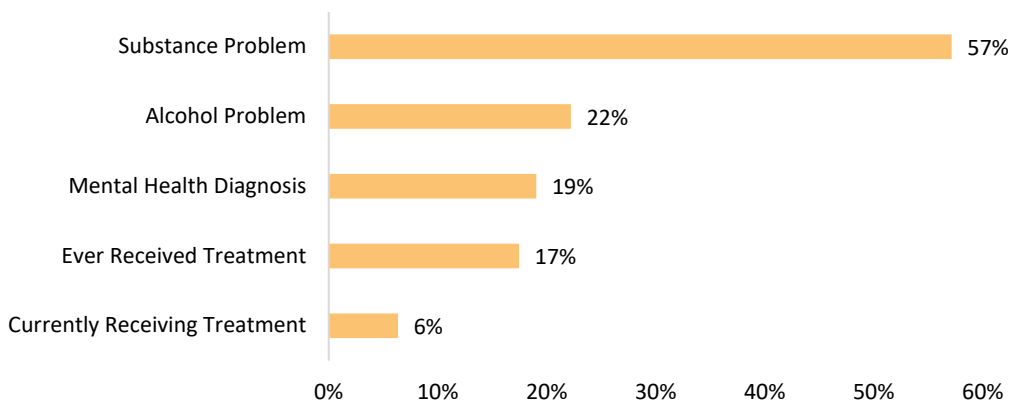
Overdose Death Circumstances

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.

Contributing Circumstances

Contributing circumstances includes known mental health diagnoses, alcohol and substance misuse problems, and treatment of mental health or substance misuse disorders. Figure 5 below shows the percentage of deaths who had a contributing circumstance.

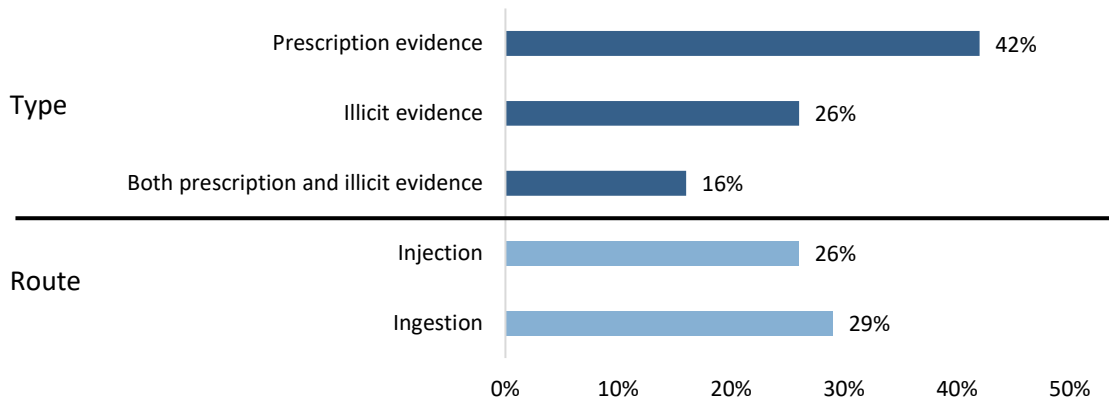
Figure 5: Overdose Deaths by Contributing Circumstances, 2020



Scene Evidence of Drug Use

The coroner report might describe scene evidence of drug use and drug route administration. Of the 63 overdose deaths, 49% had reported evidence of drug use. Among the 31 cases with evidence of drug use, 42% had evidence of prescription drugs, 26% had illicit drug evidence, and 16% had both prescription and illicit evidence. When examining evidence of route of administration, ingestion and injection were the most common route used to administer drugs (Figure 6).

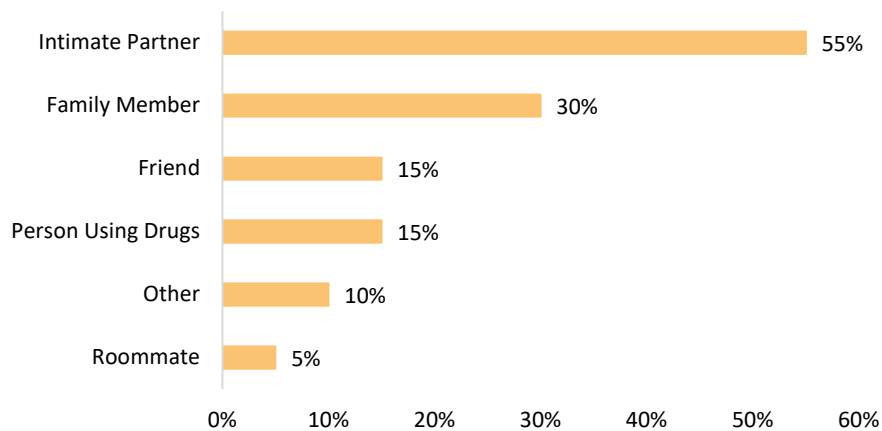
Figure 6: Evidence of Drug Use, 2020



Bystander Presence

Sometimes during an overdose, a bystander might be present. A bystander was defined as an individual who was physically nearby either during or shortly preceding a drug overdose who potentially had an opportunity to intervene and respond to the overdose. Of the 63 deaths that were examined, 32% had a reported bystander present. The number of bystanders and the relationship of those bystanders varied. Of deaths with a bystander present, 65% had one bystander, 25% had multiple bystanders, and 10% had an unknown number of bystanders. The most common relationships of bystander were intimate partner, family member, friend, and person using drugs (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Type of Bystander Present, 2020

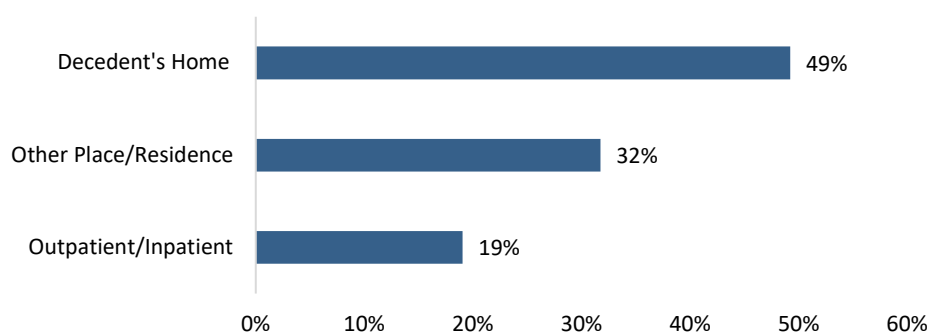


Additional Overdose Circumstances

Some medical conditions put a person at higher risk for an overdose. Among the 63 overdose deaths examined, 27% had an existing medical condition reported. The most common health conditions reported were obesity (14%), heart disease (11%), and asthma/other breathing problems (8%).

Most unintentional and undetermined deaths occurred at the decedent's home, accounting for 49% of deaths. The second most common location was 'other place or residence' (32%), followed by 'outpatient/inpatient facility' (19%) (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Overdose Deaths by Location of Death, 2020



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 24/7. 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 do 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.