



# Kentucky OUD and Suicide Statistics



## Opioid Use Disorder

- Among people aged 12 and older in 2022 in the United States, 8.9 million people misused opioids in the past year.
- Nationwide in 2021, 106,699 people in the United States died by drug overdose. Of these overdose deaths, 75,437 (70.70%) were due to opioids.
- In 2021, of the 2,380 drug overdose deaths that occurred in Kentucky, 1,896 (79.66%) were due to opioids.
- Of those opioid overdose deaths, 21(1.11%) were determined to be suicide. This number is likely to be significantly under-reported due to strict guidelines about the evidence required to call a death a suicide.
- Opioids are listed as one of multiple causes of death for 2,310 deaths, meaning 2,310 people had opioid-related complications upon their death, though opioids may not have been the underlying cause.

## Suicide

- Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in Kentucky. It is the 2nd leading cause of death for young people aged 10-24 and the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-44.
- In 2021, 816 people in Kentucky died by suicide. This means Kentucky lost roughly 2 people a day to suicide.

## Co-Occurring Disorders

- Among adults aged 18 or older in the US in 2022, 21.5 million people had both a mental illness and a substance use disorder.
- Among adults aged 18 or older in 2022, those with a mental illness were more likely than those without to have misused opioids in the past year. Just as a person with a mental illness may be at greater risk for a substance use disorder, substance use can sometimes lead to symptoms of a mental health disorder.
- The combined presence of substance use disorders and mental disorders results in more profound functional impairment; worse treatment outcomes; higher morbidity and mortality; increased treatment costs; and higher risk for homelessness, incarceration, and suicide than if people had only one of these disorders.

## References

### CDC WONDER Database

All statistics come from the most recently released data (2021) from the CDC as recorded in their WONDER database. Additional opioid dispensing information comes from the CDC's US State Opioid Dispensing Rates.

### SAMHSA NSDUH

Information about co-occurring disorders is quoted from SAMHSA's most recent (2022) National Survey on Drug Use and Health.