

Aitkin County Substance Use and Overdose Profile

UPDATED 2/2/2023

Drug Overdose Deaths

Aitkin Drug Overdose Deaths by Year

Drug overdose deaths have increased among Aitkin County residents since 2018.

Year	Yearly Deaths
2011	1
2012	1
2013	4
2014	1
2015	2
2016	2
2017	2
2018	0
2019	2
2020	5
2021	5

Source: Minnesota death certificates

Aitkin Overdose Death by Year

In 2021, opioids and psychostimulants were the drug involved in the greatest number of overdose deaths among Aitkin County residents.

Substance	Number of Deaths
Opioids*	2
Benzodiazepines	0
Cocaine	0
Psychostimulants (includes meth)	4

Source: Minnesota death certificates

Note: Opioids include prescription opioids, heroin, and synthetic opioids. Overdose deaths may involve more than one drug. As a result, the number of deaths associated with each drug type

may total more than the number of overdose deaths. They also include unintentional overdoses, suicide, and homicide.

Nonfatal Overdose

Aitkin County ER Visits for Nonfatal Opioid Overdose by Year

Emergency room visits for nonfatal opioid overdoses have increased among Aitkin County residents. Opioid overdoses can sometimes be reversed by administering Naloxone.

Year	Number of ER Visits
2016	4
2017	2
2018	2
2019	4
2020	6
2021	4

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Aitkin County ER Visits for Nonfatal Overdose by Opioid

Emergency room visits for nonfatal overdose among Aitkin County residents have increased for opioids excluding heroin and heroin from 2018 to 2020.

Year	Opioids (excluding heroin)	Heroin	Stimulants	Cocaine
2016	2	2	0	0
2017	2	0	0	0
2018	2	1	1	0
2019	3	1	4	0
2020	4	2	0	0
2021	2	2	1	0

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Note: Opioids excluding heroin includes commonly prescribed opioids and synthetic opioids.

Aitkin County ER Visits for Opioid Overdose by Age Group

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In 2021, ages 35-44 years old had the greatest number of ER visits for opioid-involved overdose among Aitkin County residents.

Age	Number of ER Visits
1-14 years	0
15-24 years	1
25-34 years	1
35-44 years	1
45-54 years	1
55-64 years	0
65+ years	0

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Aitkin County ER Visits for Opioid Overdose by Gender

Males had more ER visits for opioid-involved overdoses among Aitkin County residents in 2021.

Gender	Percentage of ER Visits	Number of ER Visits
Males	75.00%	3
Females	25.00%	1

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed

Aitkin County Number of Opioids Prescribed by Year

The total number of opioid prescriptions has been decreasing among Aitkin County residents since 2016.

Year	Number of Opioids Prescribed
2016	19,158
2017	16,812
2018	15,459
2019	13,398
2020	11,799
2021	11,182

Source: Minnesota Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program

Aitkin County Opioid Prescription Rate by Year

In Aitkin County, the opioids prescription rate has also been decreasing since 2016 and is higher than the statewide average.

Year	Minnesota Opioid Prescription Rate	Aitkin County Opioid Prescription Rate
2016	615.6	1215.8
2017	550.1	1063.4
2018	482	909.3
2019	438.4	843.4
2020	397.7	744.5
2021	386.9	703.8

Source: Minnesota Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program

Note: The prescription rate is measured as the number of prescriptions dispensed based on patient county divided by the total number of people living in a county to create a rate per 1,000 people.

Aitkin County Health Care Visits for Opioid Dependence

Despite a reduction in opioid prescriptions, the rate of health care visits for opioid dependence among Aitkin County residents has been increasing since 2018.

Year	Minnesota Health Care Visits	Aitkin County Health Care Visits
2016	2.3	2.8
2017	2.6	3
2018	2.6	2.3
2019	2.4	3

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Use and Misuse Among Youth

Aitkin County Opioid Use by Grade Level

The percentage of students attending schools in Aitkin County that in the past 12 months used prescription pain medications without a prescription or differently than how a doctor intended has increased among 9th and 11th graders.

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Year	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
2013	0.0%	3.2%	1.0%
2016	0.0%	1.9%	8.8%
2019	2.5%	4.7%	0.0%
2022	0.0%	6.0%	6.0%

Source: Minnesota Student Survey

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Aitkin County Substance Use Disorder Treatment by Year and Substance Type

Among people from Aitkin County that were admitted to substance use disorder treatment anywhere in Minnesota in 2019, methamphetamines were the primary substance used at admission followed by alcohol.

Year	Alcohol	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Crack/Cocaine
2010	80	6	24	*
2011	67	7	24	*
2012	59	21	34	*
2013	59	43	20	*
2014	52	25	25	*
2015	61	29	24	*
2016	66	52	42	*
2017	51	71	29	*
2018	54	69	26	*
2019	48	88	20	*
2020	64	68	35	*

Source: Substance Use in Minnesota

Note: Opioids includes heroin and other opiates.

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