

# Polk County Substance Use and Overdose Profile

UPDATED 2/7/2023

## Drug Overdose Deaths

### Polk County Drug Overdose Deaths by Year

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

Year	Yearly Deaths
2011	3
2012	4
2013	6
2014	5
2015	5
2016	3
2017	2
2018	2
2019	6
2020	3
2021	3

Source: Minnesota death certificates

### Polk County Overdose Death by Year

In 2021, opioids were involved in the greatest number of overdose deaths among Polk County residents.

Substance	Number of Deaths
Opioids*	3
Benzodiazepines	1
Cocaine	0
Psychostimulants (includes meth)	2

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

### Polk County ER Visits for Nonfatal Opioid Overdose by Year

Emergency room visits for nonfatal opioid overdoses have increased among Polk County residents since 2016. Opioid overdoses can sometimes be reversed by administering Naloxone.

Year	Number of ER Visits
2016	9
2017	5
2018	3
2019	5
2020	8
2021	11

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

### Polk County ER Visits for Nonfatal Overdose by Opioid

Emergency room visits for nonfatal overdose among Polk County residents have increased for heroin from 2020 to 2021.

Year	Opioids (excluding heroin)	Heroin	Stimulants	Cocaine
2016	7	2	1	0
2017	5	0	2	0
2018	3	0	3	0
2019	5	0	1	0
2020	8	0	1	0
2021	7	4	1	0

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

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

### Polk County ER Visits for Opioid Overdose by Age Group

## POLK COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE AND OVERDOSE PROFILE

In 2021, ages 25-34 years old had the greatest number of ER visits for opioid-involved overdose among Polk County residents.

Age	Number of ER Visits
1-14 years	0
15-24 years	2
25-34 years	4
35-44 years	0
45-54 years	2
55-64 years	1
65+ years	2

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

### Polk County ER Visits for Opioid Overdose by Gender

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

Gender	Percentage of ER Visits	Number of ER Visits
Males	54.55%	6
Females	45.45%	5

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

### Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed

#### Polk County Number of Opioids Prescribed by Year

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

Year	Number of Opioids Prescribed
2016	23,925
2017	21,477
2018	19,083
2019	18,328
2020	16,897
2021	16,010

Source: Minnesota Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program

## Polk County Opioid Prescription Rate by Year

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

Year	Minnesota Opioid Prescription Rate	Polk County Opioid Prescription Rate
2016	615.6	754.3
2017	550.1	677.4
2018	482.0	605.3
2019	438.4	584.4
2020	397.7	546.8
2021	386.9	520.5

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.

## Polk County Health Care Visits for Opioid Dependence

The rate of health care visits for opioid dependence among Polk County residents has decreased since 2016.

Year	Minnesota Health Care Visits	Polk County Health Care Visits
2016	2.3	1.3
2017	2.6	0.7
2018	2.6	1.0
2019	2.4	0.7

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

## Use and Misuse Among Youth

### Polk County Opioid Use by Grade Level

The percentage of students attending schools in Polk County that in the past 12 months used prescription pain medications without a prescription or differently than how a doctor intended has increased 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

POLK COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE AND OVERDOSE PROFILE

Year	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
2013	0.8%	1.9%	2.7%
2016	2.3%	2.8%	4.8%
2019	4.1%	3.5%	3.3%
2022	3.5%	6.0%	2.0%

Source: Minnesota Student Survey

## Substance Use Disorder Treatment

### Polk County Substance Use Disorder Treatment by Year and Substance Type

Among people from Polk County that were admitted to substance use disorder treatment anywhere in Minnesota in 2020, alcohol was the primary substance used at admission followed by methamphetamines.

Year	Alcohol	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Crack/Cocaine
2010	209	9	24	*
2011	223	16	31	*
2012	177	22	50	*
2013	150	20	37	*
2014	130	49	32	*
2015	130	48	37	*
2016	111	54	35	*
2017	108	88	40	*
2018	115	76	22	*
2019	122	95	35	*
2020	123	107	34	*

Source: Substance Use in Minnesota

Note: Opioids includes heroin and other opiates.

Minnesota Department of Health  
 Drug Overdose Prevention – Injury and Violence Prevention Section  
 PO Box 64882  
 St. Paul, MN 55164-0882  
[health.drugodprev@state.mn.us](mailto:health.drugodprev@state.mn.us)  
[www.health.state.mn.us/opioiddashboard](http://www.health.state.mn.us/opioiddashboard)