Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths

In 2016, there were 1,375 opioid-related overdose deaths in Texas—a rate of 4.9 deaths per 100,000 persons compared to the national rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 persons. Since 2010, the number of heroin-related deaths steadily increased from 260 to 530 deaths, and deaths attributed to synthetic opioids (mainly fentanyl) rose from 156 to 250.

Opioid Pain Reliever Prescriptions

In 2015, Texas providers wrote 58.0 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons (15.9 million prescriptions). In the same year, the average U.S. rate was 70 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons (IMS Health, 2016).

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

A CDC study analyzing 2013 NAS data available across 28 states estimated the national average NAS rate at 0.6 percent of live births (CDC, MMWR, 2014). Data for NAS rates in Texas are unavailable. However, NAS discharges covered by Medicaid in Texas have increased from 536 births in 2007 to 852 in 2011 (Texas, DSHS). This data does not include outpatient or clinic patients and is likely an underestimate.

HIV Prevalence and HIV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use (IDU)

U.S. Incidence: In 2015, 9.1 percent (3,5941) of the 39,513 new diagnoses of HIV in the United States were attributed to IDU. Among new cases, 8.2 percent (2,6141) of cases among men and 13.2 percent (980) of cases among women were transmitted via IDU (CDC).

U.S. Prevalence: In 2014, 955,081 Americans were living with a diagnosed HIV infection—a rate of 299.5 per 100,000 persons. Of these, 18.1 percent (131,0561) of males and 22.6 percent (52,013) of females were living with HIV attributed to IDU (CDC).

1 Includes transmission to individuals with injection drug use as a risk factor.
**State Incidence:** Of the new HIV cases in 2015, 4,476 occurred in Texas, with 7.2 percent of new cases in males and 12.1 percent of new cases in females attributed to IDU ([AIDSVu](https://www.aidsvu.org)).

**State Prevalence:** In 2014, an estimated 77,896 persons were living with a diagnosed HIV infection in Texas—a rate of 357 infections per 100,000 persons. Of these, 15.7 percent of males and 20.1 percent of females were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([AIDSVu](https://www.aidsvu.org)).

**Hepatitis C (HCV) Prevalence and HCV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use**

**U.S. Incidence:** In 2015, there were 181,871 reported cases of chronic HCV and 33,900 estimated cases of acute HCV ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)). Where data were available, 64.2 percent of acute cases reported IDU ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)).

**U.S. Prevalence:** An estimated 3.5 million Americans are living with HCV, including approximately 2.7 million living with chronic infections ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)).

**State Incidence:** In 2015, Texas reported 48 cases of acute HCV at rates of 0.17 cases per 100,000 persons ([dshs.texas.gov](https://www.dshs.texas.gov)). As it is not a reportable disease in the state of Texas, no data were available on the rate of chronic HCV infections.

**State Prevalence:** As of 2014, an estimated 368,000 persons were living with HCV in Texas with about 80 percent being chronically infected ([dshs.texas.gov](https://www.dshs.texas.gov)).

**Additional Resources**

- Texas Health and Human Services, [Substance Abuse](https://www.dshs.texas.gov) and [Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome](https://www.dshs.texas.gov)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Opioid Overdose](https://www.cdc.gov)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, [Behavioral Health Barometer Texas, Volume 4](https://www.samhsa.gov) (2017)

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2015 estimate after adjusting for under-ascertainment and under-reporting. Data for 2015 were unavailable for Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Wyoming.