

## National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Illinois Opioid Summary

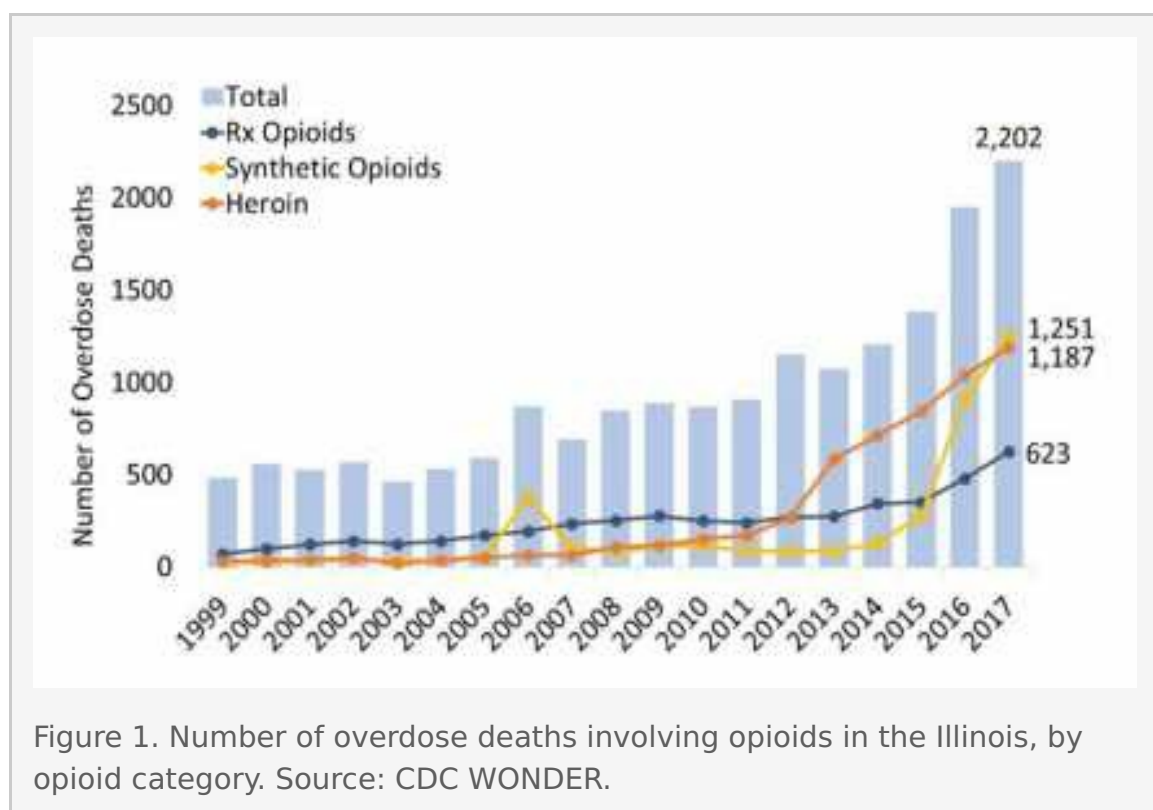
Last Updated April 2019

<https://www.drugabuse.gov>

# Illinois Opioid Summary

## Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths

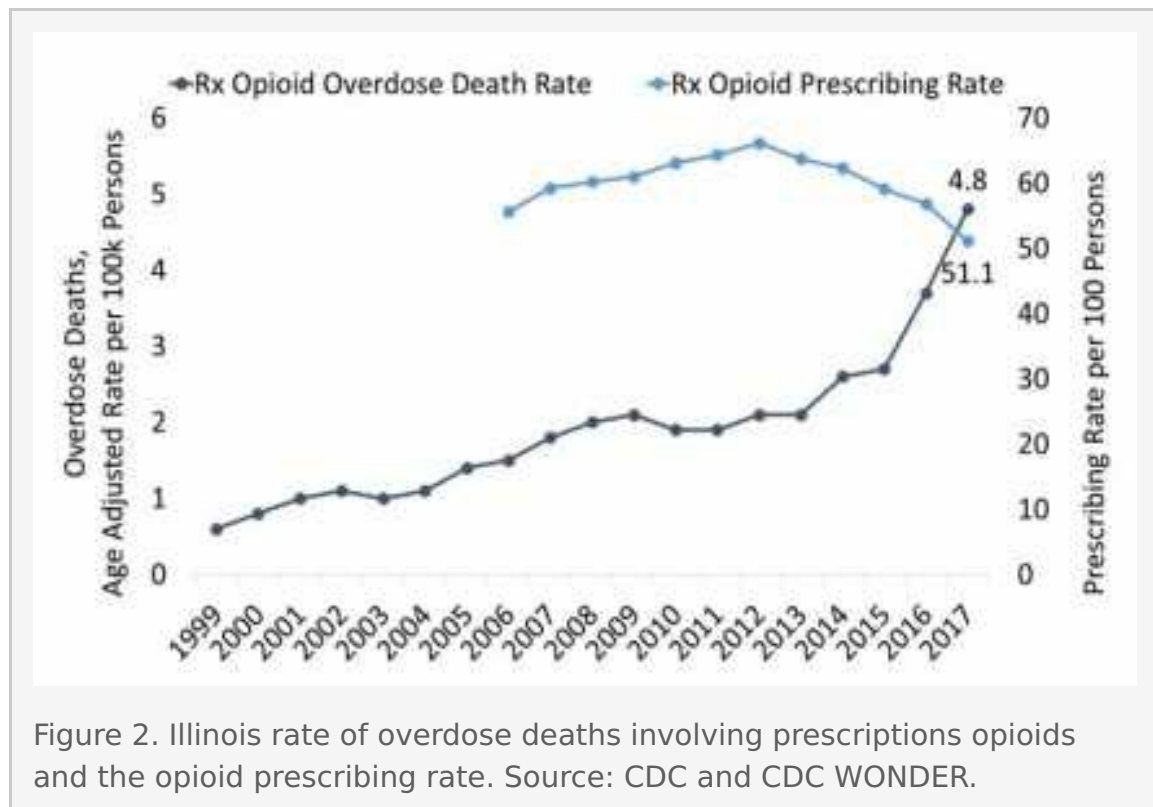
In 2017, there were 2,202 drug overdose deaths involving opioids in Illinois—a rate of 17.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, which is higher than the national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. The greatest increase in opioid deaths was seen in cases involving synthetic opioids (mainly fentanyl): a rise from 127 deaths in 2014 to 1,187 deaths in 2017 (Figure 1). Deaths involving heroin also increased significantly in the same 3-year period: from 844 to 1,251 deaths. There were 623 deaths involving prescription opioids in 2017, nearly double the 343 deaths in 2014.



## Opioid Pain Reliever Prescriptions

In 2017, Illinois providers wrote 51.1 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons (Figure 2), compared to the average U.S. rate of 58.7

prescriptions. This is the lowest rate in the state since data became available in 2006 ([CDC](#)). The rate of overdose deaths involving opioid prescriptions has not followed this trend. From 2015 through 2017 alone, the rate increased more than 75 percent to 4.8 deaths per 100,000 persons.



## Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

NAS or neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) may occur when a pregnant woman uses drugs such as opioids during pregnancy. A recent national study revealed a fivefold increase in the incidence of NAS/NOWS between 2004 and 2014, from 1.5 cases per 1,000 hospital births to 8.0 cases per 1,000 hospital births. That is one baby born with NAS/NOWS every 15 minutes in the United States. During the same period, hospital costs for NAS/NOWS births increased from \$91 million to \$563 million, after adjusting for inflation (Figure 3).

In 2016, the rate of NAS/NOWS in Illinois was about 2.7 NAS/NOWS cases per 1,000 hospital births, affecting 391 babies born in Illinois that

year ([Illinois Department of Public Health](#)).

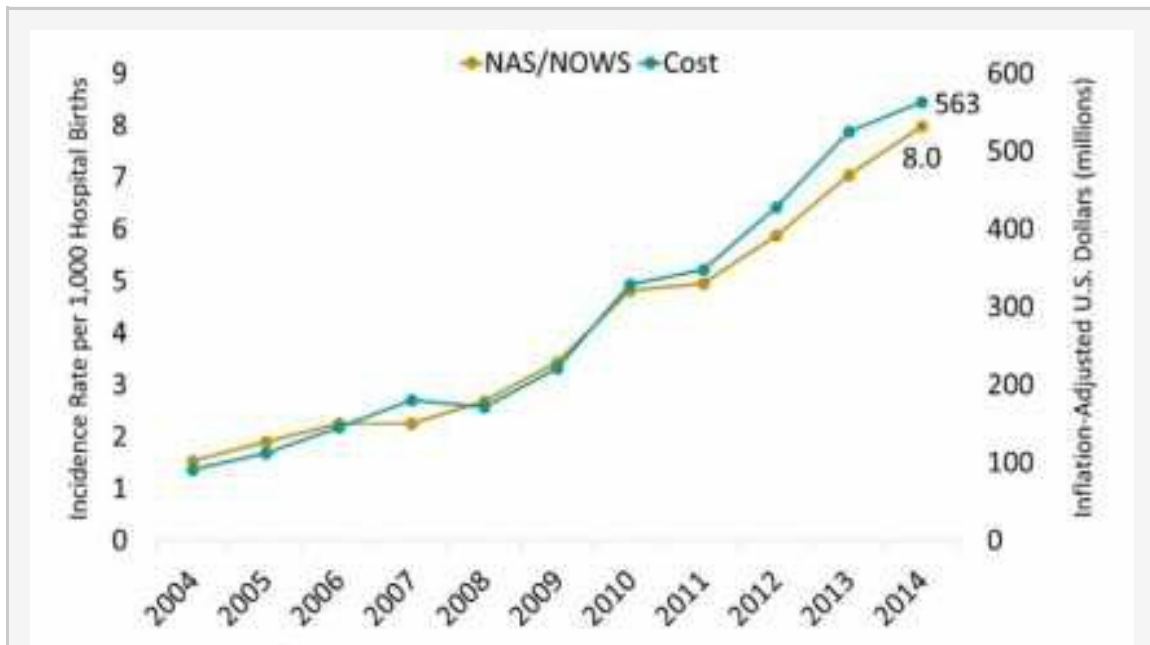


Figure 3. NAS/NOW Incidence Rate and Hospital Costs for Treatment in the United States. Source: T N.A. Winkelman, et al., 2018.

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

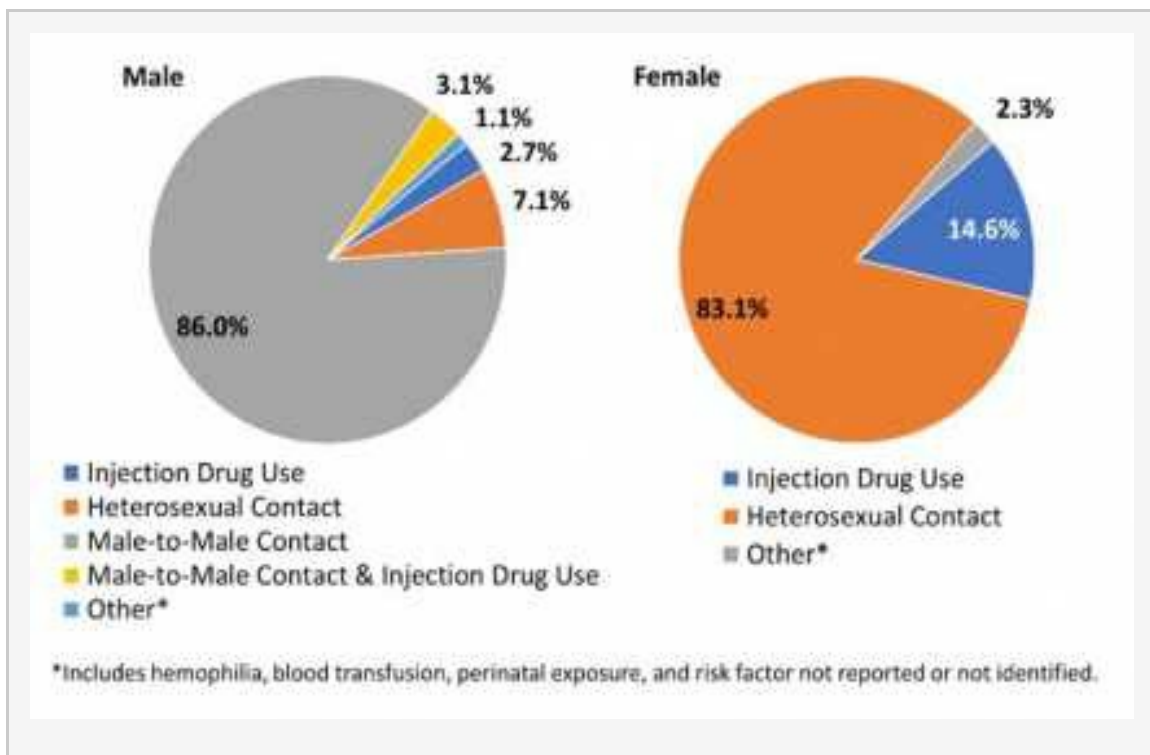


Figure 4. Illinois: Estimated percent of male vs. female with new HIV diagnoses, by transmission category, 2016. Source: CDC and [www.AIDSVU.org](http://www.AIDSVU.org).

- **U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, 9 percent (3,480) of the 39,589 new diagnoses of HIV in the United States were attributed to IDU. Among new cases, 6.3 percent (2,530) were transmitted via IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU among men, and 2.3 percent (950) were transmitted via IDU among women ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- **U.S. Prevalence:** In 2016, 991,447 Americans were living with a diagnosed HIV infection—a rate of 306.6 cases per 100,000 persons. Among males, 19.9 percent (150,466) contracted HIV from IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU while 21 percent (50,154) of females were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- **State Incidence:** Of the new HIV cases in 2016, 1,384 occurred in Illinois. Among males, 5.8 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 14.6 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU (Figure 4) ([AIDSVU](http://www.AIDSVU.org)).
- **State Prevalence:** In 2015, an estimated 35,441 persons were living with a diagnosed HIV infection in Illinois—a rate of 330 cases per 100,000 persons. Of those, 16.5 percent of male cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 24.3 percent were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([AIDSVU](http://www.AIDSVU.org)).

## Hepatitis C (HCV) Prevalence and HCV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use<sup>1</sup>

- **U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, there were an estimated 41,200 new cases of acute HCV<sup>2</sup> ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)). Among case reports that contain information about IDU, 68.6 percent indicated use of injection drugs ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- **U.S. Prevalence:** An estimated 2.3 million Americans are living with HCV based on 2013-2016 annual averages, a rate of 1,141.3 cases per 100,000 persons ([CDC](http://www.CDC.gov)).
- **State Incidence:** There were approximately 21 new cases of acute

HCV (0.2 per 100,000 persons) reported in Illinois in 2016 ([CDC](#)).

- **State Prevalence:** In Illinois, there are an estimated 55,800 persons living with Hepatitis C (2013-2016 annual average), a rate of 570 cases per 100,000 persons ([HepVu](#)).

## The National Institute of Health Funds Center of Excellence in Pain Education



Illinois is home to one of the eleven Centers of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPes): The Southern Illinois University Edwardsville/St. Louis University Center of Excellence in Pain Education. The CoEPes act as hubs for the development, evaluation, and distribution of pain management curriculum resources for medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy and other schools to improve how health care professionals are taught about pain and its treatment.

[Find treatment in Illinois \(SAMHSA\)](#)

## Notes

1. Not all states collect or report data on the incidence or prevalence of Hepatitis C or on how Hepatitis C is transmitted. When available, the data will be included.
2. Actual acute cases estimated to be 13.9 times the number of reported cases in any year.

