IOWA | Health and Human Services

Nonfatal overdose Emergency Department (ED) visits in Iowa

from the CDC's Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology - Discharge (DOSE-DIS) System

What are nonfatal ED overdose visits?

The DOSE system counts the number of ED visits and inpatient hospitalizations of overdose events that did not result in death (nonfatal).

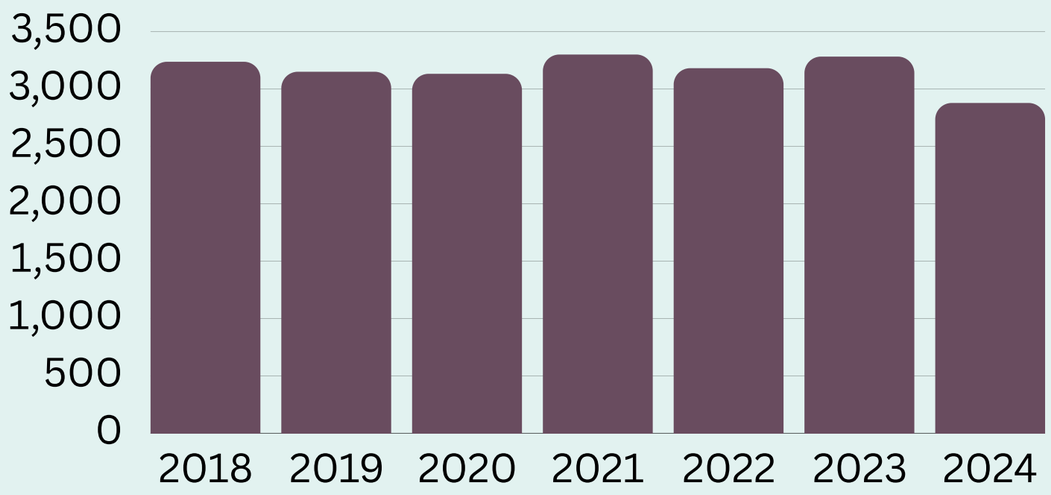
Some people who experience an overdose may not go to the ED, so these counts do not include all nonfatal overdoses in Iowa.

There are many substances that can cause poisoning or overdose, and a single overdose event may involve multiple substances. People can accidentally take too much of a single substance, or combine substances in a way that results in illness, or may be given or take something in error.

The substances that are especially monitored for overdose are opioids (including both prescription and illicitly manufactured fentanyl), stimulants (including prescription stimulants, illicit cocaine, and illicit methamphetamine), and benzodiazepines. Learn about all of the substances included in the overall nonfatal overdose counts (also called the category of "All Drugs").

Did the numbers of nonfatal overdose ED visits increase?

The **number of nonfatal ED overdose visits in Iowa** has decreased from 2018 to 2024.



When did people visit the ED for nonfatal overdose the most?

Most Iowa ED visits for nonfatal overdose occurred during the warmer months.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Spring	874	806	824	759
Summer	848	846	854	742
Fall	856	814	818	684
Winter	722	715	786	693

Who visited the ED for nonfatal overdose the most?

Nearly 89 of 100,000 Iowans visited the ED for nonfatal overdose in 2024.



Younger Iowans visited the ED for nonfatal overdose more than other age groups in 2024.

How can you use this data to prevent overdose?

Link people that experienced an overdose to care after an overdose event.

Connect with Your Life Iowa

24-hour, confidential support for substance use and mental health. Call (855) 5814-8111, text (855) 895-8398, or chat at yourlifeiowa.org.

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