

Itasca County Substance Use and Overdose Profile

UPDATED 2/6/2023

Drug Overdose Deaths

Itasca County Drug Overdose Deaths by Year

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

Year	Yearly Deaths
2011	7
2012	4
2013	5
2014	7
2015	5
2016	5
2017	4
2018	4
2019	11
2020	11
2021	12

Source: Minnesota death certificates

Itasca County Overdose Death by Year

In 2021, Opioids were the drug involved in the greatest number of overdose deaths among Itasca County residents.

Substance	Number of Deaths
Opioids*	5
Benzodiazepines	2
Cocaine	0
Psychostimulants (includes meth)	3

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

Itasca County ER Visits for Nonfatal Opioid Overdose by Year

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

Year	Number of ER Visits
2016	8
2017	21
2018	12
2019	12
2020	20
2021	21

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Itasca County ER Visits for Nonfatal Overdose by Opioid

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

Year	Opioids (excluding heroin)	Heroin	Stimulants	Cocaine
2016	4	4	6	0
2017	10	11	9	0
2018	4	8	1	0
2019	5	7	3	0
2020	12	8	2	1
2021	10	11	0	0

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

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

Itasca County ER Visits for Opioid Overdose by Age Group

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In 2020, ages 25-34 years old had the greatest number of ER visits for opioid-involved overdose among Itasca County residents.

Age	Number of ER Visits
1-14 years	0
15-24 years	2
25-34 years	11
35-44 years	5
45-54 years	0
55-64 years	1
65+ years	2

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Itasca County ER Visits for Opioid Overdose by Gender

Males had more ER visits for opioid-involved overdoses among Itasca County residents in 2020.

Gender	Percentage of ER Visits	Number of ER Visits
Males	38.1%	13
Females	61.9%	8

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed

Itasca County Number of Opioids Prescribed by Year

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

Year	Number of Opioids Prescribed
2016	39,986
2017	36,326
2018	32,844
2019	30,136
2020	29,008
2021	28,801

Source: Minnesota Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program

Itasca County Opioid Prescription Rate by Year

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

Year	Minnesota Opioid Prescription Rate	Itasca County Opioid Prescription Rate
2016	615.6	885.4
2017	550.1	804.4
2018	482.0	728.1
2019	438.4	667.8
2020	397.7	640.8
2021	386.9	639.0

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.

Itasca County Health Care Visits for Opioid Dependence

The rate of health care visits for opioid dependence among Itasca County residents has been decreasing since 2016.

Year	Minnesota Health Care Visits	Itasca County Health Care Visits
2016	2.3	4.1
2017	2.6	2.2
2018	2.6	1.2
2019	2.4	1.4

Source: Minnesota Hospital Discharge Data

Use and Misuse Among Youth

Itasca County Opioid Use by Grade Level

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

Year	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
2013	0.8%	3.6%	2.3%

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Year	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
2016	2.5%	4.4%	4.5%
2019	4.4%	5.4%	2.8%
2022	4.1%	5.4%	6.0%

Source: Minnesota Student Survey

Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Itasca County Substance Use Disorder Treatment by Year and Substance Type

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

Year	Alcohol	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Crack/Cocaine
2010	345	42	80	5
2011	326	35	95	*
2012	309	60	140	*
2013	256	120	134	5
2014	244	129	120	*
2015	251	140	130	7
2016	270	264	135	*
2017	216	250	114	*
2018	239	272	125	8
2019	227	272	95	*
2020	184	186	52	*

Source: Substance Use in Minnesota

Note: Opioids includes heroin and other opiates.

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