



Concerns: Opioid ODs

A study conducted by researchers at the CDC suggests that people with HIV are some of the hardest hit by the opioid crisis.

July 1, 2019 By [Benjamin Ryan](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers analyzed data from the National HIV Surveillance System and found records indicating that 1,363 people with HIV died of opioid overdoses between 2011 and 2015. During that period, the annual death rate of the HIV-positive population as a whole declined by 13% while the opioid overdose death rate increased by 43%. The population's opioid death rate rose in virtually all subgroups, including those separated according to age, sex, race, route of HIV transmission and U.S. Census region. (The opioid death rate did not rise in the West, however.) The opioid death rate per 100,000 people with HIV was highest among those 50 to 59 years old (42 deaths), women (35 deaths), whites (49 deaths), people who inject drugs (137 deaths) and those living in the Northeast (61 deaths). These findings highlight the need for harm reduction services for people with HIV.

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