

Nonfatal Hospital Visits for Intentional Drug Overdose Among Minnesota Residents

2016 - 2022

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Key findings

- In 2022, there were 16,934 nonfatal drug overdoses treated in the hospital around onethird of these were diagnosed as intentional (i.e., self-harm) drug overdoses.
- Similar to findings from a nationwide study, drugs that were commonly involved in nonfatal intentional drug overdoses included antidepressants, antipsychotics, acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol), and ibuprofen (e.g., Advil).¹ Unlike nonfatal unintentional (i.e., accidental) or undetermined overdoses, opioids were not usually involved.
- Minnesotans aged 15-19 accounted for 26% of all nonfatal intentional overdoses treated in the hospital, despite making up 7% of the Minnesota population.
- Among female Minnesotans aged 13 and 14, the number of nonfatal intentional overdoses treated in the hospital rose sharply from 2019 to 2021 and has remained high since.

Overview

Nonfatal drug overdoses continue to affect the lives of many Minnesotans. In 2022, there were 16,934 nonfatal drug overdoses treated in the hospital (including emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations) among Minnesota residents. This means for every one drug overdose death, there were nearly 13 nonfatal hospital-treated overdoses. Around one-third (5,991 overdoses) of these were diagnosed as intentional (i.e., self-harm). This report focuses on nonfatal intentional drug overdoses that were treated in the hospital among Minnesota residents and summarizes seven-year trends (2016-2022). It is important to note that determining intent can be challenging and caution should be used when interpreting results.

For information on nonfatal drug overdoses of unintentional (i.e., accidental) or undetermined intent visit the Nonfatal Drug Overdose Dashboard

(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/data/nonfataldata.html) and the Nonfatal Hospital Visits for Intentional Drug Overdose Among Minnesota Residents Report (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/documents/final2021odmortalityreport .pdf).

Seven-county Metro compared to Greater Minnesota

Statewide, nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose have varied since 2016 and have seen a slight decrease overall during this time period. In 2022, the number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose (5,991 overdoses) was 9% lower than in 2017 when the number of visits (6,601 overdoses) peaked.

Similarly, trends in hospital-treated nonfatal intentional overdoses have varied for both the 7county Metro (the Metro) and Greater Minnesota since 2016. Like statewide trends, the Metro and Greater Minnesota have both experienced a slight decrease overall in nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose during this time period.

Chart 1. Mirroring statewide trends, the number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose have varied in both the Metro and Greater Minnesota since 2016.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2016-2022

Table 1. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, theMetro vs. Greater Minnesota, Minnesota residents, 2016-2022

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Statewide	6,474	6,601	6,455	6,224	5,923	6,277	5,991
The Metro	3,441	3,540	3,512	3,251	3,128	3,339	3,176
Greater Minnesota	3,032	3,061	2,942	2,973	2,795	2,938	2,803

Regional trends

To better understand geographic trends in nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, the data were examined by the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) regions (See Appendix II for list of counties within each region). From 2016 to 2022, the average age-adjusted rates of nonfatal hospital-visits for intentional drug overdose varied by region, ranging from 1.03 (per 1,000 residents) in the Southwest to 1.44 (per 1,000 residents) in the Northwest and Northeast regions (Chart 2). For comparison, the statewide age-adjusted rate over the same period was 1.09 (per 1,000 residents).

Chart 2. Rates of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose vary by SCHSAC region.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2016-2022

Table 2. Average age-adjusted rate (per 1,000 residents) of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, by State Community Health Services Advisory Committee Regions, Minnesota residents, 2016-2022

SCHSAC Regions	Age-adjusted rate (per 1,000 residents) of nonfatal hospital visits (2016-2022)
Northwest	1.44
Northeast	1.44
West Central	1.22
Central	1.09
Statewide	1.09
Southeast	1.08
Metro	1.05
South Central	1.05
Southwest	1.03

Suspected drug type

Nonfatal intentional drug overdoses typically involve different types of drugs than overdoses of unintentional (i.e., accidental) and undetermined intent, which most commonly involve opioids.²

Among nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, antidepressants (e.g., Prozac, Lexapro, Zoloft, etc.) are the most common drug type suspected to be involved in the overdose, accounting for 17% of visits in 2022 (Chart 3). Antipsychotics/neuroleptics, which are primarily used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, were also commonly involved in the overdose, accounting for 11% of visits in 2022.

Over-the-counter pain relievers are another drug type that were frequently suspected to be involved in nonfatal hospital-treated intentional drug overdose. 4-aminophenol derivatives, like acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol), and ibuprofen (e.g., Advil), were involved in 10% and 6% of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, respectively.

Benzodiazepines (e.g., Xanax, Ativan) are a common drug of misuse and often involved in drug overdose deaths.^{2,3} In 2022, benzodiazepines were suspected to be involved in 5% of hospital-treated intentional drug overdoses. Opioids, which are commonly involved in nonfatal unintentional overdoses and overdose deaths, were involved in a much smaller proportion of intentional drug overdose visits. In 2022, opioids were suspected to be involved in 5% of hospital-treated intentional drug overdoses. Psychostimulants with abuse potential (e.g., methamphetamine and amphetamines), another drug type frequently involved in drug overdose deaths, were suspected to be involved in drug overdoses.



Chart 3. Antidepressants were the most common drug type suspected to be involved in hospital-treated intentional drug overdoses.

Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2022

Table 3. Proportion of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, bysuspected drug type, Minnesota residents, 2022

Drug Type	Proportion of hospital visits
Antidepressants	17%
Antipsychotics & neuroleptics	11%
4-aminophenol derivatives	10%
Ibuprofen	6%
Benzodiazepines	5%
Opioids	5%
Antiallergic & antiemetic	5%
Other antiepileptic and sedative-hypnotic	4%
Psychostimulants	3%

It is important to emphasize that drugs suspected to be involved in nonfatal hospital-treated overdoses are typically self-reported by the patient or determined by presenting symptoms at the hospital; often, toxicology testing is not completed (See Appendix I for more details). Because it is difficult to determine which specific drugs were present without toxicological results, and due to the lack of detail from ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, the interpretation of drug-specific trends requires caution. In addition, it is not possible to determine whether the substances listed were prescribed, diverted, or illicit.

Patient age

In 2022, Minnesotans aged 15-19 experienced the largest number of nonfatal intentional drug overdoses, accounting for 26% (1,540) of all nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose (Chart 4). These numbers have remained stable since 2016 (Chart 5). Additionally, 2021 and 2022 saw an increase in the number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose in the 10-14 age category, with hospital visits peaking in 2021 at 976 before going down to 861 in 2022 (Chart 5).

Chart 4. Minnesotans aged 15-19 made up the largest number of nonfatal intentional overdoses.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2022

Table 4. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, by agecategory, Minnesota residents, 2022

Age category	Number of hospital visits
10-14	861
15-19	1,540
20-24	766
25-29	491
30-34	544
35-39	407
40-44	377
45-49	248
50-54	220
55-59	199
60-64	153
65-69	84
70-74	47
75-79	22
80-84	14
85+	12



Chart 5. Since 2016, 15–19-year-old Minnesota residents have accounted for the highest number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose.

Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2016-2022

Table 5. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, b	y age
category, 2016-2022	

Age Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
10-14	584	645	636	597	704	976	861
15-19	1699	1743	1674	1591	1576	1742	1540
20-24	800	800	812	799	784	772	766
25-29	604	630	645	556	558	534	492
30-34	517	536	492	551	484	492	544
35-39	477	488	533	541	425	392	408
40-44	446	442	389	415	370	360	377
45-49	434	399	374	313	270	282	248
50-54	390	346	341	288	235	234	220
55-59	264	243	250	230	224	192	199
60-64	103	150	144	166	143	116	153
65+	154	172	160	174	149	182	179

Young people go through many changes, particularly during their teens and early 20's, and with those changes, different suicide and self-harm prevention strategies are often required. Among

Minnesotans aged 13-22, 14-, 15-, and 16-year-olds experienced the largest number of nonfatal hospital-treated intentional overdoses in 2022 (373, 386, 414, respectively) (Chart 6).



Chart 6. 14-, 15-, and 16-year-old Minnesotans experienced the greatest number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdoses.

Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2022

Table 6. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, byage, 13-22-year-old Minnesota residents, 2022

Age	Number of hospital visits
13	322
14	373
15	386
16	414
17	294
18	222
19	224
20	205
21	162
22	145

While following an overall similar distribution, the trends by age group in nonfatal hospitalvisits for intentional overdose vary by hospital setting. For Minnesotans under 40, nonfatal intentional overdoses are more frequently treated in the emergency department (Chart 7). As age increases, so does the proportion of nonfatal intentional overdoses resulting in hospitalization.

Chart 7. For older Minnesotans, nonfatal intentional drug overdose more often resulted in hospitalization.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2022

Table 7. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, by agecategory and hospital setting, Minnesota residents, 2022

Age category	Number of emergency department visits	Number of hospitalizations
10-14	551	310
15-19	888	652
20-24	428	338
25-29	282	209
30-34	298	246
35-39	222	185
40-44	177	200
45-49	121	127
50-54	106	114
55-59	95	104

Age category	Number of emergency department visits	Number of hospitalizations
60-64	56	97
65-69	33	51
70-74	11	36

Patient gender

Since 2016, female Minnesotans have experienced a greater burden of nonfatal intentional drug overdose than male Minnesotans and the difference has remained relatively stable over this time period. In 2022, female Minnesotans accounted for 70% and male Minnesotans accounted for 30% of all hospital-treated nonfatal intentional drug overdoses (Chart 8). Each year since 2016, the proportion of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose has been higher among female Minnesotans (Chart 9).

Chart 8. Since 2016, female Minnesotans have experienced a greater burden of hospital-treated nonfatal intentional drug overdose.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2016-2022

Table 8. Proportion of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, bygender, Minnesota residents, 2016-2022

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Female	68%	69%	68%	68%	68%	71%	70%

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male	32%	31%	32%	32%	32%	29%	30%

Patient age and gender

Among female and male Minnesotans, the 15-19-year age group experienced the largest number (1,179 and 361 overdoses, respectively) of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose in 2022 (Chart 9). Moreover, female Minnesotans in this age group experienced substantially more nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose than any other age group across genders. Notably, female Minnesotans accounted for nearly nine out of ten nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose among Minnesotans aged 10-14.

Chart 9. 15-19-year-old female Minnesotans experienced substantially more nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose than any other age group for either gender.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2022

Table 9. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, bygender and age category, Minnesota residents, 2022

Age category	Male	Female
10-14	95	766
15-19	361	1,179
20-24	201	565
25-29	200	291
30-34	261	283

Age category	Male	Female
35-39	176	231
40-44	160	217
45-49	89	159
50-54	71	149
55-59	74	125
60-64	53	100
65-69	31	53
70-74	16	31
75-79	6	16
80-84	5	9

Trends were examined more closely for 13-16-year-old female Minnesotans due to the high number of nonfatal hospital-treated intentional drug overdose in this population (Chart 10). From 2020 to 2021, nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose increased 77% (183 to 324 overdoses) for 13-year-old female Minnesotans and 18% (311 to 368 overdoses) for 14-year-old female Minnesotans. In 2022, the number of nonfatal slightly decreased among these age groups. Since 2016, nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose have varied among 15- and 16-year-old female Minnesotans – visits peaked in 2021 but have remained relatively stable overall.

Chart 10. Among 13- and 14-year-old female Minnesotans, the number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose slightly decreased in 2022 after reaching their highest number in 2021.



Data source: Minnesota hospital discharge data, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Minnesota Department of Health, 2016-2022

Year	13-year-old female	14-year-old female	15-year-old female	16-year-old female
2016	168	285	339	330
2017	192	269	320	325
2018	160	262	286	330
2019	179	239	303	258
2020	183	311	308	308
2021	324	368	377	351
2022	296	316	309	313

Table 10. Number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose, byage, 13-16-year-old female Minnesota residents, 2016-2022

Suicide prevention efforts

Suicide affects people from every race, age, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability in Minnesota. Minnesota has seen a consistent, decade-long increasing trend in the number of deaths by suicide each year, similar to trends across the United States. While death by suicide occurs at the individual level, each person lives in context of relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and within neighborhoods, community, and society. Minnesota recently updated their <u>State Suicide Prevention Plan</u>

(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/suicide/mnresponse/stateplan.html) which outlines two main goals:

Improve, expand, and coordinate the suicide prevention infrastructure in Minnesota.

Prevent Minnesotans from having suicidal experiences and improve the lives of all those who are struggling, so they know they are not alone, help is available, and healing is possible.

The 2023-2027 Minnesota State Suicide Prevention Plan calls for a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention. A comprehensive approach includes:

- Improving infrastructure
- Increasing collaboration
- Building capacity for local communities to work in upstream prevention, early intervention, crisis intervention, and postvention (support after a death by suicide).

It is important to take a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention that includes strategies for individuals, families, and communities. Implementation of complementary prevention strategies tailored for populations who are most at risk within a community can lessen harm and prevent future risk. Research has shown that people are less likely to attempt suicide or to die by suicide in communities that support, care for, and affirm all their members.

Learn more about how the Minnesota Department of Health is working with various communities, organizations, and systems across the state: <u>Suicide Prevention</u> (<u>https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/suicide/index.html</u>)

If you need suicide or mental health crisis support, or are worried about someone else, please call or text 988 or visit the <u>988 Lifeline Chat and Text (Lifeline https://988lifeline.org/chat/)</u> to connect with a trained crisis specialist.

Conclusions

Over the past several years, Minnesota has continued to see a high number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose. In 2022, around one-third of all nonfatal hospital visits for drug overdose were diagnosed as intentional (i.e., self-harm). Some groups were affected by nonfatal intentional drug overdose more than others. Notably, the number of nonfatal hospital visits for intentional drug overdose increased 81% for 13-year-old female Minnesotans and 54% for 14-year-old female Minnesotans from 2019 to 2021.

The 2022 data shows that the types of drugs involved in nonfatal hospital-treated intentional drug overdoses were most commonly prescription medications, like antidepressants and antipsychotics, and over-the-counter medications, like acetaminophen and ibuprofen. Reducing lethal access to these substances for people demonstrating suicidal ideation may help prevent these incidents.

These findings continue to provide an understanding of where and how to focus prevention efforts in communities across the state. Learn more about how the Minnesota Department of Health is working with various communities, organizations, and systems across the state: <u>Suicide Prevention (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/suicide/index.html)</u>.

References

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Appendix

Appendix I: Data Source and Case Definitions for Nonfatal Overdose

Within this report, the data consist of Minnesota residents treated for nonfatal drug overdoses in Minnesota and North Dakota hospitals. The Minnesota Department of Health receives approximately 95% of hospital discharge data from the Minnesota Hospital Association, including emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalizations. These data cover all 87 Minnesota counties and can include reports from all 132 acute care hospitals in the state.

A limitation of the data source is the drug(s) suspected to be involved in hospital visits are often self-reported by the patient or determined by presenting symptoms at the hospital. Often, toxicology tests are not run for these patients to determine the specific substances involved. As a result, caution is needed when interpreting drug category-specific findings. All drug overdoses referenced in this summary are suspected drug overdoses. Drug categories are non-exclusive. The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes, used to classify these categories, are shown below.

ICD-10-CM Codes for Drug Overdose Case Definition

All Drug

T36 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of systemic antibiotics

T37 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics

T38 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified

T39 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics

T40 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens]

T41 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of anesthetics and therapeutic gases

T42 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of antiepileptic, sedative- hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs

T43 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified

T44 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system

T45 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of primarily systemic and hematological agents, not elsewhere classified

T46 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system

T47 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system

T48 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system

T49 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinorlaryngological and dental drugs

T50 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances

Antidepressants

T43.012A Poisoning by tricyclic antidepressants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.022A Poisoning by tetracyclic antidepressants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.1X2A Poisoning by monoamine-oxidase-inhibitor antidepressants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.202A Poisoning by unspecified antidepressants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.212A Poisoning by selective serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.292A Poisoning by other antidepressants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

Antipsychotics and neuroleptics

T43.3X2A Poisoning by phenothiazine antipsychotics and neuroleptics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.4X2A Poisoning by butyrophenone and thiothixene neuroleptics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.502A Poisoning by unspecified antipsychotics and neuroleptics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.592A Poisoning by other antipsychotics and neuroleptics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

4-aminophenol derivatives

T39.1X2A Poisoning by 4-Aminophenol derivatives, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

Ibuprofen

T39.392A Poisoning by other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAID], intentional self-harm, initial encounter **Benzodiazepines**

T42.4X2A Poisoning by benzodiazepines, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

Opioids

T40.0X2A Poisoning by opium, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.1X2A Poisoning by heroin, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.2X2A Poisoning by other opioids, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.3X2A Poisoning by methadone, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.412A Poisoning by fentanyl or fentanyl analogs, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.422A Poisoning by tramadol, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.492A Poisoning by other synthetic narcotics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.5X2A Poisoning by cocaine, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.602A Poisoning by unspecified narcotics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T40.692A Poisoning by other narcotics, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

Antiallergic & Antiemetic

T45.0X2A Poisoning by antiallergic and antiemetic drugs, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

Other Antiepileptic and Sedative-Hypnotic

T42.6X2A Poisoning by other antiepileptic and sedative-hypnotic drugs, intentional self-harm, initial encounter **Psychostimulants**

T43.602A Poisoning by unspecified psychostimulants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

T43.692A Poisoning by other psychostimulants, intentional self-harm, initial encounter

Appendix II: State Community Health Services Advisory Committee Regions

Regions were determined using the <u>'State Community Health Services Advisory Committee'</u> <u>regions (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/connect/docs/schsac.pdf)</u>. Below is a table that lists which counties belong to a given region.

State Community Health Services Advisory Committee Regions

State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Region	Counties
Northeast	Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis
Northwest	Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau
Central	Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, Wright
Metro	Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington
Southeast	Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Winona
Southwest	Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, Yellow Medicine
South Central	Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Mcleod, Meeker, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan
West Central	Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin