

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

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<https://www.drugabuse.gov>

# Mississippi Opioid Summary

## Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths

In 2017, there were 185 drug overdose deaths involving opioids in Mississippi—an age-adjusted rate of 6.4 deaths per 100,000 persons. This was less than the average national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. The greatest increase in opioid involved overdose deaths was seen in cases involving synthetic opioids other than methadone (mainly fentanyl): a rise from 24 deaths in 2014 to 81 deaths in 2017 (Figure 1). An overall increase occurred among deaths involving heroin from 10 in 2013 to 34 in 2017, however, no significant increase has been seen since 2015. Prescription opioid-involved deaths also rose during the same period from 66 to 96 deaths.

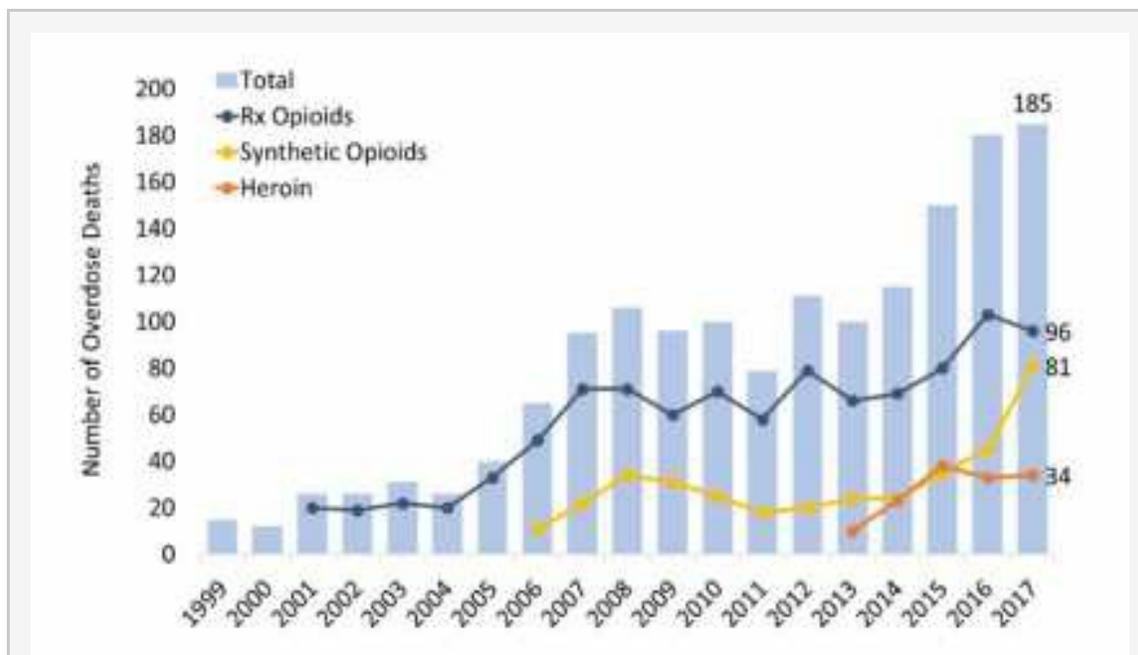
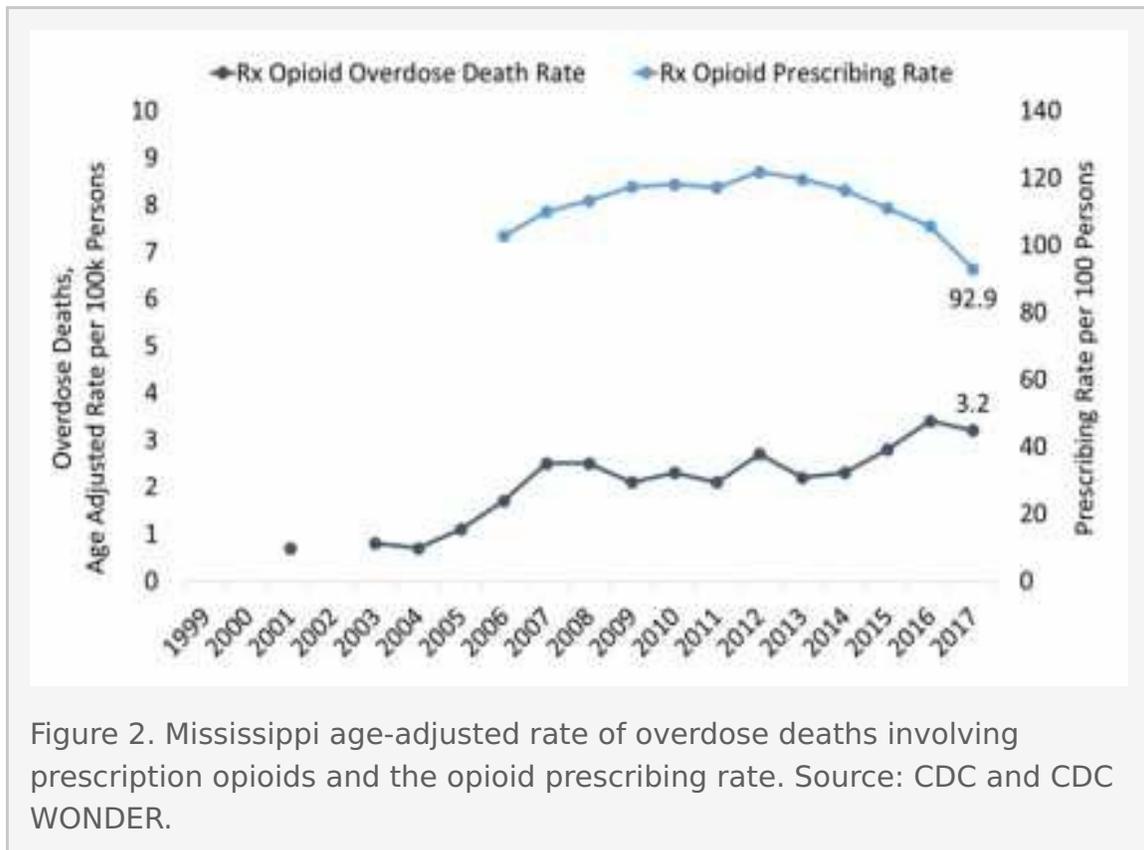


Figure 1. Number of overdose deaths involving opioids in Mississippi, by opioid category. Drug categories presented are not mutually exclusive, and deaths might have involved more than one substance. Source: CDC WONDER.

## Opioid Pain Reliever Prescriptions

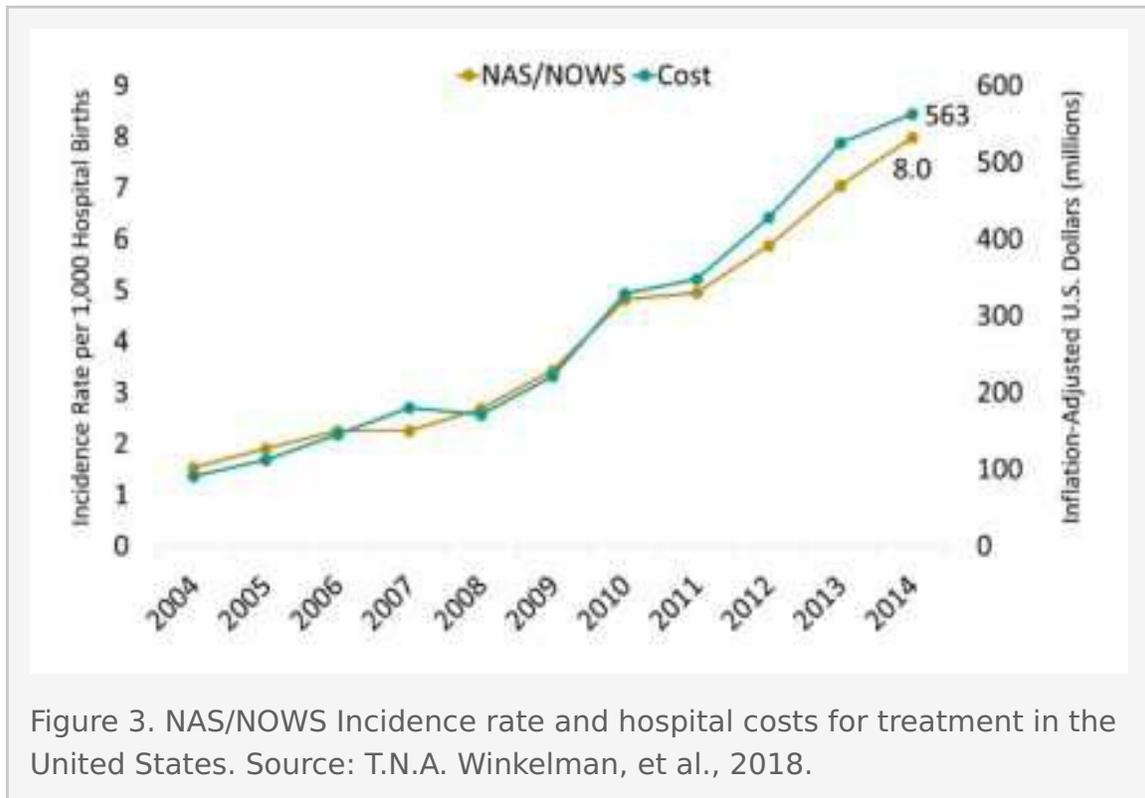
In 2017, Mississippi providers wrote 92.9 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons (Figure 2), compared to the average U.S. rate of 58.7 prescriptions. This was among the top five rates in the United States that year ([CDC](#)); however, it was also the lowest rate in the state since data became available in 2006. The age-adjusted rates of overdose deaths involving opioid prescriptions rose to 3.2 in 2017 but not significantly.



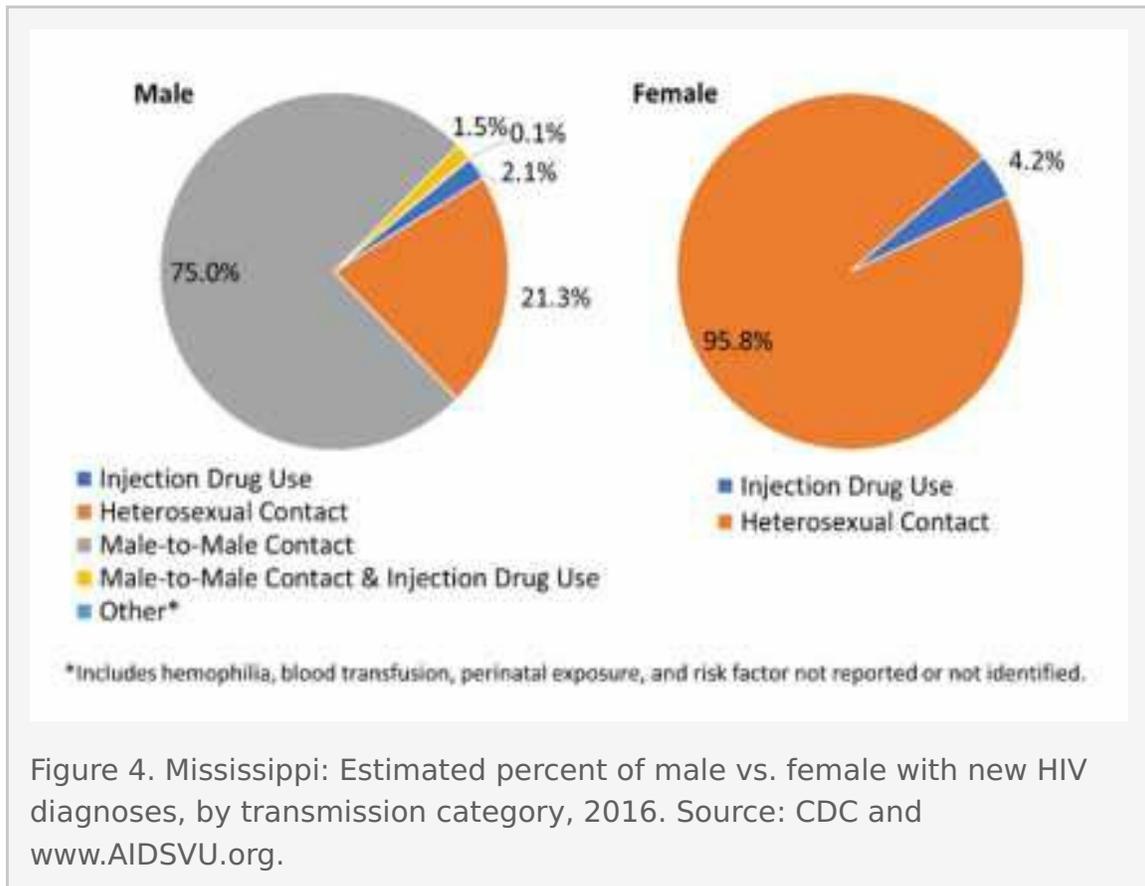
## Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

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. This is the equivalent of one baby born with symptoms of 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).

State specific data on the rate of babies born with NAS/NOWS in Mississippi is unavailable.



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



- 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 males, 6.3 percent (2,530) of new cases were transmitted via IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 2.3 percent (950) were transmitted via IDU ([CDC](#)).
- 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](#)).
- State Incidence:** Of the new HIV cases in 2016, 424 occurred in Mississippi. Among males, 3.6 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 4.2 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU (Figure 4) ([AIDSVU](#)).
- State Prevalence:** In 2015, an estimated 9,236 persons were living with a diagnosed HIV infection in Mississippi—a rate of 374

cases per 100,000 persons. Of those, 12.6 percent of male cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 14.7 percent were living with HIV attributed to IDU ([AIDSVu](#)).

## 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](#)). Among case reports that contain information about IDU, 68.6 percent indicated use of injection drugs ([CDC](#)).
- **U.S. Prevalence:** An estimated 2.4 million Americans are living with HCV based on 2013-2016 annual averages ([CDC](#)).
- **State Incidence:** This data is unavailable for the state of Mississippi ([CDC](#)).
- **State Prevalence:** In Mississippi, there are an estimated 23,300 persons living with Hepatitis C (2013-2016 annual average), a rate of 1,030 cases per 100,000 persons ([HepVu](#)).

## Additional Resources

- Mississippi State Department of Health, [Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Opioid Overdose](#)



NIH RePORTER

**FY2018 NIH-funded projects related to opioid use and use disorder in Mississippi: 6**

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## 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 are estimated to be 13.9 times the number of reported cases in any year.