New Mexico Opioid Summary

Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths

In 2017, there were 332 overdose deaths involving opioids in New Mexico—a rate of 16.7 deaths per 100,000 persons compared to the average national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. Prescription opioids were involved in most deaths in 2017 with 171, followed by heroin with 144, and synthetic opioids other than methadone (mainly fentanyl) with 75 deaths. Deaths have not significantly changed over the last several years.

![Graph showing number of overdose deaths involving opioids in New Mexico, by opioid category.](Figure 1. Number of overdose deaths involving opioids in New Mexico, 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, New Mexico providers wrote 56.4 opioid prescriptions for every 100 persons (Figure 2). The average U.S. rate in the same year was 58.7 prescriptions per 100 persons (CDC).
The rate of overdose deaths involving opioid prescriptions was 8.4 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2017 and has not significantly changed since 2015.

Figure 2. New Mexico rate of overdose deaths involving prescription opioids and the opioid prescribing rate. Source: CDC and CDC WONDER.

**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).

To date, there is no standard in NAS/NOWS provider and hospital coding practices (CDC). As a result, there is variability in trends and in the rate reported by states. The most recent data on the rate of babies born with NAS/NOWS in New Mexico is from 2017 hospital discharge
data. The rate of NAS/NOWS in New Mexico increased 324 percent from 3.3 cases per 1,000 live births to 14.0 cases per 1,000 live births. While Hispanics accounted for the highest proportion of cases, 48 percent, the highest increase occurred among American Indian/Alaska Natives with a 698 percent increase from 0.8 cases per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 6.4 cases per 1,000 live births in 2017 (New Mexico Department Health).

Figure 3. NAS/NOWS Incidence rate and hospital costs for treatment in the United States. Source: T.N.A. Winkelman, et al., 2018.

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 (150,4661) 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, 125 occurred in New Mexico. Among males, 16.6 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 18.2 percent of new HIV cases were attributed to IDU (Figure 4) (AIDSVu).

State Prevalence: In 2015, an estimated 3,215 persons were living with a diagnosed HIV infection in New Mexico—a rate of 186 cases per 100,000 persons. Of those, 18.8 percent of cases among
males were attributed to IDU or male-to-male contact and IDU. Among females, 27.8 percent were living with HIV attributed to IDU (AIDSVu).

Hepatitis C (HCV) Prevalence and HCV Diagnoses Attributed to Injection Drug Use

- **U.S. Incidence:** In 2016, there were an estimated 41,200 new cases of acute HCV (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:** There were approximately 18 new cases of acute HCV (0.9 per 100,000 persons) reported in New Mexico in 2016 (CDC).

- **State Prevalence:** In New Mexico, there are an estimated 26,900 persons living with Hepatitis C (2013-2016 annual average), a rate of 1,700 cases per 100,000 persons (HepVu).

Additional Resources

- New Mexico Department of Health, Substance Abuse Epidemiology Program and Opioid Safety

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Opioid Overdose
FY2018 NIH-funded projects related to opioid use and use disorder in New Mexico: 0

Find treatment in New Mexico (SAMHSA)

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.