



April 2025

Ramsey County Opioid Response Initiative Update



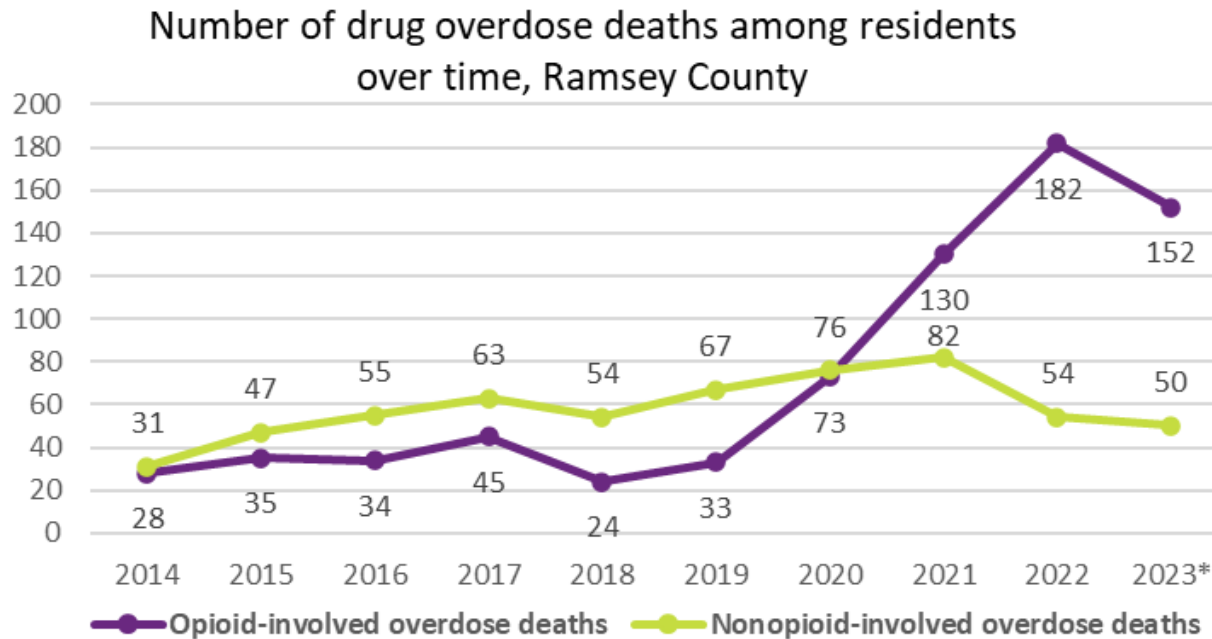
OPIOID RESPONSE
INITIATIVE

Background of Opioid Epidemic

- This is a National Public Health Crisis
- #1 cause of accidental deaths in U.S. are drug overdoses
- Opioids top the list of the most common drugs that cause overdoses
- Opioids come in many different forms

Fatal drug overdoses

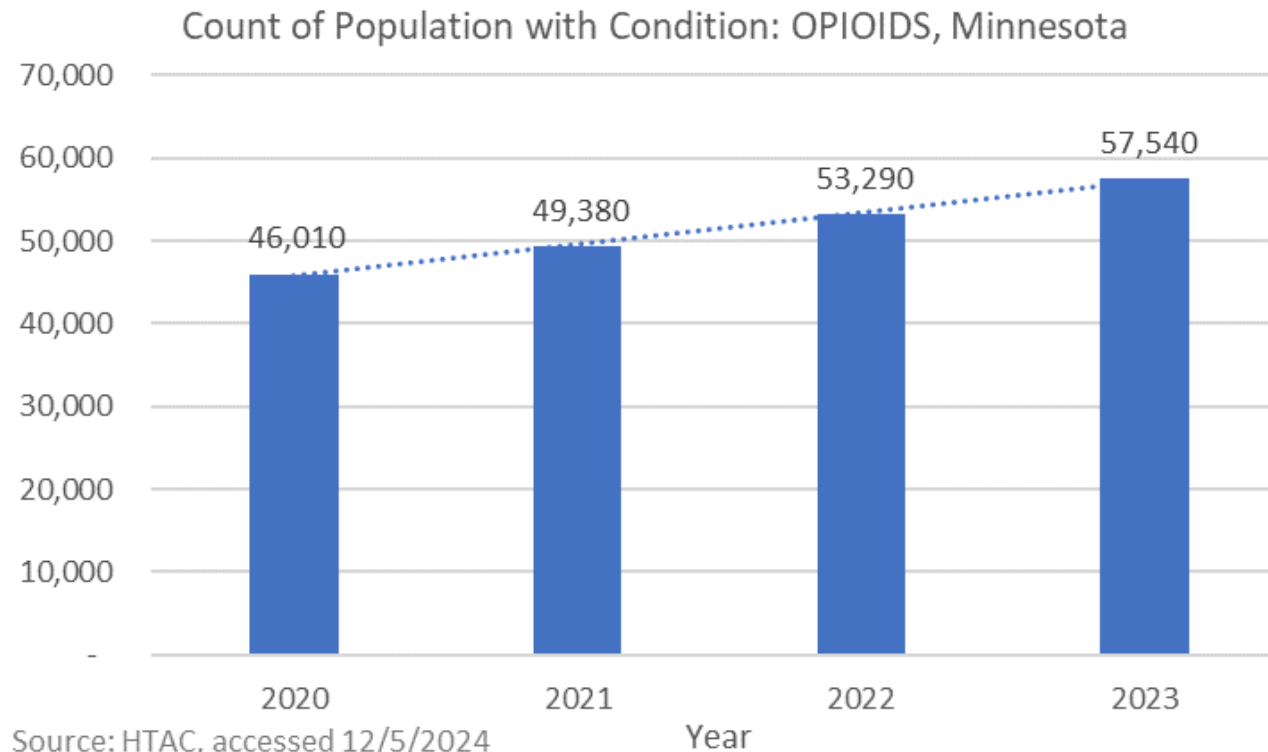
- Opioid-involved deaths decreased 16.5% between 2022 and 2023
- About 75% of all drug overdose deaths involve opioids



Source: CDC Wonder/MDH *preliminary
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/opioids/documents/countyopioidinvolvedtable2.pdf>



Diagnosed opioid condition among Minnesotans



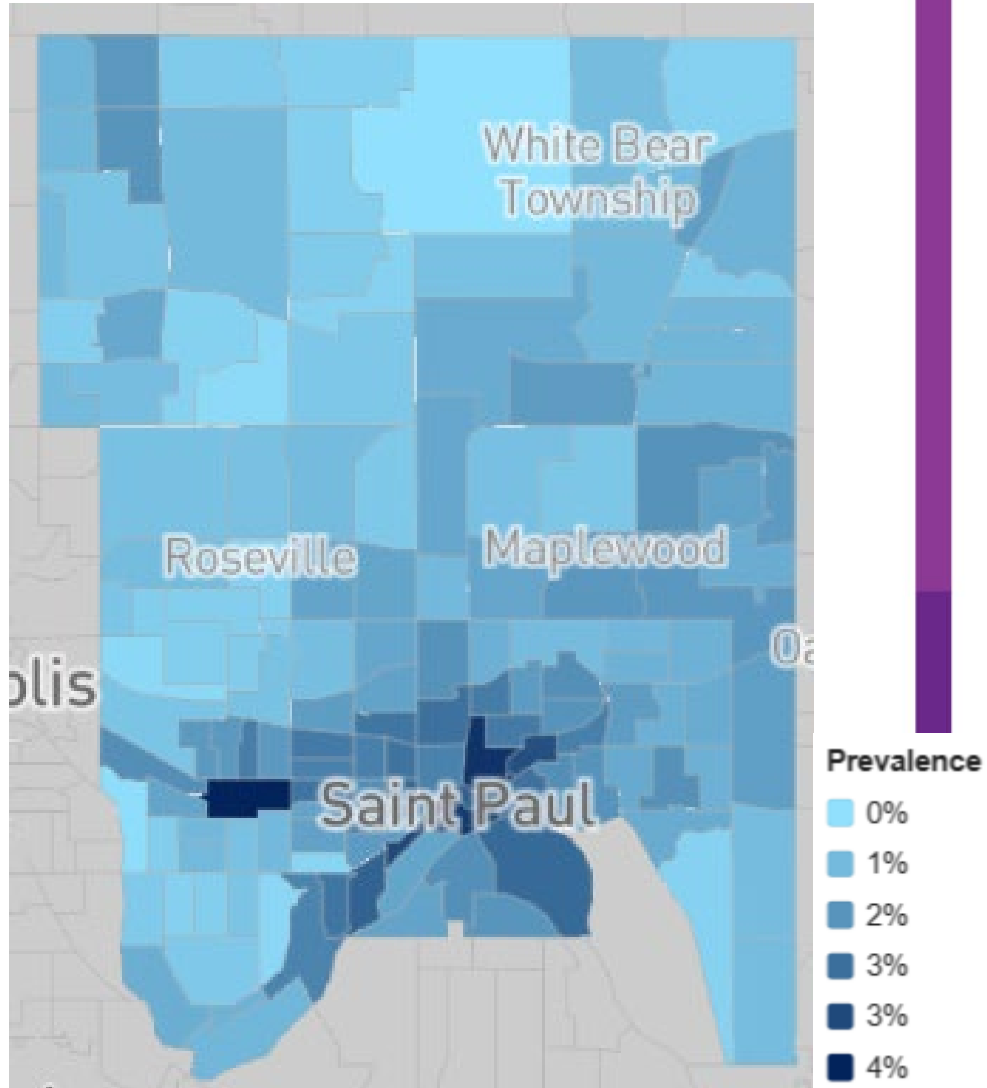
<https://mnehrconsortium.org/health-trends-across-communities-minnesota-dashboard>

- Number of Minnesotans who were seen at any participating health system within the last 3 years and received a diagnosis of opioid use* in the last 5 years, 2020-2023

*The opioid use condition includes:
Opioid use disorder
Opioid overdose (accidental or intentional)
Opioid intoxication
Opioid-induced mental health disorders
Opioid withdrawal and other related diagnosis



Ramsey County 2023: % of population
in each census tract with condition



Diagnosed opioid condition among Ramsey County residents

- Residents who were seen at any participating health system within the last 3 years and received a diagnosis of opioid use in the last 5 years, 2020-2023
- The highest prevalence overall is among American Indian, male, and residents who are 55-64 years



Opioid Settlement Funds

- MN Attorney General reached \$26 billion agreement with major opioid manufacturers and distributors: Johnson & Johnson, Cardinal, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen.
- Second wave of settlements are estimated maximum distributions with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS.

City or County	Round 1	Round 2 (Approximate)
Maplewood City	\$ 387,155	\$ 315,126
North Saint Paul City	\$ 118,895	\$ 96,775
Roseville City	\$ 355,524	\$ 289,380
Saint Paul City	\$ 7,737,572	\$ 6,298,017
Ramsey County	\$ 14,676,308	\$ 11,945,819



Other Opioid and Substance Use-Related Grant Funding

Previous: \$412,627
(through June 30, 2024)

Awarded by DHS for the Expansion and Enhancement of a Continuum of Care for Opioid-related Substance Use Disorders Grant Program Funds. (Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council – OERAC)

Current: \$499,975 per year
(September 30, 2023 –
September 30, 2028)

Awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based treatment and housing referrals for justice-involved and unsheltered community members with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and co-occurring mental health conditions in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

Current: \$1.2 million (November
2023 – June 30, 2026)

Awarded by DHS for the Ramsey County Harm Reduction and Treatment Connection (HRTC) grant project aimed at providing harm reduction services and treatment referrals to justice involved individuals and people experiencing homelessness through Ramsey County correctional facilities, the Syringe Exchange and Mobile Medical Unit. (Opioid Epidemic Response Services – OERS)



Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health: Opioid Response Initiative Team Commitments

- Listening, building trust and shared accountability through demonstrated approaches that serve our most impacted communities, with a specific focus on Black and American Indian residents in Ramsey County.
- Data-driven decision making that will save lives and improve health outcomes related to substance use through shared resources and access to services.
- Educating, involving and informing the Ramsey County community about the impact of the opioid crisis that will result in:
 - Greater community involvement
 - Easier access to resources
 - Younger generations making knowledgeable decisions regarding drug use and lives saved



2024-2025 Priority Areas

1. Pregnant / parenting women and babies
2. Culturally specific approaches for treatment and recovery
3. Health Education Awareness and Outreach focused on prevention
4. Treatment and support for people involved in the justice system
5. Education and engagement with young people

Ramsey County (RC) Internal Naloxone Training Program

- Since 2022, RC Health Educator/Peer Specialist has provided 70 trainings to approximately 1,200 county staff, including senior and executive leaders, on how to use naloxone and other harm reduction resources.
- Nasal Narcan® and a user-friendly pocket guide was given to each employee after training completion.

Funded by the DHS Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC) grant through 2024



Community Naloxone Distribution Pilot Program

- Public Health made naloxone (Narcan ®) available to residents through a distribution mailing program.
- Residents of Ramsey County filled out an online order form on the [Opioid Response Initiative](#) website to request naloxone.
- Naloxone was made available to Ramsey County residents at no charge.

You Can Stop an Overdose

Take these steps:

- Check for overdose.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Give naloxone.
- Give breaths.
- Stay until help arrives.



Check for Overdose

- Not breathing well.
- Blue/gray lips and fingertips.
- Does not answer to noise.
- Person won't wake up; try pinch or knuckle rub on chest.



Call 9-1-1

- Call 9-1-1.
- Say "someone isn't breathing."
- Stay until help arrives, even if the person seems better.



Give Naloxone

- Hold container with thumb on bottom plunger, two fingers on both sides of the nozzle.
- Put the nozzle into the nose, push plunger.



Give Breaths

- Make sure nothing is in mouth.
- Tilt head, lift chin, pinch nose.
- Give 1 breath every 5 seconds.
- If the person does not wake up in 2-3 minutes, give second dose on other side of nose.



Stay Until Help Arrives

- Continue giving breaths until help arrives.

Steve's Law protects the person overdosing and one other person who calls 911 and stays with the person who overdosed.

The Ramsey County Naloxone Distribution Project is being offered by Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health and funded in part by Minnesota's settlements with opioid companies.

RAMSEY COUNTY | **OPIOID RESPONSE INITIATIVE**

Funded by the Opioid Settlement. Watch the [naloxone video tutorial](#).



CLINIC 555 CAREVAN



1

Opioid Community Grants

- In June 2024, seventeen community organizations were awarded between \$40,000 and \$55,000 for nine months from the county's settlement funds
- A total of approximately \$1 million was distributed to community organizations.
- Grants just wrapped up at the end of February
- A new RFP available to community organizations will be released later in 2025

Ramsey County ORI...Looking Ahead

- Continue to explore partnerships with other County Initiatives
- Assess areas of focus for optimal services for our populations
- On going public transparency on use of funds
- Coordinated partnership with cities and community groups

Ramsey County ORI Timeline and Next Steps



January 2025:
Host the annual
Ramsey County
Jurisdictions
meeting

Feb./March 2025:
Close out Opioid
Community Grant
Program grants

April 2025:
Launch QR code
*non settlement
funds

Spring 2025:
Hire and onboard
new Opioid
Prevention
Coordinator

Late Spring 2025:
Work on next steps for
the RC Opioid
Response Initiative
Action Plan





Thank you!



OPIOID RESPONSE
INITIATIVE