

## US Fentanyl Deaths Reach New High

### *31 States Saw Increase in Fentanyl Deaths In 2023*

Washington State, Oregon, Nevada saw Largest Increases in Fentanyl Deaths

New data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has revealed that U.S. drug “overdose” deaths reached a new high in 2023 – and deaths from fentanyl and other synthetic opioids also reached an all-time high. The CDC estimates that more than 111,000 Americans died from a drug overdose in the 12-month period ending in April – and more than 77,000 of those deaths involved fentanyl and other synthetic opioids other than methadone. Both are record highs and increases over the prior year.

While overall U.S. overdose deaths increased by 1.7 percent compared to the prior 12 month period, a [Families Against Fentanyl](#) analysis of CDC data found that illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioid deaths increased by a greater margin of nearly 5 percent (4.9 percent), with some states seeing one-year increases of more than 50 percent. Families Against Fentanyl analyzed the new CDC data and found that:

#### Overall US

- **Overdose deaths and deaths from fentanyl poisoning reached an all-time high in 2023.**
- **31 states and the District of Columbia saw more fentanyl and synthetic opioid deaths in 2023 than the year prior. 29 states saw more overdose deaths in 2023 than in the prior year,** according to CDC estimates of fatalities through April 2023.
- **Nationwide fentanyl and synthetic opioid deaths increased at a higher rate than overall drug overdose deaths.** Deaths due to fentanyl and synthetic opioids increased by nearly 5 percent (4.9 percent) compared to the prior year, more than double the rate of increase among overall overdose deaths (1.7 percent).

#### States with Highest Rate of Increase in Drug Deaths

- **Oregon and Washington state had the highest rate of increase in fatalities due to fentanyl poisoning (13x the national average) and drug overdose compared to the prior year.**
- **Oregon had the highest rate of increase in fentanyl deaths in the nation with a one-year increase of more than 67 percent,** compared to a national average of 5 percent. The state also ranked second highest in the nation for increases in overdose deaths overall, with an increase of 23 percent.
- **Washington state overdose deaths increased by over 34 percent, the highest one-year increase in the nation.** Washington also ranked second highest in the nation for increases in fentanyl deaths, with an increase of 65 percent.

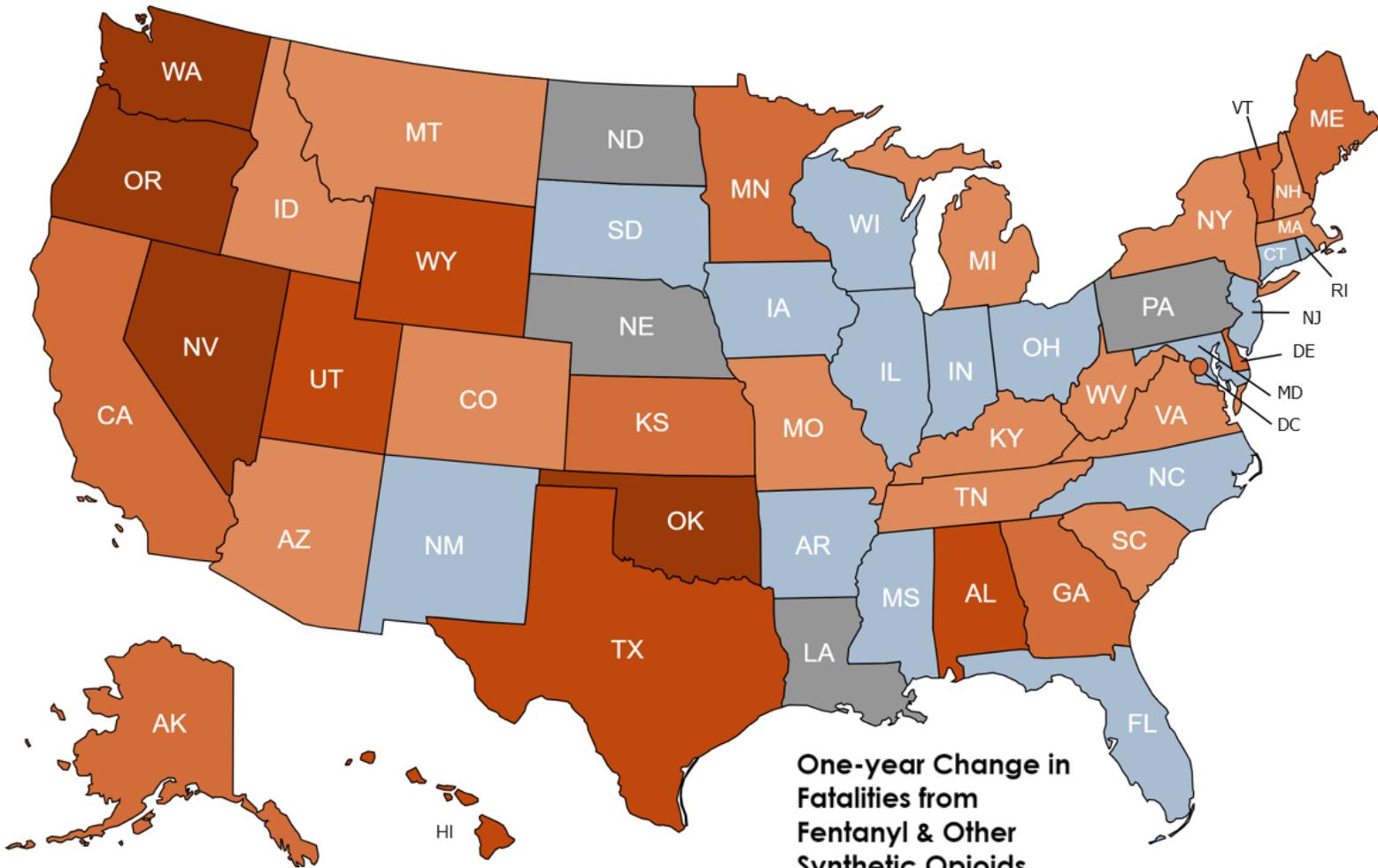
**These 10 states had the most fentanyl poisoning deaths in the last year.**

#### States with Highest Number of Fatalities

- **California, Florida, Ohio and North Carolina had the highest number of fentanyl and other synthetic opioid deaths** in the 12-month period ending in April 2023.
- **California, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania suffered the most overall drug overdose deaths** in the same 12-month period.

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. California     | 6. Illinois   |
| 2. Florida        | 7. New York   |
| 3. Ohio           | 8. Texas      |
| 4. North Carolina | 9. New Jersey |
| 5. Tennessee      | 10. Michigan  |

## 31 States saw Increases in Fentanyl Deaths In 2023 Over Prior Year



These 10 states saw the largest increases in fentanyl deaths in the last year.

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Oregon - 67%     | 6. Texas - 28%    |
| 2. Washington - 65% | 7. Hawaii - 27%   |
| 3. Nevada - 58%     | 8. Alabama - 27%  |
| 4. Oklahoma - 55%   | 9. Utah - 21%     |
| 5. Wyoming - 41%    | 10. Vermont - 19% |

### One-year Change in Fatalities from Fentanyl & Other Synthetic Opioids

- Increased 50-75%
- Increased 20-50%
- Increased 10-20%
- Increased 10% or less
- Decreased 0-20%
- Data Unavailable



Note: FAF's One-year change in fatalities map compares the CDC's fatality estimates (predicted deaths) for the most recent 12 months of data available, which is the year ending April 2023, to the previous year data, the 12-month period ending in April 2022. Based on latest data available when accessed by Families Against Fentanyl on September 14, 2023. All current 12-month data is underreported due to incomplete data. CDC fentanyl and other synthetic opioid fatality estimates were only available for 46 states, the District of Columbia and New York City for this period. See more on technical details and methodology at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>  
Suggested Citation: Families Against Fentanyl analysis of CDC's provisional drug overdose death counts. Data source: Ahmad FB, Cisewski JA, Rossen LM, Sutton P. Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics. 2023.

### 31 States Saw Fentanyl Deaths Increase in 2023

State Fentanyl & Other Synthetic Opioid Deaths Ranked By Percent Increase in Fatalities,  
Highest to Lowest

Rank (By Rate of increase)	State	Current 12 Months	Previous 12 Months	Percent Increase
1	Oregon	1,020	610	67%
2	Washington	2,313	1,403	65%
3	Nevada	598	378	58%
4	Oklahoma	680	440	55%
5	Wyoming	65	46	41%
6	Texas	2,571	2,009	28%
7	Hawaii	85	67	27%
8	Alabama	1,055	833	27%
9	Utah	258	213	21%
10	Vermont	241	203	19%
11	Delaware	477	402	19%
12	Alaska	181	155	17%
13	Maine	589	506	16%
14	Kansas	428	370	16%
*	New York City	2,591	2,260	15%
*	District of Columbia	468	410	14%
15	Georgia	1,694	1,494	13%
16	Minnesota	993	881	13%
17	California	7,728	7,048	10%
18	Idaho	205	188	9%
19	West Virginia	1,234	1,137	9%
20	Montana	88	82	7%
21	South Carolina	1,695	1,591	7%
22	New York	2,763	2,604	6%
National Average	United States	77,415	73,807	5%
23	New Hampshire	410	393	4%
24	Virginia	2,042	1,964	4%
25	Missouri	1,523	1,470	4%

26	Tennessee	2,989	2,889	3%
27	Arizona	1,859	1,797	3%
28	Michigan	2,339	2,277	3%
29	Kentucky	1,703	1,675	2%
30	Massachusetts	2,226	2,206	1%
31	Colorado	1,057	1,049	1%

\*Current 12 months indicates the CDC's predicted fentanyl and other synthetic opioid-involved fatalities for the 12 months ending in April 2023. Previous 12 months indicates 12 months ending in April 2022. See further notes on data below.

**26 States Saw More Than 1,000 Fentanyl Deaths in a Single Year**  
*State Fentanyl Deaths Ranked By Total One-Year Fatalities, Highest to Lowest*

<b>Rank</b> (By current year fentanyl deaths, highest to lowest)	<b>State</b>	<b>Current 12 Months</b>	<b>Previous 12 Months</b>
1	California	7,728	7,048
2	Florida	5,349	5,607
3	Ohio	4,045	4,078
4	North Carolina	3,224	3,322
5	Tennessee	2,989	2,889
6	Illinois	2,967	2,972
7	New York	2,763	2,604
*	New York City	2,591	2,260
8	Texas	2,571	2,009
9	New Jersey	2,412	2,579
10	Michigan	2,339	2,277
11	Washington	2,313	1,403
12	Massachusetts	2,226	2,206
13	Maryland	2,075	2,234
14	Virginia	2,042	1,964
15	Arizona	1,859	1,797
16	Indiana	1,794	1,997
17	Kentucky	1,703	1,675

18	South Carolina	<b>1,695</b>	1,591
19	Georgia	<b>1,694</b>	1,494
20	Missouri	<b>1,523</b>	1,470
21	Wisconsin	<b>1,283</b>	1,396
22	Connecticut	<b>1,249</b>	1,308
23	West Virginia	<b>1,234</b>	1,137
24	Colorado	<b>1,057</b>	1,049
25	Alabama	<b>1,055</b>	833
26	Oregon	<b>1,020</b>	610
27	Minnesota	<b>993</b>	881
28	Oklahoma	<b>680</b>	440
29	New Mexico	<b>643</b>	665
30	Nevada	<b>598</b>	378
31	Maine	<b>589</b>	506
32	Delaware	<b>477</b>	402
*	District of Columbia	<b>468</b>	410
33	Kansas	<b>428</b>	370
34	Mississippi	<b>423</b>	442
35	New Hampshire	<b>410</b>	393
36	Rhode Island	<b>318</b>	367
37	Arkansas	<b>277</b>	327
38	Utah	<b>258</b>	213
39	Vermont	<b>241</b>	203
40	Idaho	<b>205</b>	188
41	Iowa	<b>190</b>	230
42	Alaska	<b>181</b>	155
43	Montana	<b>88</b>	82
44	Hawaii	<b>85</b>	67
45	Wyoming	<b>65</b>	46
46	South Dakota	<b>31</b>	34
	United States	<b>77,415</b>	73,807

\*Note for the above tables: All current 12-month data is underreported due to incomplete data. Current 12-month data is the most recent 12 months of data available, which is the year ending April 2023. Previous 12 months refers to the prior 12-month period, the year ending in April 2022. Based on latest data available when accessed by Families Against Fentanyl on September 14, 2023. CDC fentanyl fatality estimates were only available for 46 states, the District of Columbia and New York City for this period. For the purposes of state rankings, 46 states were included.\*The District of Columbia and New York City were not included in state rankings. See more on technical details and methodology at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

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**29 States Saw Higher Drug “Overdose” Deaths Than Prior Year**

*State Overdose Deaths Ranked By Percent Increase in Fatalities, Highest to Lowest*

<b>Rank (By Rate of increase)</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Current 12 Months</b>	<b>Previous 12 Months</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
1	Washington	3,155	2,349	<b>34%</b>
2	Oregon	1,501	1,217	<b>23%</b>
3	Nevada	1,265	1,028	<b>23%</b>
*	New York City	3,262	2,854	<b>14%</b>
4	Alabama	1,555	1,362	<b>14%</b>
5	Texas	5,756	5,100	<b>13%</b>
6	Wyoming	127	114	<b>11%</b>
7	Oklahoma	1,183	1,064	<b>11%</b>
8	Delaware	560	505	<b>11%</b>
9	Vermont	280	254	<b>10%</b>
10	Maine	698	634	<b>10%</b>
*	District of Columbia	608	553	<b>10%</b>
11	New York	3,587	3,332	<b>8%</b>
12	Alaska	275	257	<b>7%</b>
13	Minnesota	1,412	1,335	<b>6%</b>
14	South Carolina	2,320	2,215	<b>5%</b>
15	West Virginia	1,482	1,417	<b>5%</b>

16	Nebraska	217	208	4%
17	California	12,542	12,056	4%
18	North Dakota	141	136	4%
19	Utah	672	655	3%
20	Arizona	2,820	2,752	3%
21	Virginia	2,534	2,483	2%
22	Tennessee	3,933	3,865	2%
23	Missouri	2,215	2,175	2%
<b>National Average</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>111,355</b>	109,502	<b>2%</b>
24	Massachusetts	2,630	2,595	1%
25	Georgia	2,592	2,561	1%
26	Kansas	719	711	1%
27	Hawaii	302	299	1%
28	Kentucky	2,339	2,321	0.8%
29	Michigan	3,079	3,073	0.2%

Note: All current 12-month data underreported due to incomplete data. Current 12-month data is the most recent 12 months of data available, which is the 12 months ending April 2023. The previous 12 months refers to the prior 12-month period, the year ending in April 2022. For the purposes of state rankings, all 50 states were included. \*The District of Columbia and New York City were not included in state totals or rankings. See more on technical details and methodology at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

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