

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION: SUDORS REPORT

DECEMBER 2021

LOUISIANA

SUDORS



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LOUISIANA SUDORS: USING FATAL OVERDOSE DATA TO DRIVE ACTION

The **State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)** was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a response to the opioid overdose epidemic to enable states to collect detailed overdose death information. The goal of SUDORS is to aid researchers, legislators, local health departments, and community-based organizations in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce overdose deaths. SUDORS consistently captures over 200 variables for overdoses of unintentional or undetermined intent, and a significant benefit of SUDORS is the rich circumstance data provided. These circumstance data highlight opportunities where **intervention could save lives**.

LDH acknowledges the diligent efforts of the LA-SUDORS data abstractors, housed at the Office of the Public Health Bureau of Health Informatics. Their extraordinary attention to detail is imperative to this program.

LA-SUDORS

The SUDORS program in Louisiana was funded by CDC in 2017 and LA-SUDORS began collecting data on fatal opioid-related overdoses in 2018 for a **subset of parishes**.

In 2019, SUDORS programs across the nation – including Louisiana – expanded to collect data on ALL drug overdose deaths as part of CDC’s Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program.


Data from **death certificates, medical examiner reports, and toxicology testing results** for decedents* from Louisiana are abstracted and entered into LA-SUDORS.

The following data were analyzed from 370 cases abstracted in SUDORS in 2019. The data aids understanding of the context in which overdose deaths occur in Louisiana.




Death Certificate

- Demographics
- Decedent residence history
- Cause of death information



Medical Examiner Report

- Scene evidence of drug use
- Timing and context of overdose
- Medical/social circumstances



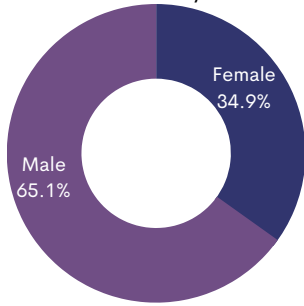
Toxicology Report

- All substances detected
- Substances that caused death
- Prescription status of substances

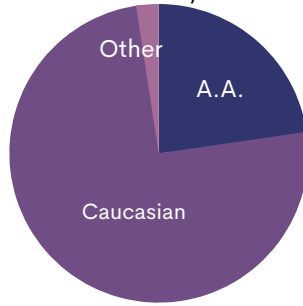
*A decedent is defined, for the purpose of this analysis, as a Louisiana resident who died of an overdose of unintentional or undetermined intent within Louisiana state lines. Other data systems and analyses may define a decedent differently.

LA SUDORS Demographic Snapshot, 2019

Overdoses by Sex



Overdoses by Race

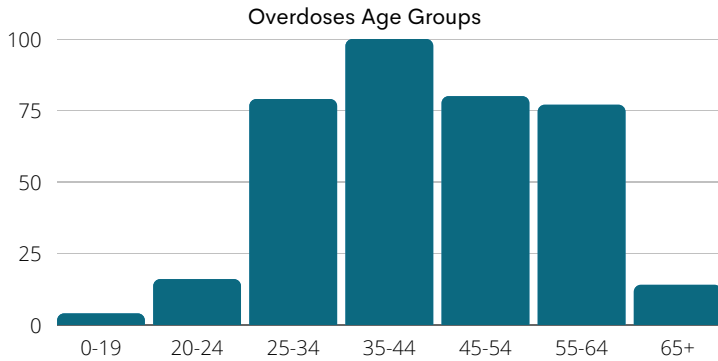


Demographic data were available for 100% (n=370) of Louisiana resident overdose deaths recorded in LA-SUDORS for 2019.

The overdose death rate for male decedents was almost **twice** the rate for female decedents.

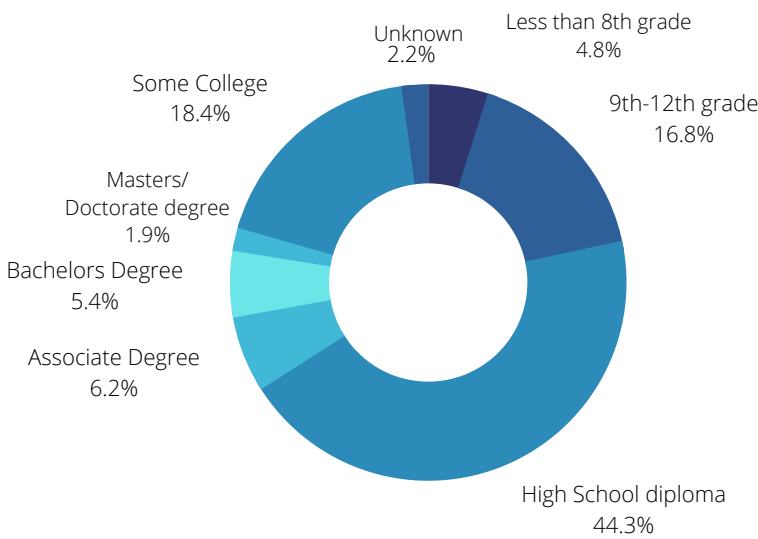
Caucasians had the highest rate of overdose deaths, followed by African Americans (A.A.).

Fatal overdose rates were **highest among** adults ages **35-44**, and were lowest among those 19 and younger and 65 and older.



EDUCATIONAL LEVELS LA-SUDORS 2019

Education Levels



Educational levels of decedents vary among drug overdose cases in 2019.

44.3% of decedents received a high school diploma, 21.6% of decedents received some grade level education, and 31.9% of decedents received some college or a degree. 92% of the SUDORS cases were classified as unintentional deaths while 8% were classified as undetermined. Autopsies were completed on 66% of the drug overdose deaths.

of cases had fentanyl present in toxicology

SPECIFIC DRUGS FINDINGS LA-SUDORS 2019

Opiates were present in 78% of the deaths. **Fentanyl and/or fentanyl metabolites were present in 68% of the toxicology reports of decedents.** Amphetamines were present in 23% of cases, benzodiazepines were present in 28% of cases, antidepressants were present in 20% of cases, and antipsychotics were present in 7% of cases.

68%

of cases had fentanyl present in toxicology

Overdose Location and Response* LA-SUDORS 2019

LA-SUDORS also captures overdose location and response details. The data can be used to inform and guide overdose prevention efforts.

Home was the decedent's location of death in 57.9% of cases. For 23.1% of cases, the decedent's location of death was a motel, in the street, a friend's home, car, parking lot, relative's home, or random yard, etc. and are categorized as other locations.

There were few reports of a witness*** being present during an drug overdose in cases of all fatal overdoses. Almost 7% of overdose deaths had EMS present for assistance.

Although a bystander was documented known to be present 1.35% of the time, naloxone was administered by a bystander** 0.8% of the time. Naloxone was present in 16.5% of toxicology reports and first responders administered 4% of doses to decedents among the 2019 abstracted cases.

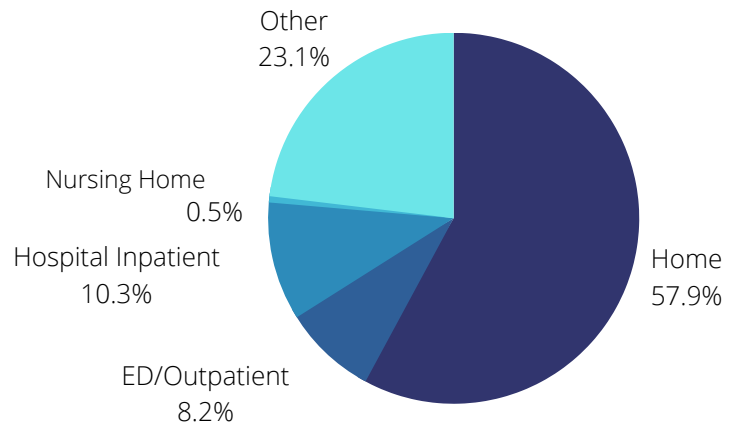
Naloxone and directions for use should be provided to individuals at risk of overdose, their family, and friends. The Louisiana Department of Health has continued to authorize a naloxone standing order to provide access to this life-saving resource.

*Availability of known circumstance data varied among 2019 LA-SUDORS decedents; percentages calculated based on total known for each variable.

**A bystander was physically nearby, during or shortly preceding an overdose, who potentially had an opportunity to intervene and respond to the overdose.

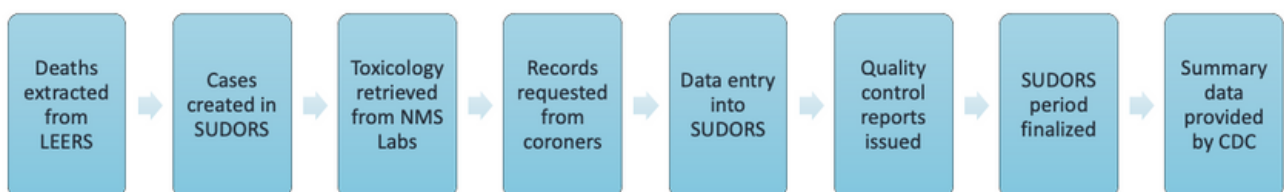
***A witness is an individual, aged 11 years or older, who witnessed the decedent use the substance(s) that resulted in his/her overdose.

Death Location



Death locations categorized as other include motels, street, friend's home, car, relative's home, parking lot, boat, wooded area, or random yard.

SUDORS Process



Additional Resources

More information the opioid surveillance program, including parish-level data on fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses, can be found at <https://lodss.ldh.la.gov>.

LDH resources available at www.ldh.la.gov/opioids, including:

[Louisiana Opioid Response Plan](#)

[Louisiana Safer Syringe Initiative](#)

[Naloxone Availability in Louisiana](#)

[Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education \(HOPE Council\)](#)

