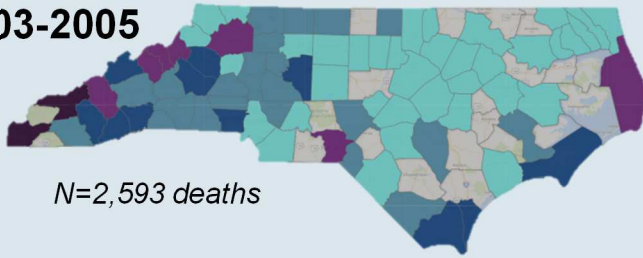


# THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: BY THE NUMBERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

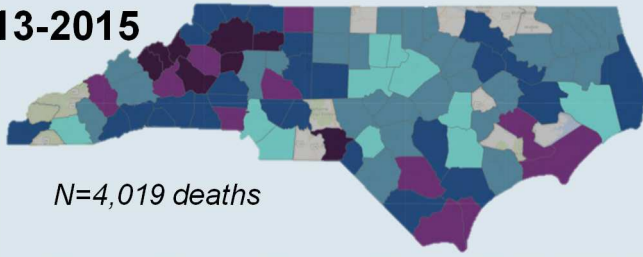
Our state is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic. **More people died from medication or drug overdose in 2015 than in any year on record; and the majority of drug overdose deaths (more than seven out of ten) involved an opioid.** The rising rate of overdose deaths, the gap between treatment capacity and rate of opioid abuse or dependence, and economic impact illustrate the need for enhanced prevention, treatment, research, and effective responses to rapidly reverse opioid overdose deaths.

## Medication or Drug Overdose Death Rates per 100,000 population

**2003-2005**



**2013-2015**



0 to 9 10 to 14 15 to 19 20 to 24 25 to 39 Rate not calculated, < 10 deaths

**Overdose deaths:** N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 1999-2015. Medication or drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85. / **Population:** National Center for Health Statistics Population Estimates, 1999-2015

## Economic Impact of Drug and Medication Overdose Deaths

*Average societal and economic costs of overdose in North Carolina, 2014:*



**\$1,200,000** in work loss costs



**+\$5,400** in medical costs



**x 1,287** overdose deaths



**\$1,500,000,000**  
total combined costs

**Overdose deaths:** N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2014. Medication or drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85 / **Economic Impact:** WISQARs Cost of Injury Reports, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. Base year (2010) costs indexed to state 2014 prices.

## Rate of Past Year Opioid Abuse or Dependence\* and Rate of Medication-Assisted Treatment Capacity with Methadone or Buprenorphine

For every 1,000 persons aged 12 years and older in North Carolina, approximately ten people (10.3) abuse or are dependent on opioids...



...yet capacity for medication-assisted treatment is only available for about three of them (2.9).

Source: AJPH 2015; 105(8): e55-63

\*Opioid abuse or dependence includes prescription opioids and/or heroin

## On an average day in North Carolina, 2015:

**3** people die from an opioid-related overdose



**11** emergency department visits for opioid-related overdoses



**19,600** prescriptions for opioid painkillers dispensed



**Overdose deaths:** N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2015. Opiate poisoning death: inclusive of prescription opioids, heroin, and other opiates like methadone or fentanyl / **Emergency Department:** NC DETECT, ED; Syndrome: Overdose: Opioid Overdose (ICD-9/10-CM). Date Range: 01/01/2015 -12/31/2015. County: All NC Counties; Age Group: All  
**Opioid Dispensing:** Controlled Substances Reporting System, 2015

Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2015. Medication or drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85. Opiate: T40.0,T40.1,T40.2,T40.3 and/or T40.4

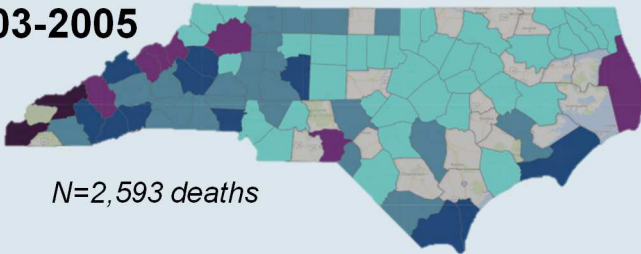
# THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC: BY THE NUMBERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Our state is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic. **More people died from drug overdoses in 2015 than in any year on record, and the majority of drug overdose deaths (more than seven out of ten) involved an opiate.** The rising rate of overdose deaths, the gap between treatment capacity and rate of opioid abuse or dependence, and economic impact illustrates the need for enhanced prevention, treatment, research, and effective responses to rapidly reverse opioid overdose deaths. NC Injury and Violence Prevention Branch and others are working together to tackle these issues; find out more at [www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov).

Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2015. Medication or drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85. Opiate: T40.0,T40.1,T40.2,T40.3 and/or T40.4

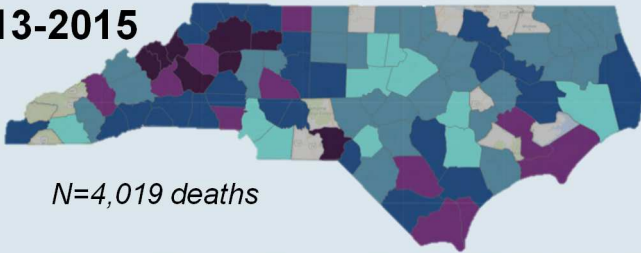
## Drug and Medication Overdose Death Rates per 100,000 population

2003-2005



N=2,593 deaths

2013-2015



N=4,019 deaths



Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 1999-2015. Medication or drug overdose: X40-X44, X60-X64, Y10-Y14, X85.

## Economic Impact of Drug and Medication Overdose Deaths

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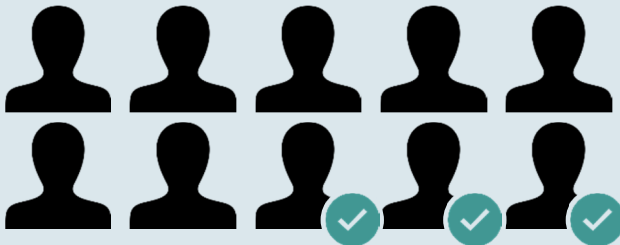


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