

Fentanyl Deaths and Opioid-Related ED Visits: 2019 and 2021

County	Fentanyl Deaths 2019	Fentanyl Deaths 2021	Percent Change in Deaths	ED Visits for Any Opioid related OD 2019	ED Visits for Any Opioid related OD 2021	Percent Change in ED Visits
California Totals	1,603	5,961	272%	11,767	21,016	79%
Los Angeles	406	1,396	244%	1,782	3,316	86%
San Francisco	196	391	99%	742	777	5%
San Diego	142	645	354%	890	1,637	84%
Riverside	134	408	204%	668	1,240	86%
Orange	126	649	415%	837	1,513	81%
San Bernardino	74	314	324%	580	1,065	84%
Alameda	56	159	184%	344	477	39%
Kern	54	222	311%	376	709	89%
Contra Costa	49	160	227%	258	341	32%
Sonoma	41	105	156%	186	276	48%
Ventura	38	169	345%	287	552	92%
Sacramento	36	152	322%	377	748	98%
San Mateo	36	72	100%	123	146	19%
Santa Clara	25	125	400%	159	326	105%
Solano	18	37	106%	129	235	82%
Stanislaus	15	79	427%	106	392	270%
Fresno	15	66	340%	149	248	66%
Santa Barbara	15	31	107%	137	323	136%
San Joaquin	14	105	650%	160	327	104%
Marin	11	37	236%	68	101	49%
Mendocino	9	40	344%	38	89	134%
Monterey	9	17	89%	128	204	59%
San Luis Obispo	8	56	600%	102	179	75%
Humboldt	8	36	350%	47	102	117%
Tulare	6	49	717%	85	233	174%
Shasta	6	41	583%	52	119	129%
Placer	6	35	483%	60	113	88%
Imperial	6	13	117%	72	45	-38%
Santa Cruz	5	26	420%	62	111	79%
Lake	4	26	550%	32	69	116%
Merced	4	18	350%	48	93	94%
Yuba	4	13	225%	26	75	188%
Madera	3	14	367%	29	42	45%
San Benito	3	8	167%	16	19	19%
Unknown	2	72	3500%	2,219	4,082	84%
Butte	2	42	2000%	54	89	65%
El Dorado	2	22	1000%	38	71	87%

County	Fentanyl Deaths 2019	Fentanyl Deaths 2021	Percent Change in Deaths	ED Visits for Any Opioid related OD 2019	ED Visits for Any Opioid related OD 2021	Percent Change in ED Visits
Sutter	2	20	900%	22	87	295%
Napa	2	13	550%	23	35	52%
Yolo	2	4	100%	33	91	176%
Amador	2	3	50%	30	21	-30%
Lassen	2	3	50%	16	13	-19%
Tuolumne	1	6	500%	21	24	14%
Inyo	1	4	300%	13	9	-31%
Siskiyou	1	4	300%	10	43	330%
Colusa	1	1	0%	1	4	300%
Plumas	1	1	0%	2	1	-50%
Nevada	-	16	N/A	17	53	212%
Kings	-	10	N/A	51	61	20%
Calaveras	-	6	N/A	11	18	64%
Del Norte	-	6	N/A	8	24	200%
Tehama	-	5	N/A	24	26	8%
Trinity	-	4	N/A	7	8	14%
Glenn	-	2	N/A	4	8	100%
Mariposa	-	2	N/A	3	4	33%
Alpine	-	1	N/A	-	-	N/A
Modoc	-	-	N/A	4	-	-100%
Mono	-	-	N/A	1	2	100%
Sierra	-	-	N/A	-	-	N/A

The above table was created with data from the California Department of Public Health’s California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard (dashboard). The most recent full year available was 2021, and the dashboard can be accessed here: <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/?tab=Home>

Statewide, there were 4,358 more fentanyl deaths in 2021 than in 2019, representing a 272% increase. The table compares the number of deaths in which fentanyl or a fentanyl analog (a substance with a similar chemical structure) was listed as a contributing cause of death in 2019 and 2021, and calculates the percent change between the years. The table is sorted from greatest to least number of 2019 deaths.

In addition to fatalities, there were more than 20,000 opioid-related emergency department (ED) visits statewide in 2021 in which the patient lived. This represents a 79% increase in the number of ED visits from 2019. The table compares the number of ED visits and calculates the percent change between the years. According to the dashboard, figures include ED “visits caused by non-fatal acute poisonings due to the effects of all opioid drugs, regardless of intent (e.g., suicide, unintentional, or undetermined).”

Fentanyl-specific ED visits first became available on the dashboard starting in 2021 and accounted for about a quarter of the opioid-related overdose visits that year.