Fentanyl: The State We’re In

Point 1

Fentanyl fatalities more than doubled in 30 states in just two years, and more than tripled in 15. In six states, fentanyl fatalities increased almost five fold.*

This map illustrates the alarming growth of fentanyl deaths across the United States over the course of two years. Fentanyl fatalities in Alaska, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, California and Texas increased by almost 5x.

Florida had the highest number of total fentanyl deaths last year, a total that more than doubled in just two years.

*These multipliers were calculated by dividing each state’s total number of fentanyl fatalities as of YE May 2021 by that state’s total number of fentanyl deaths in YE May 2019.

Point 2

The 20 states with the highest rate of fentanyl deaths per capita last year.

1. WEST VIRGINIA - 1,150
2. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - 354
3. MARYLAND - 2,420
4. DELAWARE - 376
5. OHIO - 4,299
6. KENTUCKY - 1,616
7. TENNESSEE - 2,458
8. CONNECTICUT - 1,174
9. MAINE - 413
10. RHODE ISLAND - 309
11. PENNSYLVANIA - 3,690
12. MASSACHUSETTS - 1,975
13. VERMONT - 167
14. INDIANA - 1,764
15. NEW JERSEY - 2,276
16. SOUTH CAROLINA - 1,309
17. NORTH CAROLINA - 2,543
18. FLORIDA - 5,161
19. ARIZONA - 1,636
20. NEW HAMPSHIRE - 299

This list is organized in descending order by each state’s per capita rate of fentanyl deaths. Beside each state is its corresponding number of total fentanyl deaths in 2021.

*The per capita or crude rate was calculated by dividing the fentanyl fatalities of each state (from June 2020 to May 2021), by the corresponding population of that state (April population in 2020 per CDC guidelines), and multiplying the result by 100,000.

2021 data is provisional data reported during the period of June 2020 to May 2021 as that is the most accurate cause of death data per CDC guidelines.

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The 20 states with the highest total number of fentanyl deaths last year.

1. FLORIDA
2. CALIFORNIA
3. OHIO
4. NEW YORK
5. PENNSYLVANIA
6. NORTH CAROLINA
7. TENNESSEE
8. ILLINOIS
9. MARYLAND
10. NEW JERSEY
11. MICHIGAN
12. MASSACHUSETTS
13. INDIANA
14. ARIZONA
15. KENTUCKY
16. TEXAS
17. VIRGINIA
18. MISSOURI
19. SOUTH CAROLINA
20. CONNECTICUT

This list is organized in descending order by each state’s total number of fentanyl deaths in 2021.*

*2021 fatality data is provisional CDC data for the year ending in May 2021.

Fentanyl killed 209,491 people since 2015. Ohio alone lost 18,929 people in that same period — more than the bottom 20 states combined.

This map illustrates the total number of fentanyl deaths since 2015 by state. In just six years, fentanyl killed 209,491 people in the United States. The ten states most heavily impacted by the fentanyl epidemic lost over 8,500 people each.

Ohio lost nearly 20,000 people in that same time period — more than the bottom 20 states combined which lost a combined total of 12,699 people.

*2021 fatality data is provisional CDC data for the year ending in May 2021, 2015 through 2020 data is calendar year data taken from January through December of each year.

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Fentanyl fatalities increased by more than 100% since 2015 in almost every state. In Louisiana, fentanyl deaths increased by 2,363%. That’s a 24.6x jump.

This chart breaks down the total number of fentanyl deaths since 2015 by state. Since 2015, fentanyl fatalities across the United States increased by 547%.

In Indiana, the District of Columbia, Minnesota, Washington and Colorado – fentanyl fatalities increased by over 1,000%. In Louisiana, Arizona and California – they increased by more than 2,000%.

REFERENCES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2020, and provisional data for 2018 - Last Month, on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2021. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2020, and from provisional data for 2018 - Last Month, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html

2018 fatality data is provisional CDC data for the year ending in May 2021; 2019 data is calendar year data taken from January through December of each year. “Unreliable” denotes states for which the CDC did not have fentanyl fatality data for one or more of the studied years.

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