



Weld County

Department of Public Health and Environment

Opioids in Weld County

July 12, 2022, Weld County Regional Opioid Council Meeting

Figure 1. Weld County Drug Overdose Deaths per Year

Overdose type
■ All Drug Overdose Deaths
■ Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Any Opioid

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset (CoHID), Mortality Statistics

Between 2001 and 2020 there were 276 drug overdose deaths involving opioids of any kind (this includes both prescription opioids and illicit opioids, including heroin).

This means that half of the county's 552 drug overdose deaths from 2001-2020 involved opioids. 3.6% of all drug overdose deaths involving opioids in Colorado took place in Weld County within this same period.

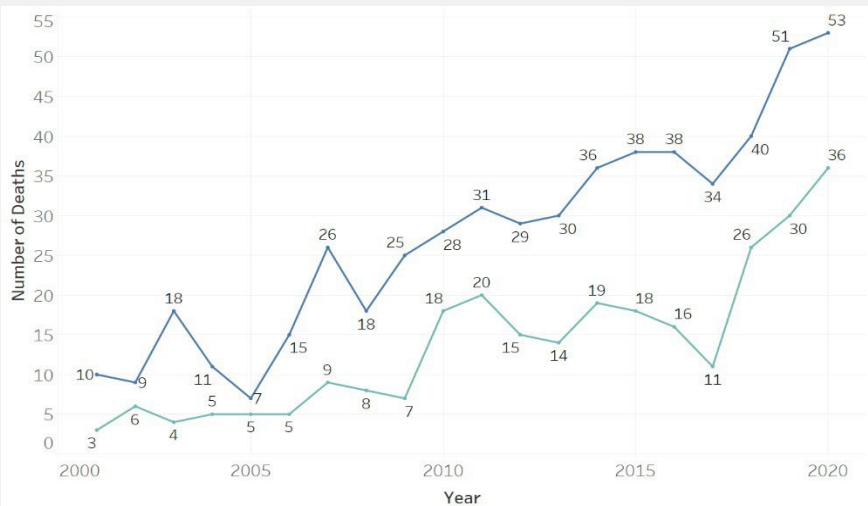


Table 1. 2020 Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Any Opioid, Weld and Neighboring Counties; Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000

Weld	10.7
Boulder	11.2
Larimer	11.9
Logan	12.7
Adams	19.4
Statewide	16.2

Weld County's 2020 age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths involving opioids is lower than the state's overall rate. This rate has increased steadily from 3.7 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2017 to 10.7 in 2020.

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset (CoHID), Mortality Statistics

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Table 2. Demographic Trends in Weld County Overdose Deaths Involving Any Opioid

	2018	2020	% Increase
Hispanic	7.6	14.6	+92.1%
Non-Hispanic	7.6	8.8	+15.8%
Male	9.2	13.2	+43.5%
Female	8.0	8.2	+2.5%

Source: Colorado Health Information Dataset (CoHID), Mortality Statistic

The age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths involving any opioid (prescription or heroin) between 2001 and 2020 was 7.1 per 100,000 residents and was similar across genders and race/ethnicities. In recent years, however, this rate has increased more dramatically among residents of Hispanic origin, nearly doubling from 2018 to 2020 compared to a 16% increase among non-Hispanic residents. The percent increase between 2018 and 2020 was also much higher for males than for females.

Location of (Opioid-Related) Drug Overdose Deaths



An analysis of 2020 drug-related death data obtained from the Weld County coroner's office shows that most drug-related deaths (including opioid-related deaths) occur either in the decedent's home or in a local hospital. Most deaths were accidental. Residents who died from a drug-related death where opioids were involved were mostly from Greeley or Evans but also from Dacono, Milliken, Windsor, Erie, Eaton, Johnstown, Lochbuie, Frederick, Ft. Lupton, and other rural areas of the county. A few opioid-related deaths occurred within Weld County among people who lived outside the county.

Source: Data Obtained from Weld County Coroner, November 2021

Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions Dispensed to Weld County Residents



A total of 177,219 opioid analgesic prescriptions were dispensed to Weld County residents in 2019 (the most recent year data is available). More opioid prescriptions were dispensed to female residents (104,497) than to males (72,704). From 2014 to 2019, the average annual age-adjusted rate of opioid analgesic prescriptions dispensed to Weld County residents was 736.7 per 1,000, meaning enough opioids were dispensed between 2014 and 2019 for nearly 3 out of every 4 residents in the county. This was higher than the state average of 648.3 prescriptions per 1,000 residents during the same period.

Source: Opioid Overdose Prevention Program, CDPHE, Drug Overdose Dashboard

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