

March 2026

# DEA BULLETIN

DEA-CHI-BUL-075-26



## (U) Fentanyl-Related Deaths Decrease in Indiana

*(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.*

### (U) Statement of Analysis

(U) A longitudinal study of fatal drug overdoses, focusing on fentanyl-related deaths, in the state of Indiana revealed a substantial decline in drug-related fatalities. In 2024, overall drug-related deaths in Indiana decreased approximately 28 percent from 2023. In the same period, fentanyl-involved deaths decreased approximately 34 percent (see Figure 1).

(U) Indianapolis—the state capital and most populous city in Indiana—has historically been the epicenter for record numbers of drug-related fatalities in Indiana. A parallel study of fatal drug overdoses in Marion County, where Indianapolis is located, observed similar declines of 27 percent in overall drug-related deaths and 38 percent in fentanyl-involved deaths from 2023 to 2024.

### (U) Details

(U) In August 2025, the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) reported provisional data indicating a substantial decrease in fatal drug overdoses for 2024. As of August 5, 2025, IDOH reported an approximate decrease of 31 percent in fatal drug overdoses from the previous year.

(U) According to the IDOH public health data website, 1,610 fatal drug overdoses were reported in 2024, down from 2,221 in 2023. Additionally, fentanyl-involved deaths also decreased by approximately 34 percent during the same period, with 994 deaths reported, down from 1,504 in 2023.

(U) The drop in fatal drug overdoses in 2024 is the lowest reported number in Indiana since the height of the fentanyl epidemic. In 2021, the IDOH reported 2,789 fatal drug overdoses in the state. Marion County alone reported 826 overdose deaths in 2021, which is an average of 3.5 deaths per day.



(U) Figure 1. Indiana Drug Overdose Fatality Data, 2020–2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	% Change
<b>Indiana</b>						
Any Drug	2,272	2,789	2,670	2,221	1,610	-28%
Fentanyl	1,609	1,985	1,816	1,504	994	-34%
<b>Marion County</b>						
Any Drug	640	826	852	701	509	-27%
Fentanyl	507	641	641	543	336	-38%

\*Provisional data, current as of August 5, 2025

**Source: Indiana Department of Health, Drug Overdose Dashboard**

(U) Throughout the longitudinal study, numerous drug adulterants were identified that exacerbated the physiological effects of the primary illicit drugs. According to the Marion County Coroner's Office (MCCO) 2024 Annual Report, fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, methamphetamine, and cocaine were the top illicit drug substances identified in the toxicology reports of drug overdose decedents. Adulterants—such as xylazine, medetomidine, various nitazenes, and mitragynine—were identified in several toxicology reports. The report also listed the synthetic opioid carfentanil in 10 fatal fentanyl overdose cases in Marion County.

(U) The 2024 report marks the second consecutive year of double-digit percent decreases in drug-related deaths in Indiana. The significant decline for overall drug-related—as well as fentanyl-involved deaths—is a positive indicator of successful education and prevention campaigns, and law enforcement efforts, throughout the state. Although encouraging, continued public health and law enforcement efforts are vital to maintaining the downward trend.

(U) Since 2021 and throughout 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Indianapolis District Office (DO) conducted dozens of community outreach education events highlighting the DEA One Pill Can Kill campaign. DEA Indianapolis DO personnel visited local high schools, university campuses, law enforcement conferences, and community-led neighborhood engagement events. Each event provided the opportunity to connect with the community and instill awareness of the dangers of illicit drugs, such as fentanyl and counterfeit pills.

(U) The IDOH Harm Reduction Program maintains a Syringe Service Program, Medications for Opioid Use Disorder protocol, and substantial number of residential treatment beds. It also champions the state-wide Naloxone Distribution Network for first responders and emergency medical facilities. According to the IDOH website, Indiana provides naloxone kits to the most populous counties and 49 rural counties free of charge.

(U) An Indiana state publication, sponsored by Next Level Recovery, reported in November 2024 that Indiana had distributed more than one million doses of naloxone



throughout the state since 2000. The prevalence of naloxone distribution by first responders; the Indiana Overdose Lifeline Program; and the cooperative initiatives in fentanyl education, awareness, and prevention are all catalysts for the downward trend in drug fatalities.

PRB 2026-152

*(U) This product was prepared by the DEA Intelligence Program – Chicago Division. Comments and questions may be addressed to the DEA Indicator Programs Section at: [DEA.IntelligenceProducts@dea.gov](mailto:DEA.IntelligenceProducts@dea.gov).  
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