

# Covid escalates U.S. overdose deaths

Stress, isolation and financial hardship caused by the coronavirus pandemic led to nearly 84,000 overdose deaths in the year to July 2020 – the highest number of drug fatalities ever recorded in a single year

Overdose deaths (previous 12-month period)

Thousands

Jul 2016: 58,525 deaths.  
President Obama signs  
**Comprehensive Addiction  
and Recovery Act** to fight  
opioid and heroin epidemic



Jan 2016: 52,404  
deaths, up 10.3%  
Opioids: 33,091,  
62.9% of total

Jan 2015:  
47,523

President Barack Obama

Jul 2020: 83,544 deaths.  
Opioids account for 73%  
of overdose deaths

May 2017: 68,370. President  
Trump proposes cutting budget  
of **Office of National Drug  
Control Policy** by 95%

Jan 2018:  
70,122

Jan 2019: 67,697  
Drug deaths in  
America fall for first  
time in 25 years



Feb 2020:  
World Health  
Organization  
declares  
coronavirus is  
**Global Health  
Emergency**

Mar: 74,372 overdose  
deaths. Trump declares  
Covid-19 national  
emergency

President Donald Trump

Jan 2015 Jan 2016 Jan 2017 Jan 2018 Jan 2019 Jan 2020

40

60

80