



# Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths in Cook County, IL 2024

May 2026

Beginning in 2016, Cook County and Chicago Public Health Departments began working with the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office and Cook County Health to produce an annual joint report of the overall opioid overdose deaths throughout Cook County. This report describes opioid deaths from 2023 and 2024 that have gone through a fatality review process.

## OVERALL

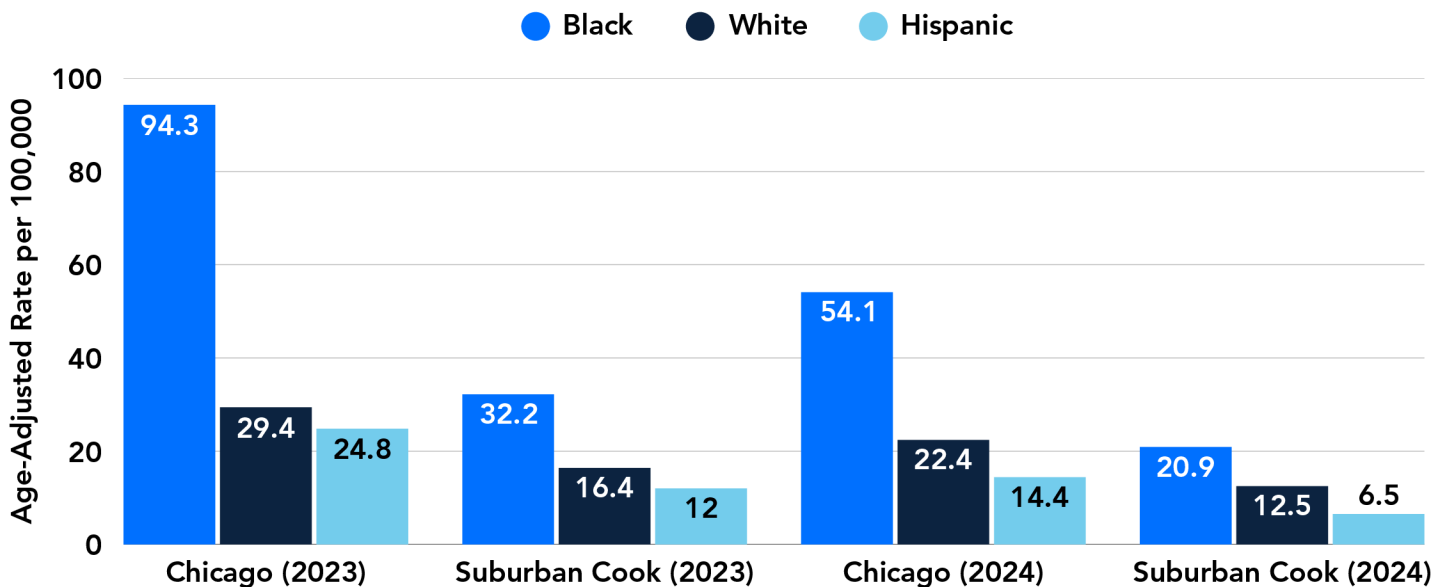
In 2024, Cook County recorded 1,138 opioid-involved overdose deaths, including 835 in Chicago and 279 in Suburban Cook County (SCC). These reflect age-adjusted mortality rates of 28.7 per 100,000 in Chicago and 10.8 per 100,000 in SCC. By comparison, the overall rate for Illinois was 14.6 per 100,000, and the national rate was 17.9, according to CDC SUDORS. Chicago’s mortality rate was approximately 2 times the state rate.

Between 2023 and 2024, the age-adjusted mortality rate decreased 37.2% in Chicago, from 45.7 to 28.7 per 100,000, and decreased 33.3% in suburban Cook County, from 16.2 to 10.8 per 100,000.

## RACE & ETHNICITY

As in prior years, Non-Hispanic Black residents experienced the highest age-adjusted opioid-involved mortality in both Chicago (54.1 per 100,000) and SCC (20.9 per 100,000) in 2024. While lower than 2023, these rates continue to signal a major public health inequity rooted in systemic and structural racism, access to care, and under-resourced communities. Non-Hispanic White residents' mortality rate is 22.4 per 100,000 in Chicago and 12.5 per 100,000 in SCC. Hispanic residents' mortality rate is 14.4 per 100,000 in Chicago and 6.5 per 100,000 in SCC.

Figure 1: Rates of Opioid Deaths in Chicago & Suburban Cook County by Race & Ethnicity (2023 - 2024)



## SEX & AGE GROUP

In 2024, Chicago males died from opioid-involved overdoses at a significantly higher rate (45.6 per 100,000) than females (12.9 per 100,000). In Suburban Cook County, the pattern persisted, though with lower overall rates (15.6 per 100,000) for males versus (6.4 per 100,000) for females. The highest age-specific death rates were concentrated among adults aged 35 to 64. In Chicago, the mortality rates for individuals aged 45–54 and 55–64 were 58.5 and 76.8 per 100,000, respectively. In Suburban Cook County, these rates were also elevated, though comparatively lower, at 18.9 and 16.9 per 100,000 for the same age groups.

## TYPE OF OPIOID INVOLVED

Fentanyl remained the most frequently involved substance in opioid-involved overdose deaths in 2024, accounting for 91.7% of fatalities in Chicago (n = 835) and 87.1% of fatalities in Suburban Cook County (n = 279). Other opioids were less prevalent. Heroin was involved in 27.7% of Chicago fatalities and 24.0% of SCC fatalities.

Table 1: Percentage of all Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Opioid Type - Cook County, IL (2024)

Opioid-Involved Types <sup>I</sup>	City of Chicago Population = 2,745,830 (n = 835)	Suburban Cook County Population = 2,529,711 (n = 279)
<b>Fentanyl-involved</b>	766 (91.7%)	243 (87.1%)
<b>Heroin-involved</b>	231 (27.7%)	67 (24.0%)
<b>Opioid pain reliever-involved<sup>II</sup></b>	61 (7.3%)	35 (12.5%)
<b>Methadone-involved<sup>III</sup></b>	72 (8.6%)	19 (6.8%)

Data Source: Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office, 2020 US Census Bureau

Note: Geographic designations are based on address of incident, regardless of decedent’s residence address. Missing addresses were NOT accounted for in the calculations of frequencies and rates.

I Categories are not mutually exclusive as some deaths involved more than one type of opioid. Percentages will not add up to 100%.

II Opioid pain reliever: buprenorphine, codeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, or tramadol.

Buprenorphine is included in this category, but it is not possible to determine if it was prescribed for pain or opioid use disorder treatment or used illicitly.

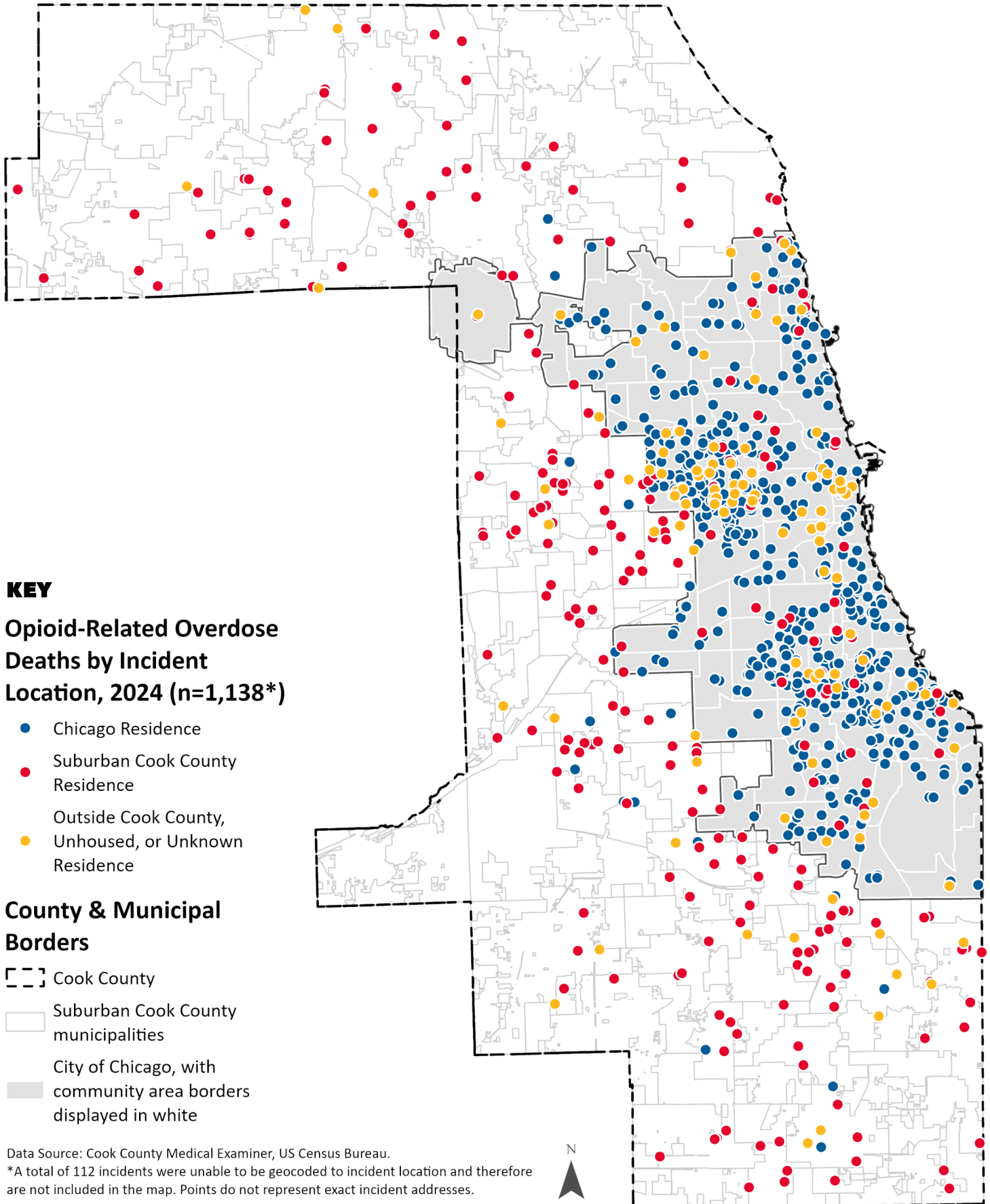
III Methadone: it is not possible to determine if methadone was prescribed for opioid use disorder treatment or used illicitly.

Table 2: Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Residence - Cook County, IL (2024)

Home Residence Locations	City of Chicago Population = 2,745,830 (n = 835)	Suburban Cook County Population = 2,529,711 (n = 279)
<b>Residence in Chicago</b>	687 (82.3%)	25 (9.0%)
<b>Homeless/Undomiciled</b>	5 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)
<b>Residence outside of Cook County</b>	55 (6.6%)	30 (10.8%)
<b>Residence in SCC</b>	53 (6.3%)	217 (77.8%)
<b>Residence Unknown</b>	35 (4.2%)	6 (2.1%)

Beginning in 2016, the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office provided decedent’s address of residence and of overdose incident. The address of residence is obtained from a variety of sources including the hospital records, police records, family, and government ID. Missing addresses were not accounted for in the calculations of frequencies and rates.

Figure 2: Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Incident Location



**Table 3: Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths, Chicago and SCC, IL (2023 - 2024)**

<b>Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Demographics</b>								
<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>CHICAGO</b>				<b>SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY</b>			
	<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>		<b>2024</b>	
	<b>#</b>	<b>RATE<sup>II</sup></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>RATE<sup>II</sup></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>RATE<sup>II</sup></b>	<b>#</b>	<b>RATE<sup>II</sup></b>
<b>DRUG TYPE<sup>I</sup></b>								
All Opioids	1,339	45.7	834*	28.7	413	16.2	279	10.8
Fentanyl-involved	1,267	43.3	766	26.3	366	14.3	243	9.6
Heroin-involved	312	10.7	231	7.9	100	3.9	67	2.5
Opioid-pain-reliever-involved <sup>III</sup>	79	2.6	61	2.1	54	2.1	35	1.2
Methadone-involved <sup>IV</sup>	91	3.1	72	2.4	17†	0.6	19†	0.7
<b>SEX<sup>V</sup></b>								
Male	1,073	75.8	642	45.6	312	25.1	197	15.6
Female	266	17.5	192	12.9	101	7.7	82	6.4
<b>RACE &amp; ETHNICITY</b>								
Black	851	94.3	500	54.1	144	32.2	94	20.9
White	272	29.4	206	22.4	195	16.4	144	12.5
Hispanic	205	24.8	118	14.4	66	12	36	6.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	9†	3.9	6†	3.6	7†	3.1	<5	++
<b>AGE</b>								
0-14	9†	2.0	<5	++	<5	++	-	-
15-24	65	17.8	43	11.8	20	6.2	13†	4.1
25-34	199	36.2	97	17.6	83	27.2	51	16.7
35-44	250	63.0	153	38.5	97	29.6	64	19.5
45-54	295	90.4	191	58.5	91	27.7	62	18.9
55-64	365	120.3	233	76.8	93	26.6	59	16.9
65-74	144	68.3	107	50.7	28	10.9	26	10.1
75+	12†	8.6	8†	5.7	-	-	<5	++

Note: Geographic designations are based on address of incident, regardless of decedent’s residence address. Due to differing methods used by CCDPH and CDPH to adjudicate fatality in their jurisdiction, the joint report’s counts may differ from those reported by the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Missing addresses were NOT accounted for in the calculations of frequencies and rates.

I Categories are not mutually exclusive as some deaths involved more than one type of opioid.

II Rates express the number of overdose deaths per 100,000 people of corresponding population. Denominators are based on the 2020 census population. Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

III Opioid pain reliever: buprenorphine, codeine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, meperidine, morphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, or tramadol.

Buprenorphine is included in this category, but it is not possible to determine if it was prescribed for pain or opioid use disorder treatment or used illicitly.

IV Methadone: it is not possible to determine if methadone was prescribed for opioid use disorder treatment or used illicitly.

V Gender categories are not accounted for.

† Rates for counts less than 20 (although reported) should be interpreted with caution. Counts less than 5 are suppressed.

\* Age was missing for one female decedent in Chicago who was excluded from the age-adjusted rate calculations.