This study reports trends in opioid-related harms and access to treatment among adolescents (aged 15 to 17 years) and young adults (aged 18 to 24 years). Comparisons are also made with adults (aged 25 to 44 years).

Opioid-Related Toxicities and Treatment Patterns among Adolescents and Young Adults between 2014 and 2021

- **Increase in emergency department visits**: 2X for those 15 to 17 years, 3X for those 18 to 24 years.
- **Increase in rate of deaths**: 1.2 to 3.6 per 100,000 individuals.
- **Decrease in rate of opioid-related deaths**: 2X for those 18 to 24 years.

**Note on OAT**: The declines in OAT appear to be unique to young adults (aged 18 to 24), as the rate of individuals receiving OAT remained low and generally stable in adolescents (aged 15 to 17 years) and adults (aged 25 to 44 years).

**Opioid Toxicity Deaths among Adolescents and Young Adults**

- **Pre-Pandemic**
  - March 17, 2019 - March 16, 2020
  - **115 deaths**
- **During Pandemic**
  - March 17, 2020 - March 16, 2021
  - **169 deaths**

Demographics

- **2 in 3** deaths occurred among males
- **>90%** of deaths occurred among young adults (aged 18-24)
- **2 in 3** deaths occurred among males

Living Arrangement

- **7 in 10** deaths occurred in private residences, with **63%** occurring at their home address
- **8 in 10** had a healthcare encounter for a mental health diagnosis

Substances Directly Contributing to Death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Deaths during Pre-Pandemic</th>
<th>Deaths during During Pandemic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opioids</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-opioid substances</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Drug Use

- **2 in 3** deaths involved inhalation or smoking as the known mode of drug use

Healthcare Encounters Prior to Death

- **1 in 4** had a healthcare encounter
- **Almost 90%** had a healthcare encounter for a mental health diagnosis

For More Information