UNINTENTIONAL DRUG- AND ALCOHOL-RELATED INTOXICATION DEATHS IN MARYLAND, 2025

Summary and Key Highlights

July 2026

Overview

The Maryland Department of Health Vital Statistics Administration (VSA) has released its preliminary Q4 2025 Report on Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths.

We urge all stakeholders and partners to **review the full report** and utilize the data for critical public health planning and resource deployment with the understanding that these data are preliminary and subject to change.

Data Highlights:

- Deaths related to unintentional drug and alcohol intoxications are declining in Maryland. There was a 21.4% decrease in total overdose deaths occurring in Maryland in 2025, as compared to 2024 (1,779 to 1,398).
- 76.5% of deaths involved opioids (1,069/1,398). Fentanyl remains the predominant opioid involved in opioid-related deaths.
- In 2025, there were 75 carfentanil-related deaths in Maryland, the highest number involving this substance since toxicology screening for carfentanil began in 2016. See **August 2025 advisory**.
- The number of deaths involving benzodiazepines decreased by half from 2024 to 2025 (123 to 57) and has dropped to its lowest count in over a decade. The majority of deaths involving benzodiazepines also involve opioids.

Public Health Response

- Carry naloxone and know how to use naloxone to respond to an overdose you may witness. Free naloxone is available at over 300 Overdose Response Programs (ORP) throughout Maryland. **Find a location near you**.

- Give rescue breaths when responding to an overdose.
- Test your drugs with test strips (available at most ORPs), or go to a local syringe service program which participates in the **Rapid Analysis of Drugs program**.
- Try not to use it alone and go slow.

Explore the latest overdose information, data reports and key messages on emerging drug trends on our **Overdose Data landing page**.