

## NDEWS Special Report

Top 10 US counties per region with the highest EMS encounters involving nonfatal drug-related overdoses per 10,000 population

October 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Nationally, the majority of counties with the highest rates of EMS encounters of nonfatal drug-related overdose rates were seen in the Western and Southern Regions.

### Western States

### Midwestern States

County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population	County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population
Bernalillo, NM	36.88	Mahnomen, MN	25.58
Lassen, CA	29.65	Menominee, WI	22.00
Denver, CO	29.31	Cass, MN	14.70
Nome C.A, AK	29.27	Ramsey, MN	13.87
Anchorage, AK	25.74	Muskegon, MI	13.28
San Miguel, NM	25.05	Milwaukee, WI	12.69
Glacier, MT	25.01	Calhoun, MI	12.28
Quay, NM	24.40	Lake, MI	12.08
Colfax, NM	23.48	Dickinson, MI	11.55
San Francisco, CA	23.48	Peoria, IL	11.54

### Southern States

### Northeastern States

County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population	County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population
Washington, DC	66.54	Philadelphia, PA	23.11
Galax, VA	52.41	Onondaga, NY	17.86
Swain, NC	30.33	Albany, NY	16.63
Graham, NC	27.14	Cortland, NY	16.53
Petersburg, VA	25.95	Bronx, NY	15.27
Richmond, VA	24.46	Androscoggin, ME	14.74
Clay, KY	21.90	Allegheny, PA	13.36
Portsmouth, VA	21.66	Monroe, NY	13.20
Roanoke, VA	21.60	Chemung, NY	12.83
Dodge, GA	21.51	Somerset, ME	11.85

\*Colors reflect EMS encounters grouped by state.

**Methodology: EMS encounters involving nonfatal drug-related overdoses** were included if the encounter involved an emergency response with patient contact, contained a documented mention of fentanyl, benzodiazepines, heroin, methamphetamines, marijuana, cocaine, crack, and/or MDMA in the patient complaint, narrative, provider impressions, cause of injury, or other elements in the record (including common misspellings). The EMS encounters were identified according to the biospatial.io platform's definition of a nonfatal overdose.

All dispatch types above follow the guidelines set by the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS).

**Limitations:** biospatial.io data reflect pre-hospital EMS encounters for suspected drug overdoses and do not include hospital outcomes, or toxicology confirmation, meaning that they may be underreported, overreported, or misclassified. Much of the data relies on clinical impressions, self-report, or bystander accounts. Additionally, biospatial.io symptoms are not mutually exclusive. Drug overdose categories overlap, as a single EMS encounter may fall into multiple drug categories (e.g., fentanyl encounters are also counted in the broader opioids category) and if multiple substances are involved (e.g., encounters involving fentanyl and cocaine would be counted in both drug categories).