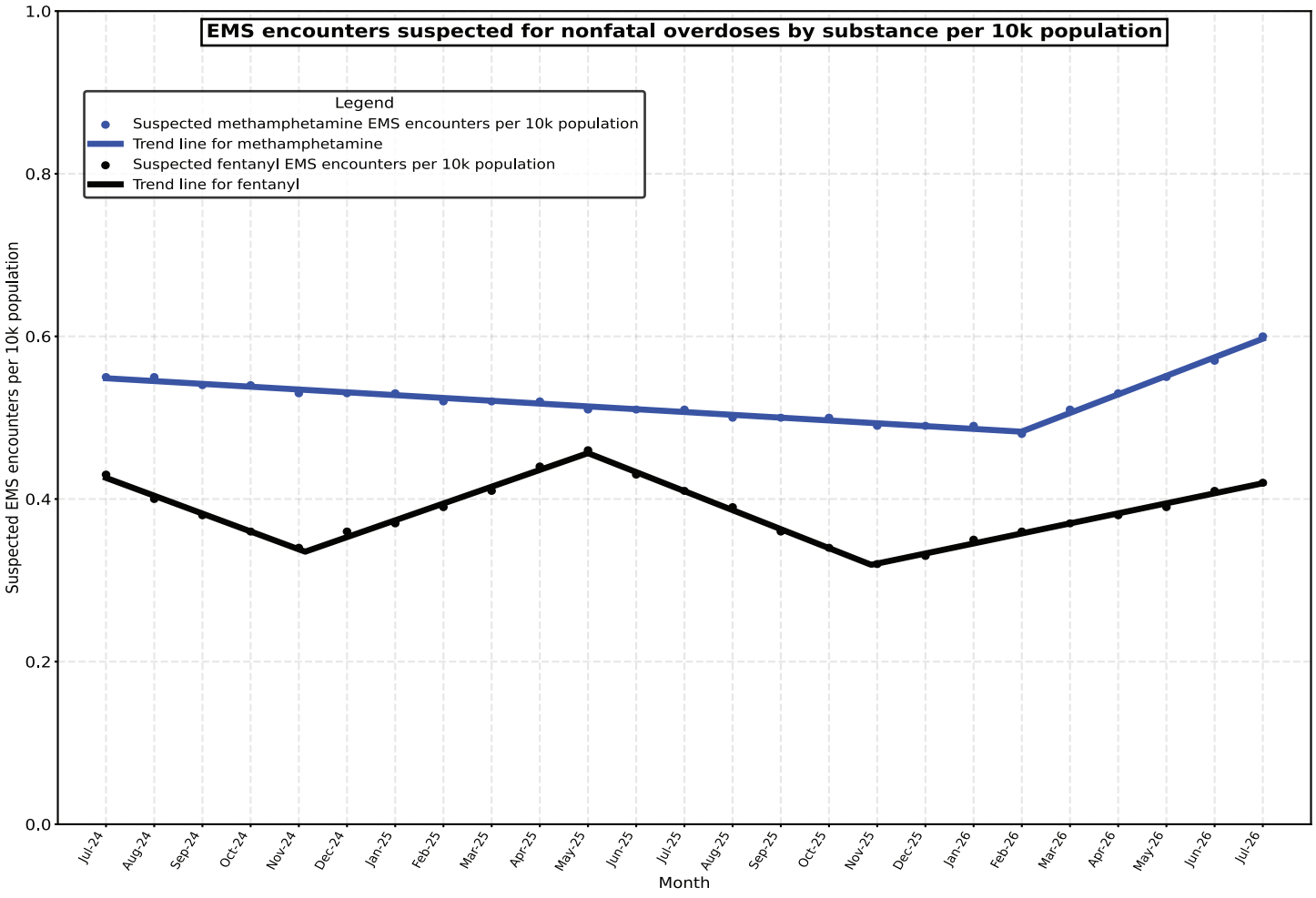
NDEWS Special Report
EMS encounters for suspected nonfatal overdoses related to methamphetamine or fentanyl in counties from Sentinel Sites July 1, 2024 – July 31, 2026

Published in NDEWS Weekly Briefing Issue 301: September 4, 2026

From July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2026, there were 35,133 EMS encounters for suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methamphetamine or fentanyl across 11 NDEWS Sentinel Sites. Suspected overdoses per 10,000 population are reported over time for each drug by month. Monitoring both of these drugs together in the same month can be used to identify a signal of co-occurring shifts in drug availability, use, or exposure.



Methamphetamine:
EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal methamphetamine overdoses showed a statistically significant decrease from June 2024 to February 2026 ($\beta = -0.01$, $p < 0.05$) and a statistically significant increase from February 2026 to July 2026 ($\beta = 0.04$, $p < 0.05$).

Fentanyl:
EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal fentanyl overdoses showed a statistically significant increase from November 2024 to May 2025 ($\beta = 0.05$, $p < 0.05$), a statistically significant decrease from May 2025 to November 2025 ($\beta = -0.05$, $p < 0.05$), and a statistically significant increase from November 2025 to July 2026.

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County-level changes in the rate per 10,000 population for methamphetamine and fentanyl July 2024-July 2025 and July 2025-2026 (n=35,133)

County*		July 2024-July 2025		July 2025-July 2026	
		meth.	fent.	meth.	fent.
CO	Denver	44.85	31.96	46.77	29.94
MN	Hennepin	16.66	16.18	19.28	18.13
IL	Cook	0.83	0.62	0.99	0.51
KY	Jefferson	15.35	6.27	12.68	5.09
KY	Fayette	9.64	3.17	9.76	3.91
GA	Fulton	7.06	3.84	7.57	3.73
FL	Pinellas	11.89	9.56	12.66	8.2
FL	Miami-Dade	0.72	0.98	0.78	0.9
DC	District of Columbia	2.08	4.15	1.8	3.17
NY	New York	5.29	2.31	4.73	2.05
PA	Philadelphia	3.5	6.22	3.43	5.37
	National Rate	0.54	0.41	0.53	0.39

*County colors represent US Census Regions

The table compares EMS encounters per 10,000 population for nonfatal methamphetamine and fentanyl overdoses measured across 11 Sentinel Site counties between 2024–25 and 2025–26. Methamphetamine values both increased and decreased over the time frame; fentanyl declined in 9 out of 11 counties. The national averages adjusted for coverage declined slightly in both reported measures. All Sentinel Site counties had values above the national benchmark.

County		Population	UEC**
CO	Denver	735,538	98.10%
MN	Hennepin	1,268,408	87.80%
IL	Cook	5,108,284	80.50%
KY	Jefferson	767,452	94.10%
KY	Fayette	324,735	90.90%
GA	Fulton	1,077,402	96.10%
FL	Pinellas	976,802	93.70%
FL	Miami-Dade	2,707,303	87.90%
DC	District of Columbia	712,816	95.90%
NY	New York	1,611,989	89.30%
PA	Philadelphia	1,578,487	71.00%
	Total	16,869,216	

**The Underlying Event Coverage (UEC) metric is the ratio of submitted records received by biospatial to the estimated number of all EMS events in a geographic region.

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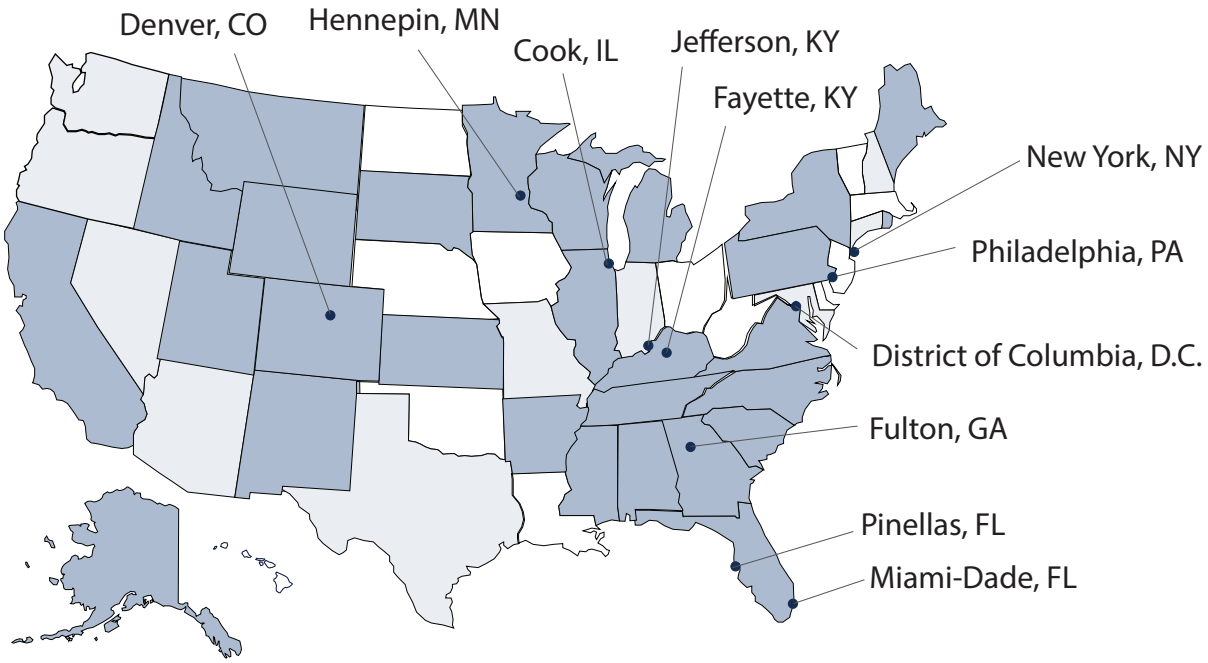
Map of reported NDEWS Sentinel Site counties and state by state Underlying Event Coverage



Underlying Event Coverage Legend ☐ No Coverage ☐ 1%-33% ☐ 34%-66% ☐ 67%-99%

Methodology: Trends in EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal overdoses were examined by joinpoint regression. This method fits weighted least-square regression models to EMS encounters. It also uses Monte Carlo permutation tests with a Bonferroni correction for multiple testing and identifies models with the best-fit set of joinpoints. These are points (or knots) in trends that indicate significant shifting points. Poisson models were specified under the assumption of non-constant variance or heterogeneity over time.

Tables noting the rate of EMS encounters per 10,000 population for suspected overdoses were reported by substance by county in 12 month intervals from 2024 to 2026. A table denoting the populations used to calculate the per 10,000 population overdose rate and the corresponding Underlying Event Coverage for each county is presented.

The EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal overdoses were based on the Florida Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) Overdose syndrome. EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal overdoses were included if there was indication of fentanyl or methamphetamine in the patient complaint or narrative (including common misspellings). Records which contained documentation of medical administration of substances fentanyl were omitted.

The EMS response and dispatch classifications above follow the guidelines set by the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS).

Limitations: biospatial.io data reflect pre-hospital EMS encounters and do not include hospital outcomes or toxicology confirmation. Much of the data relies on clinical impressions, self-report, or bystander accounts. Additionally, EMS encounters involving suspected nonfatal overdoses may be underreported, overreported, or misclassified. Underlying Event Coverage varies by state, with incomplete reporting in some states. States with less than 60% coverage are AZ, CT, DE, IA, IN, LA, MA, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, OH, OK, OR, TX, VT, WA, and WV.

75% of the data are reported within 24 hours of the event. Source: biospatial.io, 2026. NDEWS is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the University of Florida (MPI: Cottler (contact), Co-Is: Goldberger, Nixon, Striley), NYU Langone Health (MPI: Palamar), and Florida Atlantic University (Co-I: Barenholtz). Recommended citation: National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS). (2026). Special Report (August 21, 2026). (NDEWS-2026-SR00039.5). Retrieved from https://ndews.org.