NDEWS Special Report

National trend in EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone January 1, 2023 - July 31, 2026

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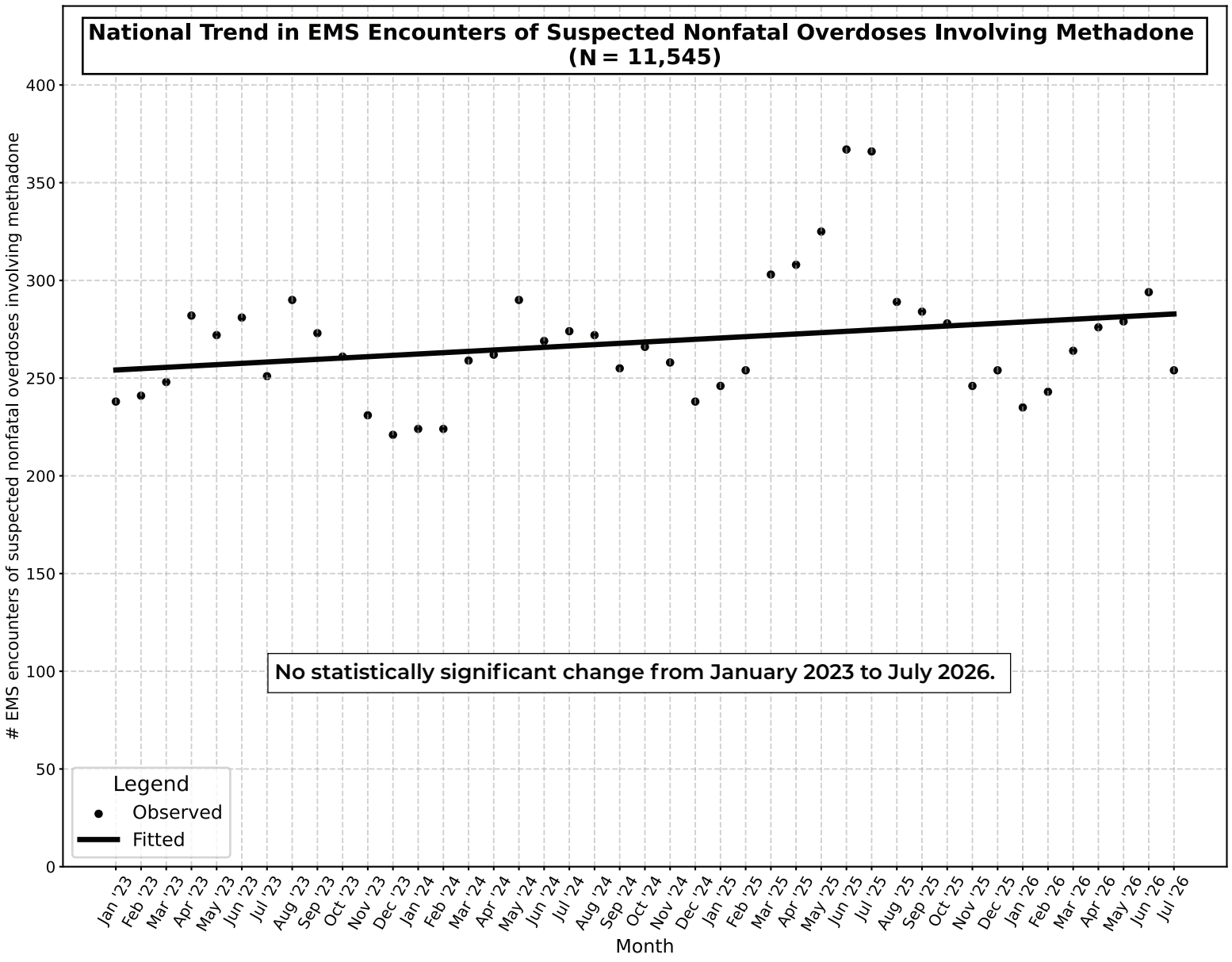
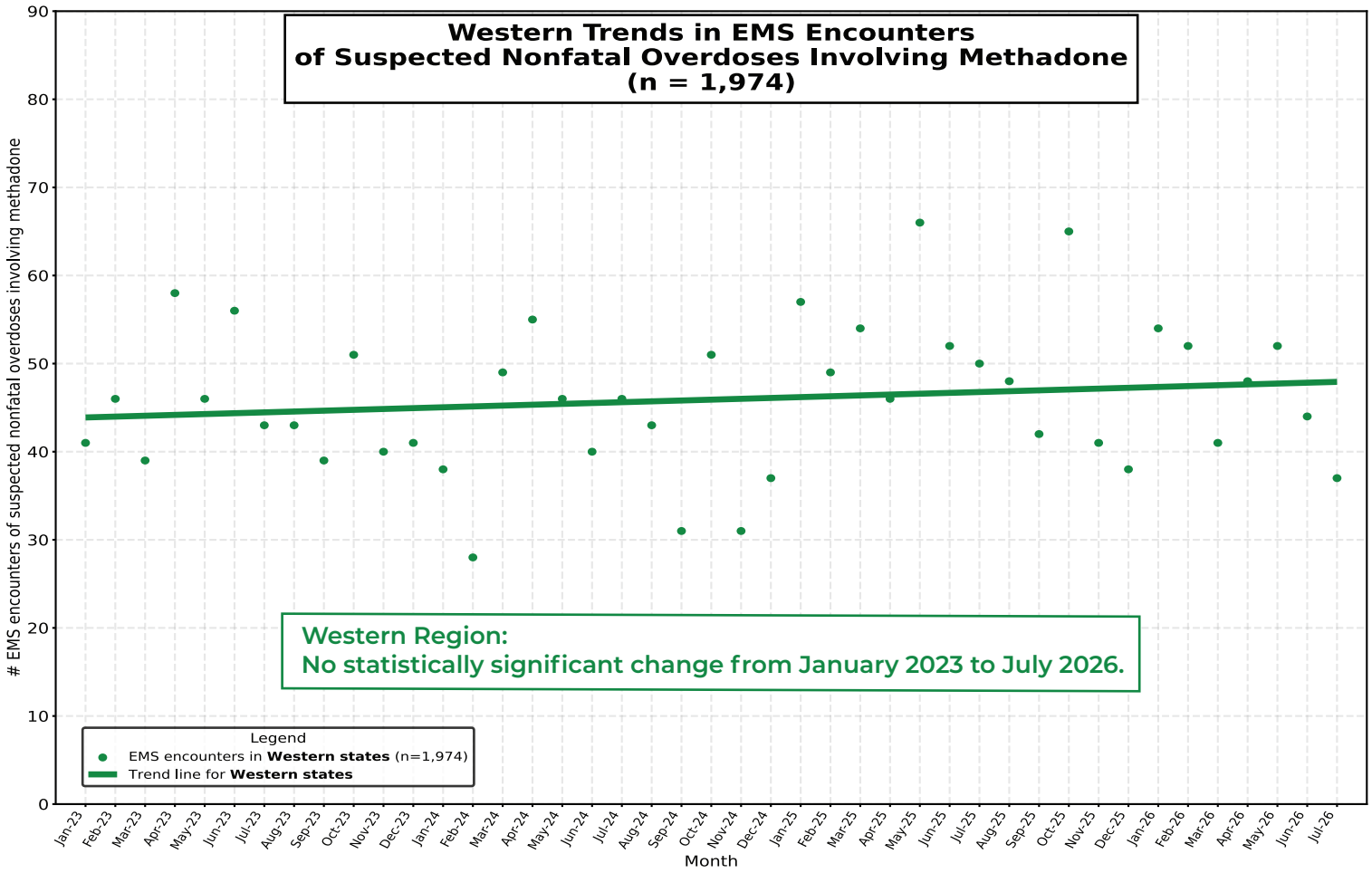
Nationally, there were 11,545 EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone from January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2026. Of these, 1,974 occurred in Western states, 1,647 in Midwestern states, 4,130 in Southern states, and 3,794 in Northeastern states. The national and regional trends as well as counties with the 10 highest EMS encounter rates per 10,000 population are presented below for each region.



See pages 2, 3, 4, & 5 for regional trends detailing the EMS encounters

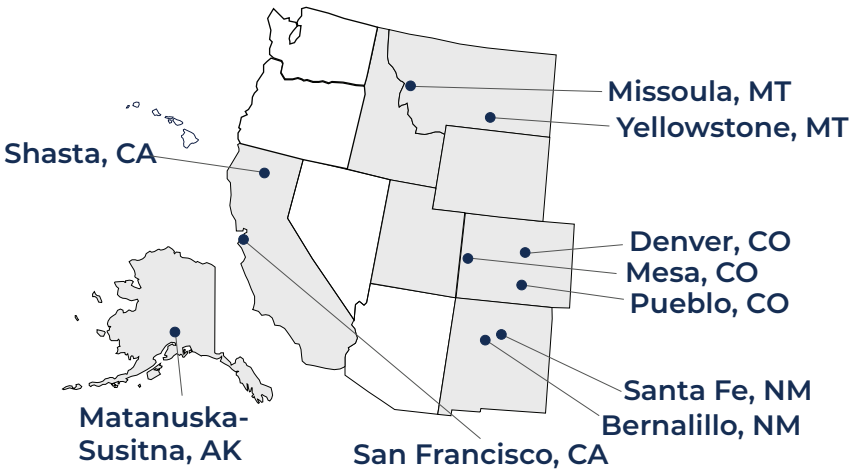
Western region trend in EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone and the counties with the 10 highest EMS encounter rates per 10,000 population January 1, 2023 - July 31, 2026 (n = 1,974)



County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population
Bernalillo, NM	2.32
San Francisco, CA	1.62
Santa Fe, NM	1.58
Matanuska-Susitna, AK	1.27
Pueblo, CO	1.18
Missoula, MT	1.07
Denver, CO	1.05
Mesa, CO	1.03
Shasta, CA	0.89
Yellowstone, MT	0.86

*Counties sharing a color are in the same state.

Western States n = 1,974



Legend
- Insufficient data or not reporting
- Underlying Event Coverage > 60%

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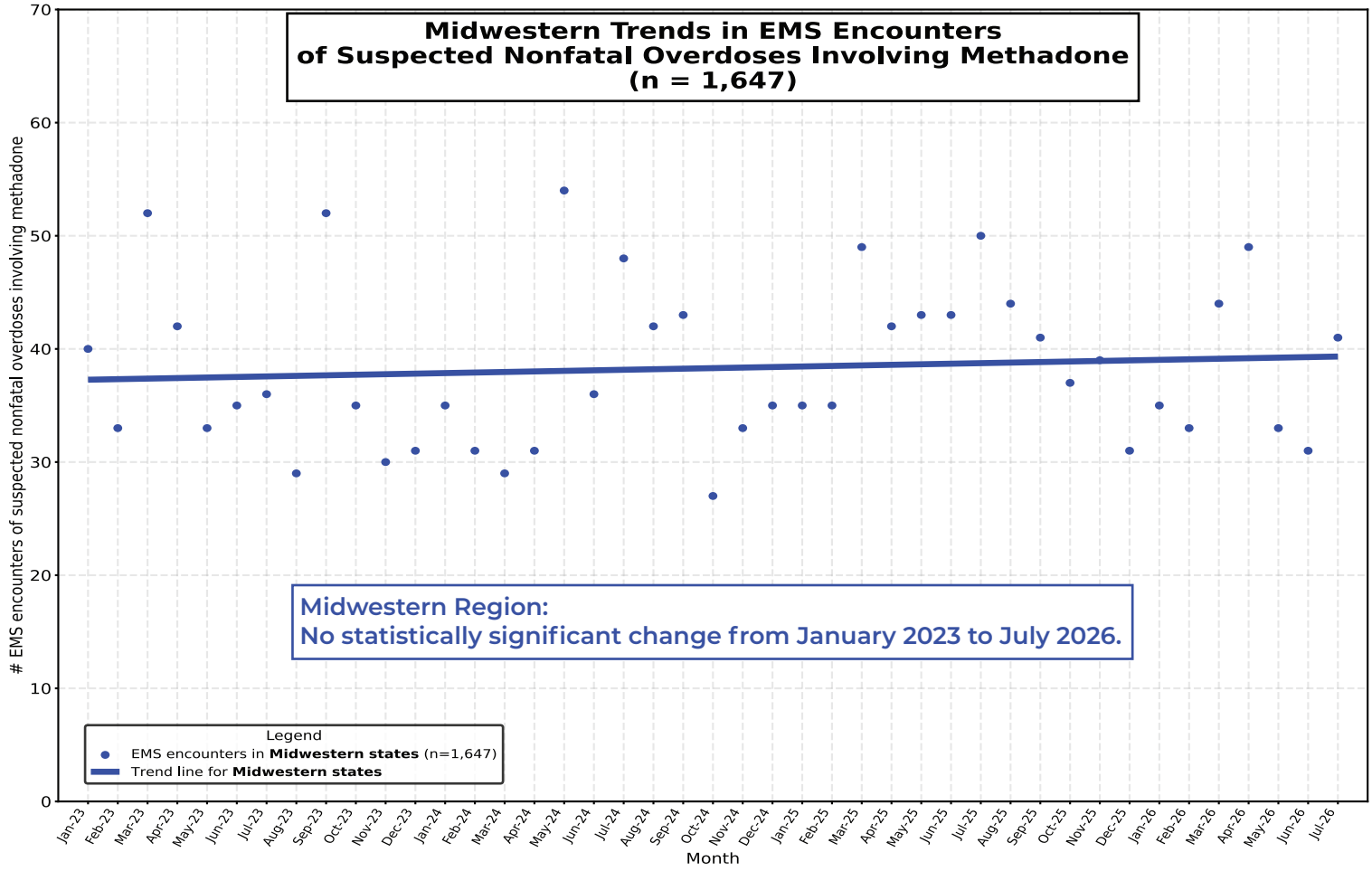
Midwestern region trend in EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone and the counties with the 10 highest EMS encounter rates per 10,000 population January 1, 2023 - July 31, 2026 (n = 1,647)



County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population
Muskegon, MI	1.50
Sangamon, IL	1.24
Hennepin, MN	1.17
Peoria, IL	1.13
Milwaukee, WI	1.03
Genesee, MI	0.96
Dane, WI	0.85
Cook, IL	0.79
Sedgwick, KS	0.77
Calhoun, MI	0.75

*Counties sharing a color are in the same state.

Midwestern States n = 1,647

Legend
- Insufficient data or not reporting
- Underlying Event Coverage > 60%

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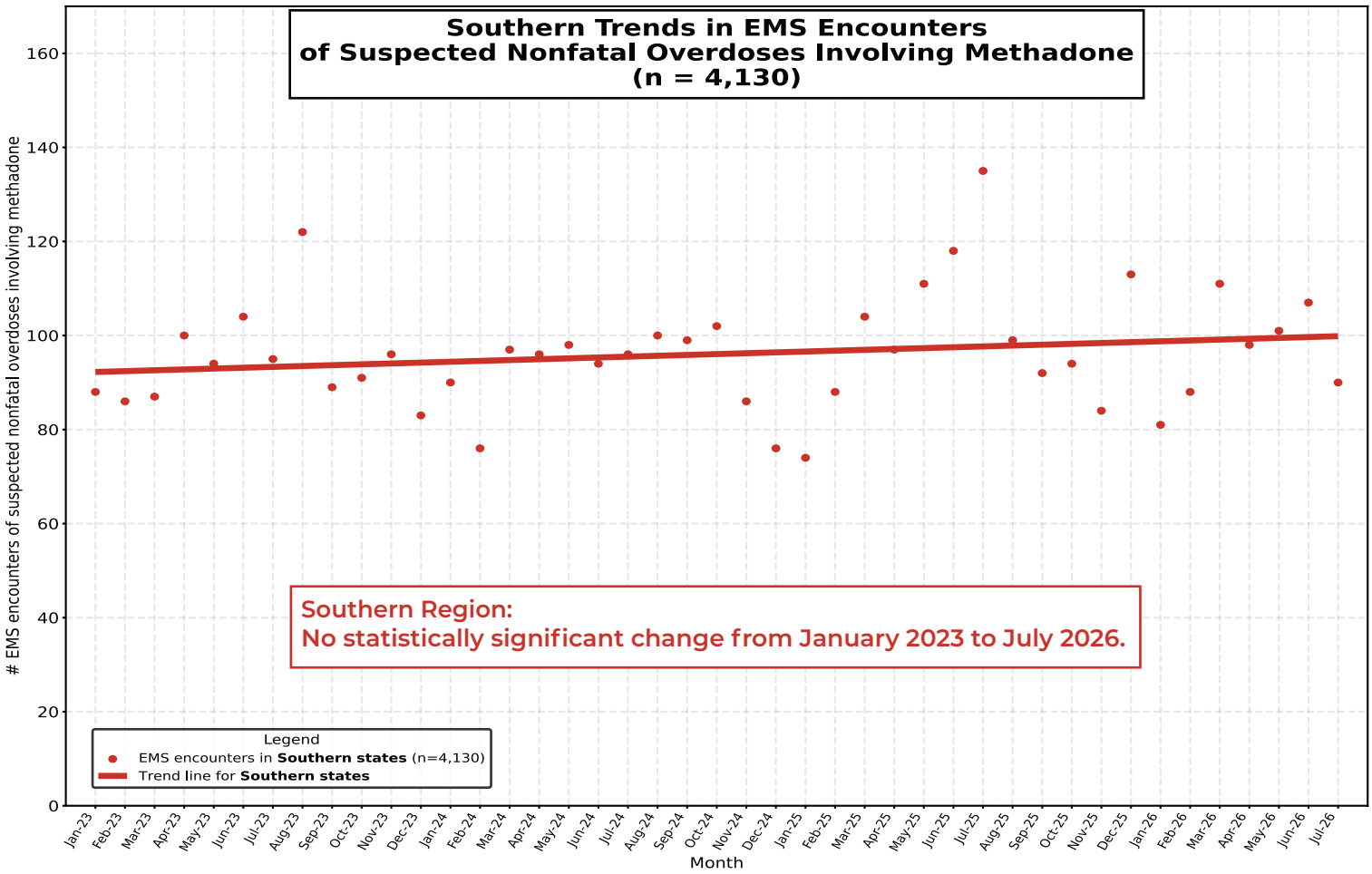
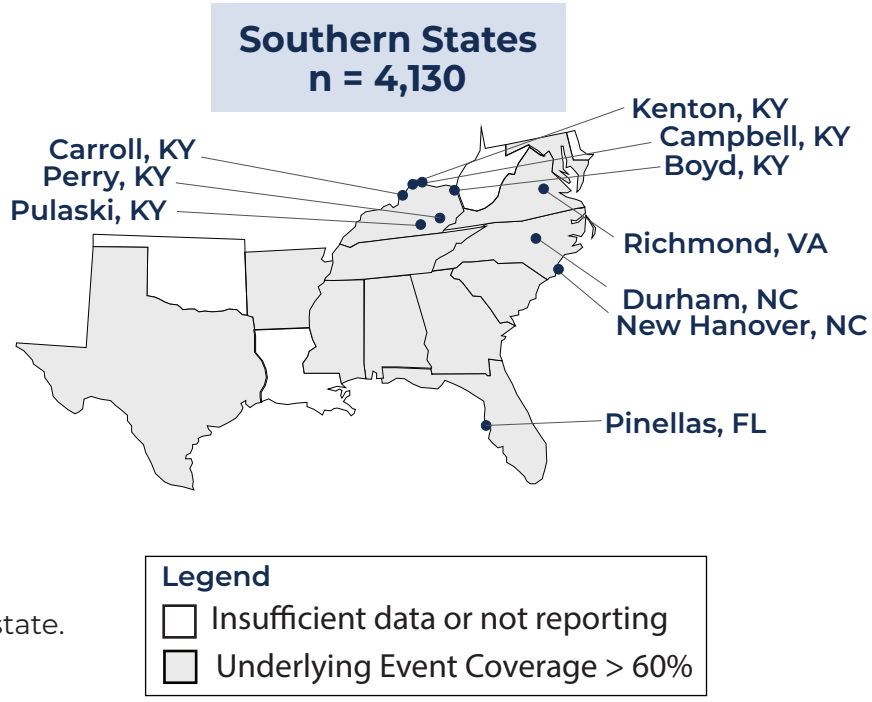
Southern region trend in EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone and the counties with the 10 highest EMS encounter rates per 10,000 population January 1, 2023 - July 31, 2026 (n = 4,130)



County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population
Perry, KY	4.71
Carroll, KY	4.66
Richmond City, VA	3.57
Boyd, KY	3.22
New Hanover, NC	2.45
Pinellas, FL	2.32
Campbell, KY	1.95
Pulaski, KY	1.83
Kenton, KY	1.67
Durham, NC	1.62

*Counties sharing a color are in the same state.



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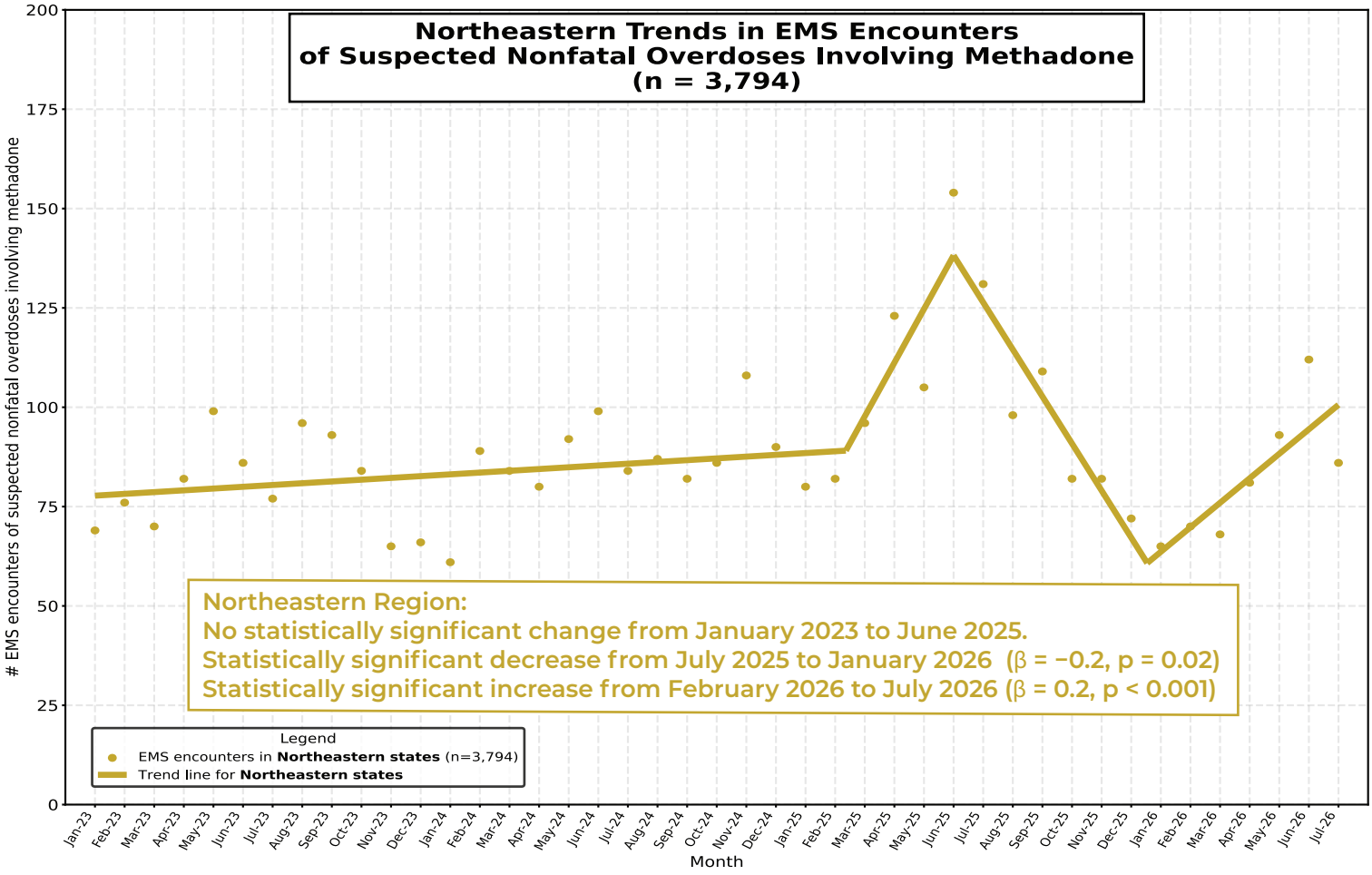
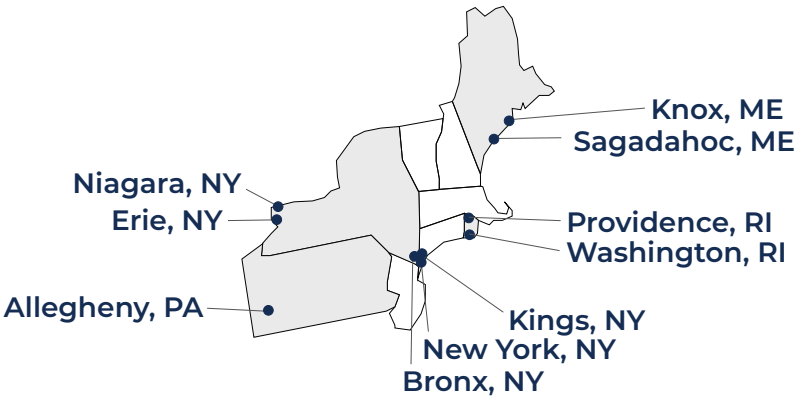
Northeastern region trend in EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone and the counties with the 10 highest EMS encounter rates per 10,000 population January 1, 2023 - July 31, 2026 (n = 3,794)



County*	EMS encounters per 10,000 population
Bronx, NY	3.75
New York, NY	3.70
Knox, ME	3.25
Sagadahoc, ME	2.77
Allegheny, PA	2.32
Niagara, NY	2.02
Providence, RI	1.90
Kings, NY	1.87
Washington, RI	1.75
Erie, NY	1.56

*Counties sharing a color are in the same state.

Northeastern States n = 3,794



Legend
- Insufficient data or not reporting
- Underlying Event Coverage > 60%

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Methodology: Trends in EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone were examined using joinpoint regression. This method fits weighted least-squares regression models to EMS encounters on a log-transformed scale. 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. National and regional trends were modeled to evaluate statistical significance.

EMS encounters of suspected nonfatal overdoses involving methadone were included if the encounter involved an emergency response with patient contact, contained a documented mention of methadone in the patient complaint or narrative (including common misspellings). Eligible EMS encounters were identified using the Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) criteria established by the state of Rhode Island and the biospatial.io methadone symptom. Only encounters involving emergency response services in which patient contact was made were included. EMS encounters in which methadone was administered by EMS personnel have been omitted.

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 and do not include hospital outcomes or toxicological confirmation. Much of the classification relies on clinical impressions, self-report, or bystander accounts. Additionally, EMS encounters involving suspected 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.