

Women and Opioids in Illinois

The opioid use epidemic is the most significant public health and safety crisis in Illinois

What are Opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs that work in the brain to reduce pain and cause feelings of relaxation. **Opioids can be addictive and dangerous.**

Examples of Opioids:

- **Heroin**
- **Prescription pain medications**, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, or codeine
- **Treatments for drug addiction**, such as methadone or buprenorphine

More than **380 Illinois women** who were 15-44 years old died from an opioid overdose in 2016

More than one death every day



More than **TWICE** the number who died in car accidents

Over the past decade, among women 15-44 years old:

x2

All drug-related deaths **DOUBLED**

x3

Opioid-related deaths almost **TRIPLED**

x10

Heroin-related deaths increased **TEN FOLD**

Women of childbearing age need appropriate opioid use disorder treatment to prevent health problems for themselves and their infants

White women are **more than twice as likely** as non-white women to die from an opioid overdose



Women ages 40-44 are **three times as likely** as women 15-19 to die from an opioid overdose



Drug withdrawal syndrome in infants **increased 52%** from 2011 to 2016



Nearly **300 women** are **hospitalized** each year for opioid-related problems

While women across Illinois are affected, the opioid crisis has hit some communities harder than others

Among Illinois women age 15-44:

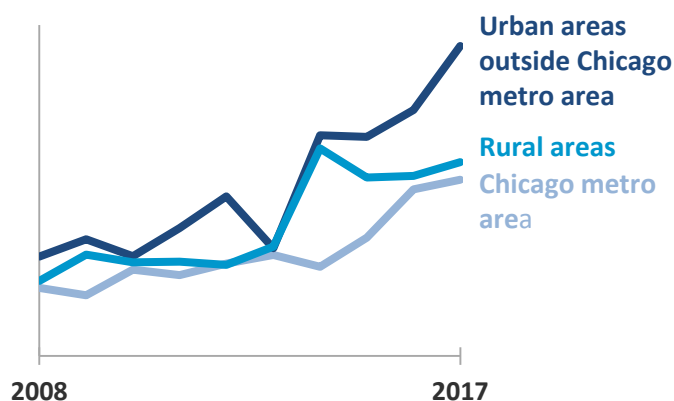
Women living in **Cook County** are the most likely to be hospitalized due to heroin use



Women living in **rural counties** are the most likely to be hospitalized due to use of non-heroin opioids (including prescription medications)



The rate of women dying from opioid use is increasing fastest in **urban areas outside the Chicago metropolitan area**



Resources for Women and Families

What to do?

If you are not pregnant and using opioids

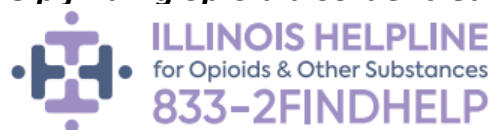
- Use effective birth control until you've stopped taking the opioid or have discussed plans for a healthy pregnancy with your provider
- Talk to your health care provider about taking a safer pain medicine or an alternative non-medication strategy for pain control

If you are pregnant and using opioids

- Go to prenatal care and talk to your health care provider about all opioids, medicines, or other drugs you use
- Don't start or stop using any opioid until you talk to your health care provider
- Make sure every health care provider knows you are pregnant before they prescribe any medication
- Talk to your health care provider about taking a safer pain medicine or an alternative non-medication strategy for pain control

Need Assistance?

For help finding opioid disorder treatment:



OR

SAMHSA Treatment Hotline:
800-662-HELP (4357)

For help finding birth control
or women's health services:
Illinois Women's Health Line:
888-522-1282

For help applying for
Medicaid, WIC, or food stamps:
Health Benefits Hotline:
800-843-6154

Questions?

Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of Women's Health & Family Services
Maternal and Child Health (Title V) Program
DPH.MCH@Illinois.gov

