



Opioid Impact Report

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Definitions

Opiates – Chemical compounds that are extracted or refined from natural plant matter (poppy sap and fibers) Examples of opiates: opium, morphine, codeine and heroin.

Opioids - Chemical compounds that generally are not derived from natural plant matter. Most opioids are “made in the lab” or “synthesized.”

Fentanyl - Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the FDA. Because of its powerful opioid properties, Fentanyl is also diverted for abuse. Fentanyl is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. Fentanyl is commonly added to substances like heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine to increase its potency.



Where does it come from?

While Mexico and China are the primary source countries for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked directly into the United States, India is emerging as a source for finished fentanyl powder and fentanyl precursor chemicals.

Currently, China remains the primary source of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked through international mail, as well as the main source for all fentanyl-related substances trafficked into the United States.



Counterfeit Pills

Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public. Often look exactly the same as real pills.

Counterfeit pills are easy to purchase, widely available, often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly. Marketed as a medication such as oxycodone on the illicit drug market.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports that in 2021 that 20.4 million counterfeit pills were seized. In a three-month period of 2022 10.2 mill fake pills were seized. Additionally, the DEA reports that six out of ten counterfeit pills tested contained enough fentanyl to kill someone.





State Level Data

Impact in Texas

- Provisional data from the Texas Department of State Health Services indicate there were an estimated **2,506 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2021**.
- The average number of deaths per month has risen from 114 in 2019 to 209 deaths per month in 2021.
- Since 2017, **opioids have been involved in about 52 percent** of all unintentional overdose deaths.
- Of all opioid overdose deaths among those aged 0-17 in 2020, **92 percent involved a synthetic opioid such as fentanyl**.
- In 2020, Opioid use in Texas stood at **7.2 percent** while nationally usage was lower at **5.6 percent**.

Source: twc.texas.gov

Under Reported

Traci Green, a professor and the director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University **estimates that 50% of nonfatal overdoses go unreported**.

In Texas, up to 70% of overdoses, mostly nonfatal, go unreported, estimated Kasey Claborn, lead researcher on the TxCOPE project and an assistant professor at UT's Dell Medical School and Steve Hicks School of Social Work.

Officially, about 5,000 Texans died of a drug overdose in 2021. **Claborn believes that is an undercount, too, because the state has medical examiners' offices in only 15 of its 254 counties. Most counties have justices of the peace who don't always request pricey toxicology tests to determine the cause of death.** The state recorded nearly 4,000 opioid-related calls to the Texas Poison Center Network last year and nearly 8,000 opioid-related emergency room visits in 2020.

Source: Texas Tribune

Since March 2021 Texas DPS has seized more than **350 million potentially lethal doses** of potentially lethal fentanyl statewide.

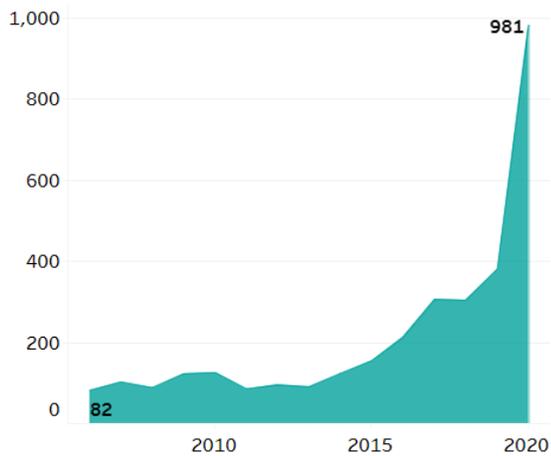


Number of Accidental Drug-Related Deaths By:

Synthetic Opioids

There is a significant spike from approximately 2019 to 2020 in accidental deaths due to synthetic opioids.

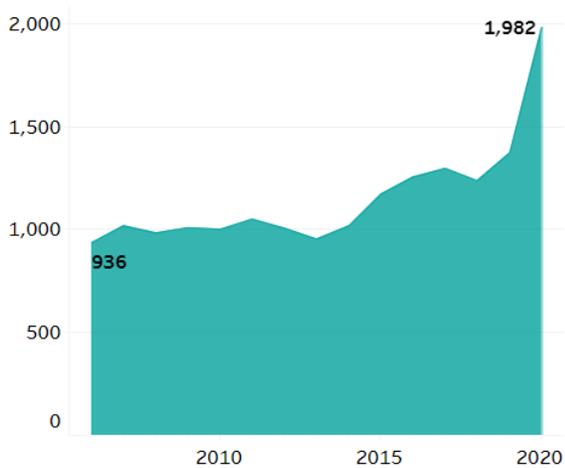
Texas Trends



Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov

Opioids

Texas Trends



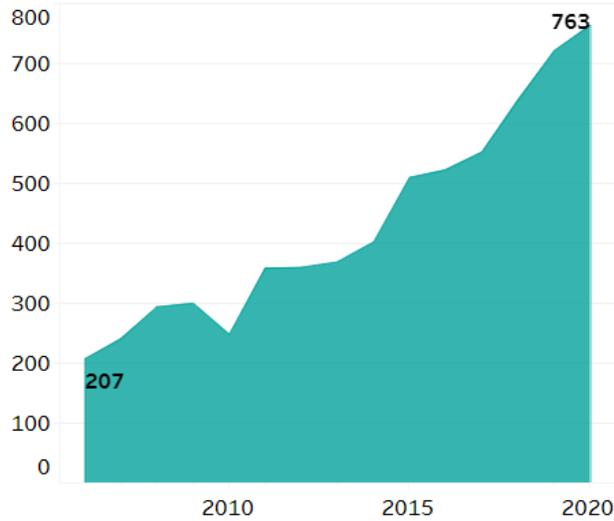
Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov



Heroin

There has been a steady trend of accidental deaths due to heroin from 2010 to 2020.

Texas Trends



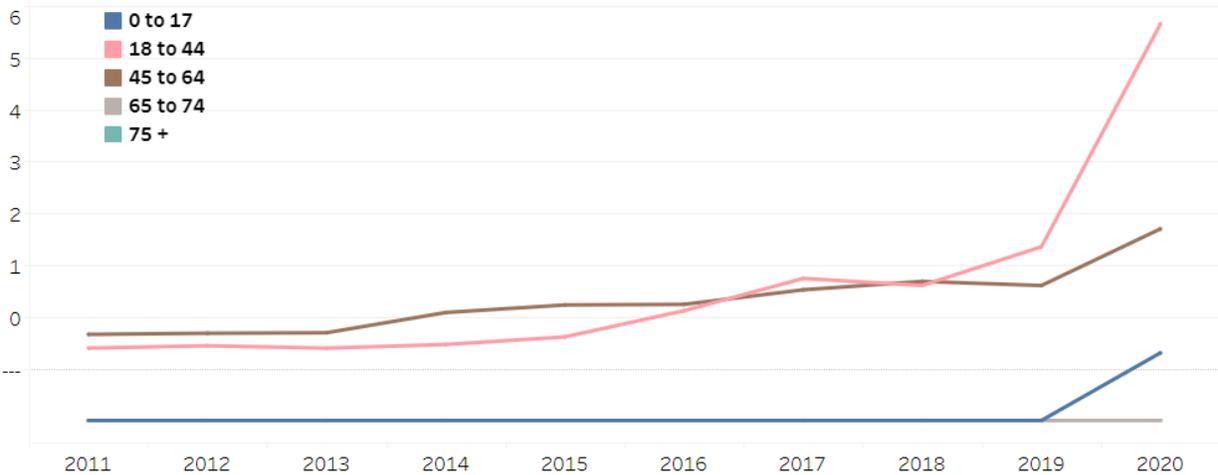
Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov

Demographic Trends in Accidental Drug-Related Deaths in Texas

Synthetic Opioids per 100,000 population

Accidental drug-related deaths for synthetic opioids increased significantly from 2019 to 2020 for people 18-44.

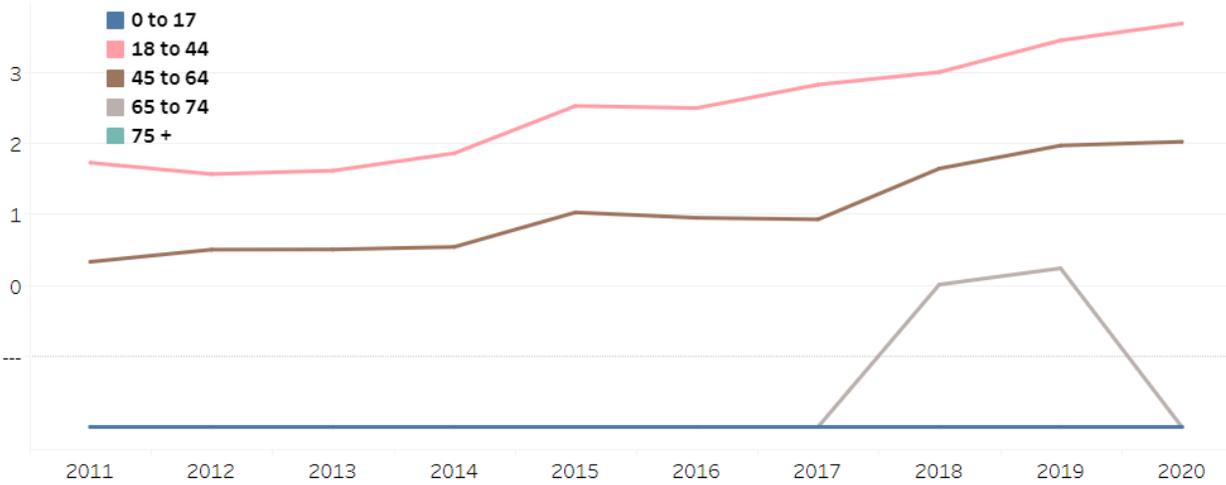
By Age





Heroin per 100,000 population

By Age

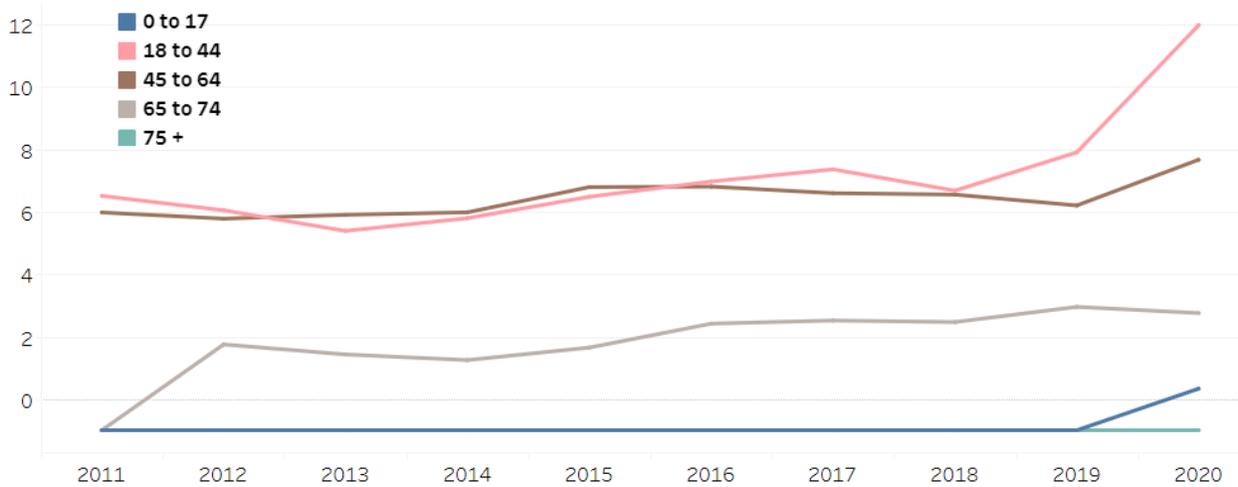


Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov

Opioids per 100,000 population

There was a significant increase in the amount of accidental drug-related deaths involving opioids from 2019-2020 for people ages 18-44.

By Age

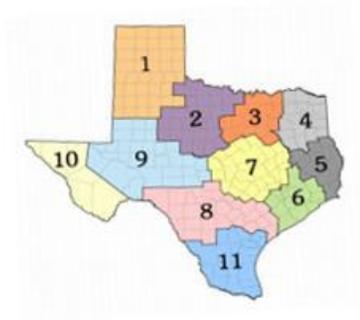


Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov

Regional Data

Region 9 Data

Region 9 is a state designated geographical division denoting a state service region of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.



Age of Onset – Region 9&10

In 2020 Region 9 had an average earlier first age of use for heroin when compared to that of the State’s average.

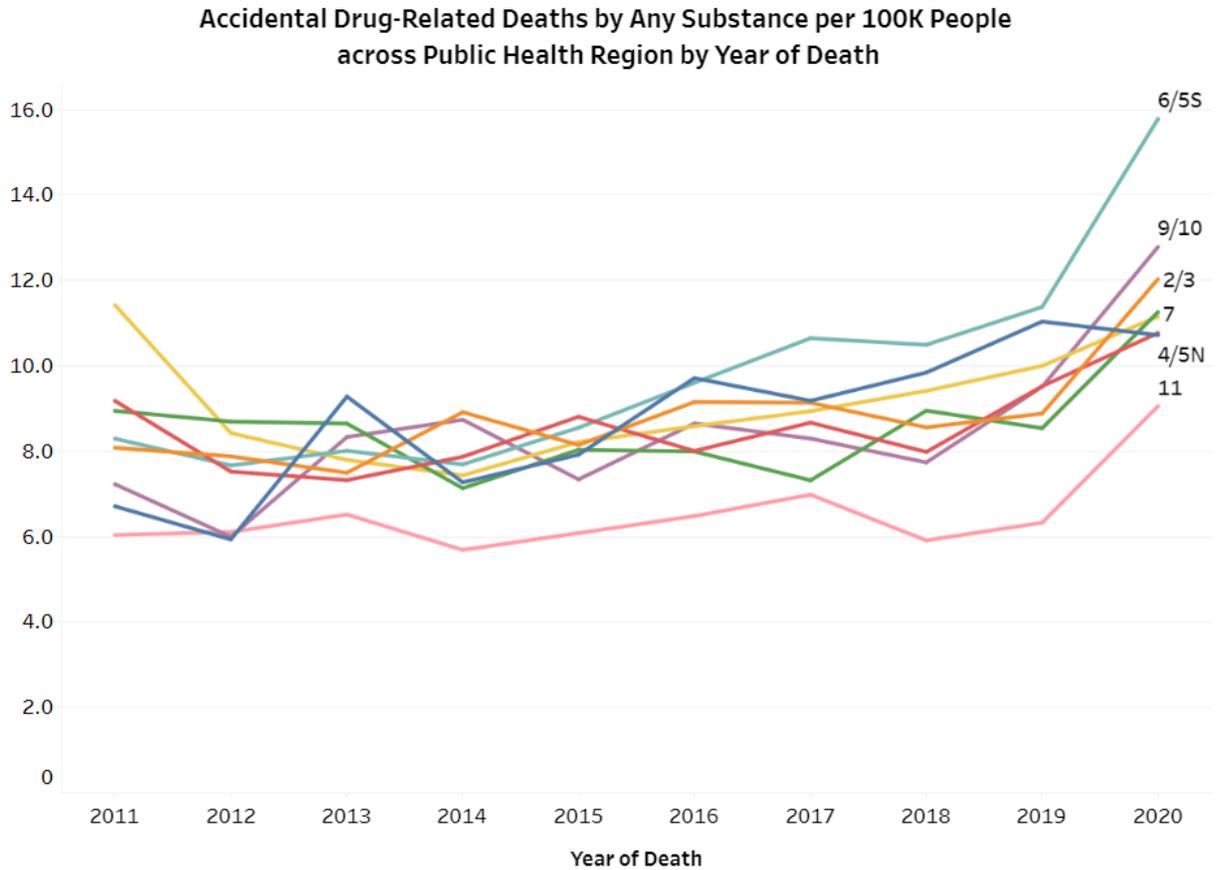
Table 36. Age of First Use of Other Substances in Years, 2020		
Substance	Texas	Region 9 & 10
Cocaine	14.3	13.9
Crack	13.4	12.4
Steroids	12.4	12.1
Ecstasy	14.6	14.5
Heroin	12.7	11.6
Methamphetamine	13.6	12.1
Synthetic Marijuana	13.8	13.5
Inhalants	11.8	11.7

Source: Texas School Survey, 2020⁶



Accidental Drug-Related Deaths by Any Substance

Region 9/10 have the second sharpest increase in deaths from 2019-2020. Tom Green County is a part of Region 9.

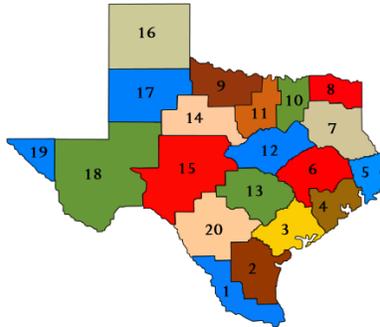


Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov



Region 15 Data

Region 15 is a state designated geographical area that denotes the service area for a Regional Education Service Center.



On-Campus Substance Violations – ESC Regions 15,17, and 18

Region 15 has had a consistent amount of on-campus substance violations for controlled substances/drugs, not including 2019-2020. Some opioids would be classified as a controlled substance. However, felony controlled substances have steadily increased over the past five years.

Table 15. On-Campus Substance Violations, 2015-2020 Schools from ESC Regions 15, 17, and 18					
Violation	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Controlled Substances/Drugs	1,214	1,190	1,276	1,353	909
Alcohol Violations	122	140	228	196	87
Tobacco	202	180	256	286	N/A
Felony Controlled Substance	0	7	17	19	35

Source: Texas Education Agency⁶⁴



Local Data

ADACCV – FY22

In FY22 **18%** of the clients served in ADACCV detox service were admitted for heroin or opiates and synthetics.

A total of **102** adult male and female clients identified heroin or opiates and synthetics as their drug of choice.

A majority of clients who participated in ADACCV services identify methamphetamine as their drug of choice. While this substance is not specifically an opioid it is still a high cause for concern due to the fact that other drugs, like meth, are commonly laced with fentanyl. Fentanyl is an extremely potent synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Fentanyl-laced drugs are extremely dangerous and can be lethal, and many people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with fentanyl. The DEA reported that in 2021 they seized 15,000 pounds of fentanyl powder in the United States.

San Angelo Police Department

Between 2020 and December 2022 SAPD reports there have been 118 arrests involving opioids of some kind.

Row Labels	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
COCAINE	33	25	25	83
HEROIN	38	45	18	101
HYDROCODONE	3	5	1	9
METH	339	311	264	914
OXYCODONE	1	5	1	7
FENTANYL		1		1
Grand Total	414	392	309	1115

Source: San Angelo Police Department

Tom Green County Attorney’s Office

The Tom Green County Attorney’s office informed us that substances are categorized in the following categories: marijuana, controlled substance or substance of an illegal dangerous drug.



Texas Department of Safety (Tom Green County)

Evidence Sub Type:	Invest Number:	Seizure Date:	Evidence Description:	Drug Quantity:	Drug measure:
Other Synthetic Opioids	2020I-THP4-105700	10/1/2020	White oval shaped pills (Methadone)	8.8 GM	- Grams
Other Synthetic Opioids	2021I-THP4-117776	1/31/2021	8 small circular blue pills (A/215 Oxycodone) in yellow plastic tied in knot	1.2 GM	- Grams
Other Synthetic Opioids	2021I-THP4-117776	1/31/2021	1 small circular blue pill (A/215 Oxycodone)	0.15 GM	- Grams
Other Synthetic Opioids	2021I-THP4-119559	2/22/2021	193 blue pills marked with "M" on one side and "30" on the other.	21.8 GM	- Grams
Other Synthetic Opioids	2021I-THP4-119559	2/22/2021	1 blue pill with "M" on one side and "30" on the other.	0.7 GM	- Grams

Source: DPS

Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits – Tom Green

Opioid-related emergency department visits have remained constant for Tom Green County over the past five years with a decline from 2020-2021.

Year of Visit	County	Demographics	Opioid type				
			Any Opioid	Fentanyl	Heroin	Non-Heroin Opioid	Synthetic Opioid
2016	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED Visits	66	0	--	59	12
2017	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED Visits	47	0	--	43	13
2018	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED Visits	42	0	--	36	--
2019	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED Visits	47	0	--	38	--
2020	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED Visits	38	--	11	27	--
2021	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED Visits	17	0	--	13	--

Source:healthdata.dshs.texas.gov



Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visits Comparison

Compared to the two largest counties in Texas; Harris County (4,728,030) and Dallas County (2,586,050), **Tom Green County either exceeds or is on par with them** for the number of emergency department visits when viewed by the rate per 100,000. Highlighted portions denote areas where TGC exceeds the levels of Harris and Dallas counties.

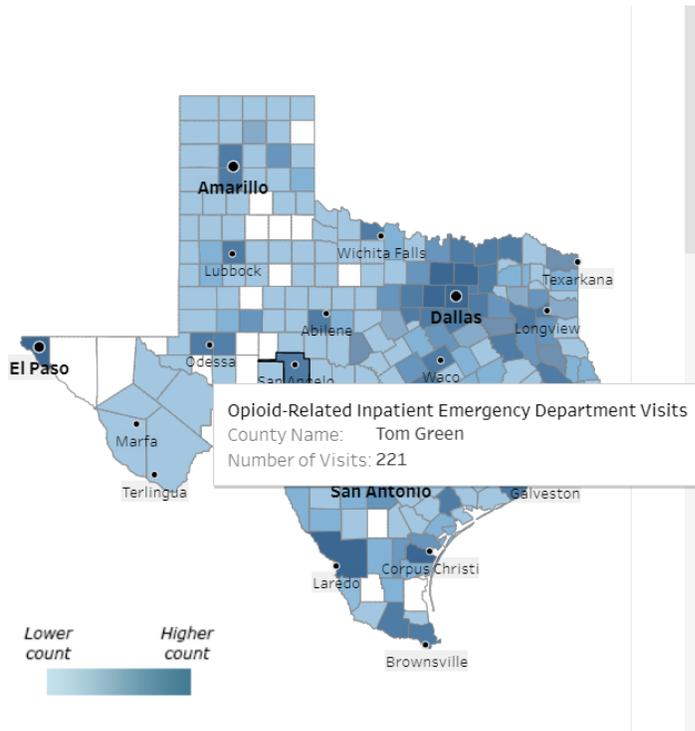
Year of Visit	County	Demographics	Opioid type				
			Any Opioid	Fentanyl	Heroin	Non-Heroin Opioid	Synthetic Opioid
2016	Dallas	Total Opioid ED..	86.2	--	32.7	53.5	8.8
	Harris	Total Opioid ED..	76.0	--	10.7	65.4	12.7
	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED..	117.5	--	--	105.1	--
2017	Dallas	Total Opioid ED..	83.2	--	32.0	51.2	8.0
	Harris	Total Opioid ED..	76.0	--	15.1	60.9	12.3
	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED..	81.7	--	--	74.7	--
2018	Dallas	Total Opioid ED..	79.8	--	32.2	47.6	7.8
	Harris	Total Opioid ED..	78.9	--	21.9	57.0	10.7
	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED..	73.8	--	--	63.3	--
2019	Dallas	Total Opioid ED..	70.4	--	29.8	40.6	6.3
	Harris	Total Opioid ED..	74.9	--	22.1	52.7	10.0
	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED..	79.4	--	--	64.2	--
2020	Dallas	Total Opioid ED..	86.6	--	33.6	53.0	5.7
	Harris	Total Opioid ED..	94.1	--	33.0	61.1	9.1
	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED..	84.1	--	--	59.7	--
2021	Dallas	Total Opioid ED..	80.0	2.7	27.3	52.7	5.6
	Harris	Total Opioid ED..	85.3	4.4	26.2	59.1	7.6
	Tom Green	Total Opioid ED..	--	--	--	--	--

Source:healthdata.dshs.texas.gov



Number of Inpatient ED Visits – TGC

From 2004-2014 TGC has 221 recorded inpatient emergency department visits related to opioids.

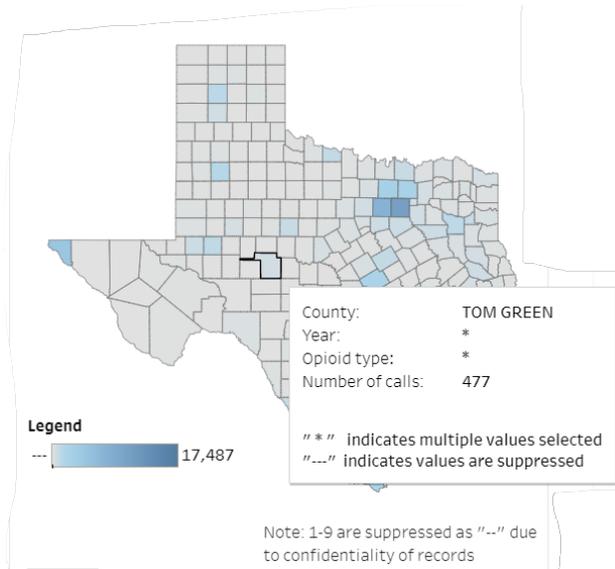


Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov



Opioid-Related Poison Center Calls

From 2004-2021 there has been a recorded 477 calls from Tom Green County to the poison center related to opioids.



Source: healthdata.dshs.texas.gov



Qualitative Data

The following data was collected from individuals in recovery.

Participants: 13

8 Males / 5 Females

Ages: 27-60

Areas Represented: Eldorado, San Angelo, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Midland/Odessa, Eagle Pass

Some responses have been summarized and all identifiable information has been removed.

How did you first hear about fentanyl?

- It was laced in their drugs (3 respondents)
- Heard about it from someone else
- Facebook, social Media
- TV

Is fentanyl an issue in our community? If so, how big of an issue?

Direct Quotes:

- *Yes its laced in meth and pills*
- *Yes, its laced in everyone's drugs*
- *Now it is because it's getting laced in all drugs*
- *There is no heroin around anymore that it all got replaced with Fentanyl and even cocaine is being mixed with fentanyl.*
- *Absolutely on a scale of 1-10 it's about a 10 its everywhere*
- *It's becoming laced in everything you can't find dope or ice without it being laced.*
- *Yes because it's being cut in meth*
- *Yes it's a big issue because it's getting cut into heroin and Rx drugs*
- *It is becoming an issue here. In Eagle Pass it is a big issue since it is a border town*
- *Not that big of an issues*
- *It's pretty big*



Is it a danger to community members?

Direct Quotes:

- *Yes, for kids because a low dose of Fentanyl is so intense and it messes with people's brains.*
- *Yes, if people don't be more aware with their drug use they can OD*
- *Now yes because its laced with gummies and all other drugs*
- *Huge issue because its laced in everything*
- *Yes, it's everywhere and Rx are being laced with it and kids don't know and could OD*
- *Yes, it's laced in everything*
- *Yes, on a scale of 1-10 it's about an 8. It's pressed in Rx drugs now*
- *Yes, kids can take Rx and not know its laced with a lethal dose of Fentanyl*

Is fentanyl easily accessible?

12 out of 13 participants responded yes.

Do you know anyone who has overdosed on fentanyl?

- No
- Yes, by meth and shooting it up
- Yes, lost 4 close friends and knows of a lot of people that have OD. Their friends tried to withdraw from Fentanyl but the Rx they were using were laced with fentanyl unknowingly and they passed away.
- Yes, 6 close friends and family members that they witnessed personally
- Yes, lost 5 good friends that OD
- Their friend's mom OD, Their friends 11-year-old brother OD and 10+ personal friends have OD in the last year due to fentanyl
- Yes, 1 close person
- Yes, friends and people in drug circles
- Yeah, 3 friends passed away, and two or so overdosed
- Yes, 1. Their meth was laced with fentanyl
- Their daughter



RESOURCES

Alcohol & Drug Awareness Center for the Concho Valley.

ADACCV is a trusted resource in the Concho Valley for the treatment of substance use disorders. Our outpatient, detox and residential treatment programs are designed to help with the road to recovery. Our licensed chemical dependency counselors, intake coordinators and caring staff are here to help with the admission process.

Community members can call us to schedule an appointment for a screening at our office, or for a screening referral in their area. Our office number is 325-224-3481; we are open from M-F 8:00-5:00. Our 24 crisis hotline is 800-880-9641 and is answered by our counselors. Additionally, we accept walk-ins from M-F 8:00-3:00 pm at our Cotton Lindsay Center office, 3553 Houston Harte, San Angelo TX.

During the screening, individuals will be assessed for treatment level (outpatient, detox and/or residential treatment) and financial eligibility. ADACCV accepts most major insurance providers and select Medicaid programs. We also have an affordable self-pay program and access to state funded treatment, based on eligibility.

The Intake Process

If someone is referred for detox or residential treatment services, they will be put in contact with our intake coordinators, who will schedule their date to arrive for services at ADACCV's Journey Recovery Center. The coordinators will go over items they are allowed to bring to treatment and which items are prohibited, as well as other important information.

If they have been referred to our outpatient program, they will be enrolled into the 12 week program and informed which days to attend classes and individual counseling sessions.

Alcohol & Drug Awareness Center for the Concho Valley

325-224-3481

24 Hour Crisis Hotline: 800-880-9641

www.adaccv.org