



Frequently Asked Questions About Phoenix Substance Use and Overdose Dashboard

What is the Phoenix Substance Use and Overdose Dashboard (PSUOD)?

The Phoenix Substance Use and Overdose Dashboard (PSUOD) is an opioid and substance use surveillance system that monitors near real-time data and local trends in substance use-related events across the City of Phoenix.

The PSUOD is a citywide endeavor and collaboration between the Office of Public Health, Phoenix Police Department, and Phoenix Fire Department. Backbone support for the dashboard is provided by the City of Phoenix's Information Technology Services department.

The development of the PSUOD was funded by the Opioid Settlement funds received by the City of Phoenix to combat the City's overdose crisis through the One Arizona Agreement. For more information on the One Arizona Agreement and the settlement funds please click [here](#).

Where is this data sourced from?

The data in the PSUOD is gathered from the Maricopa County Office of the Medical Examiner, Electronic Patient Care Records (EPCR) from Phoenix Fire, and regular program monitoring of the City's naloxone program.

What is the purpose of the PSUOD?

The purpose of the PSUOD is to share critical data on substance use and opioid-related information to keep the public informed and highlight the urgency of the opioid epidemic. We acknowledge that this crisis has an impact on everyone and believe that everyone likewise deserves access to the most up-to-date information showing the on-the-ground realities of substance use in Phoenix. In addition, this data can provide non-profits and other groups tackling substance use with useful information as they apply for funding, conduct research, and plan and implement public health programs in Phoenix.

Will the dashboard highlight suspected overdoses?

Yes, we report on suspected opioid overdoses along several factors, including age, sex, location, and time of year. In the PSUOD, a suspected overdose is defined as any case where naloxone was administered by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the patient showed signs of improvement or response. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that binds to opioid receptors in the brain to reverse an opioid overdose. Therefore, if someone has a positive reaction when naloxone is administered, it suggests that the person was overdosing on opioids.

For more information naloxone, please click [here](#).

What type of data does the dashboard feature?

The PSUOD features a variety of data to illustrate trends in suspected opioid overdoses, fatal overdoses, and the City of Phoenix's naloxone program. Within these categories, the following data is available:

- Suspected Overdoses
- By year
- By month
- Year-to-date
- By sex
- By age group
- By top 5 locations
- By district
- By zip code
- By housing status
- Fatal Overdoses
- By year
- By drug type
- By zip code
- By district
- By age group
- By sex
- By ethnicity
- By housing status
- Naloxone Information
- % of patients who received naloxone prior to EMS arrival over time
- Number of naloxone kits distributed through the program over time

Who do I contact if I have questions about this data?

If you have specific questions about the data that are not answered already, you can email the public health office at publichealth@phoenix.gov.

How is the City of Phoenix using this data?

Here in the Office of Public Health we aim to use all opioid-related data to inform the development and implementation of programs related to substance use and opioid overdose. We will use this data to determine whether our efforts are having positive outcomes for the public. We will also use this data to revise our approaches and make them more effective.

How often will the PSUOD be updated?

The majority of the data on the dashboard will be reported on an annual (yearly) basis. Naloxone information and suspected overdose counts will be reported monthly.

How does the dashboard protect the private information of overdose victims?

Protecting the public's private health information is very important to us. All data in the PSUOD is de-identified and aggregated. This means it is all combined and anonymized prior to being reported. We will never report individual-level data or data that can be used to identify individual substance users or overdose victims. As such, we do not report data on groups of less than 5 individuals.