2026 La Crosse County Overdose Fatality Report

LA CROSSE COUNTY Health Department
Nationally Accredited

IN 2025

25

La Crosse County lost 25 community members to accidental drug overdose

84%

Stimulants were present in 21 of the 25 accidental overdose deaths

Executive Summary

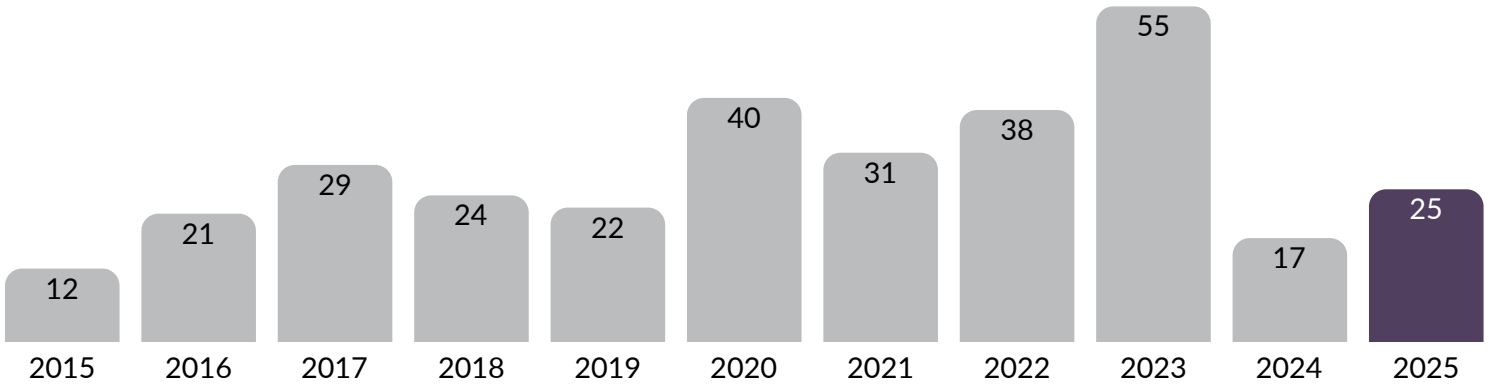
In 2025, La Crosse County lost 25 community members to accidental drug overdose, a rate of 20.8 deaths per 100,000 residents. Each person was a member of our community, with relationships, experiences, and connections that mattered. Most deaths involved more than one substance, with stimulants and fentanyl playing major roles. Understanding these patterns helps our community see what substances are contributing to local overdose deaths and why this remains an important public health issue.

Throughout 2025, La Crosse County continued working to reduce overdoses by expanding harm reduction efforts, increasing access to naloxone, supporting treatment and recovery options, and reducing stigma. These actions help people stay safer, feel supported, and connect with services that meet their needs.

This update shares information about the people who died from accidental drug overdoses in La Crosse County in 2025. The goal is to help our community understand current patterns, identify where support is needed, and guide local prevention and intervention efforts. By learning from this data and working together, we can reduce future overdose deaths and strengthen the well-being of everyone in La Crosse County.

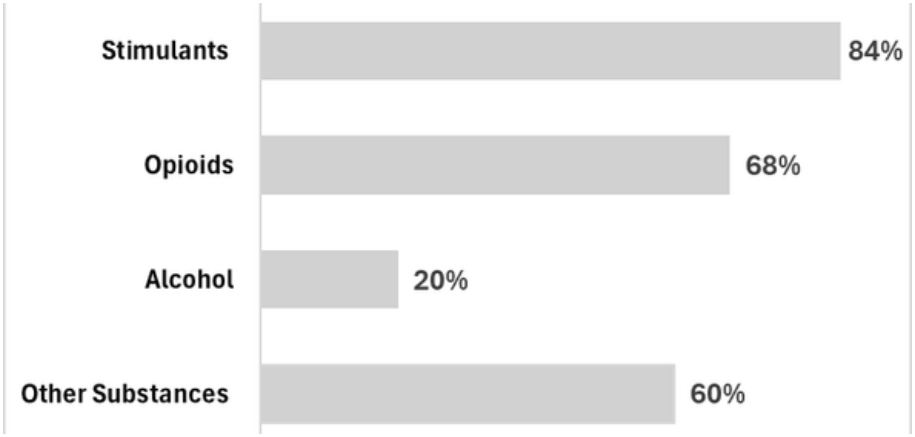
Accidental Overdose Deaths in La Crosse County, 2015–2025

This chart shows how accidental overdose deaths have changed over time. Understanding these trends helps our community see what has shifted and guide prevention and support efforts that fit current needs.



Percent of 2025 Accidental Overdose Deaths Where Each Substance Was Present

This chart shows how often each substance was found in accidental overdose deaths in 2025. Stimulants, like methamphetamine and cocaine, appeared frequently and were often found alongside opioids, like fentanyl.



Most deaths involved more than one substance, often combining stimulants with fentanyl or other drugs.

What This Means for La Crosse County

- Overdose deaths affected adults across many ages with most occurring among people in their **30s to 50s.**
- **Stimulants were involved in most deaths (84%)**, appearing more often than opioids. Methamphetamine and cocaine were the most common stimulants.
- **Fentanyl** remained a major factor and frequently appeared alongside stimulants, showing how unpredictable and dangerous the drug supply has become.
- Many deaths involved **multiple substances**, increasing overdose risk and complicating emergency response and treatment.
- Although most had housing**, stable housing remains an important support for health and safety.**
- While most deaths (68%) occurred within the City of La Crosse, **32% happened in surrounding communities**, showing that overdose risk exists across the entire county.

Community Priorities and Actions

La Crosse County continues to work with partners across public health, healthcare, EMS, law enforcement, social services, and peer support to reduce accidental overdose deaths. Key priorities include:

- **Expanding access to naloxone** across community locations and organizations
- **Increasing low-barrier, person-centered treatment and recovery options**
- **Promoting harm reduction** to increase safety for people who use drugs
- **Reducing stigma** through education and person-first language
- **Addressing basic needs** like safe housing, food security, and mental health care
- **Strengthening collaboration** to support coordinated prevention and response efforts

These actions help people stay safer and make it easier to access support when they need it.

Conclusion

Each accidental overdose death represents a member of our community. We can strengthen safety and connection throughout La Crosse County by learning from this data, reducing stigma, supporting harm reduction efforts, and working together. Our community remains committed to preventing overdose deaths and supporting the wellbeing of everyone who lives here.