

# OPIOID-TOXICITY DEATHS\* IN THE U.S. INCREASED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

\* Among individuals aged 15 to 74 years

## BETWEEN 2011 AND 2021

There were **422,605**  
accidental opioid-toxicity deaths

**4x** increase in accidental opioid-toxicity deaths

 **70%**  
were male

Median age:  
**39 years**



From **83.8** per million in 2011  
To **302.9** per million in 2021

## BY 2021

**1 of every 22** deaths in the US among people aged 15-74  
was attributable to accidental opioid-toxicity

**1 in 10**

were among those aged **15 to 19\***



\* The largest *relative* increase over the study period

**1 in 5**

were among those  
aged **20 to 29**



**1 in 5**

were among those  
aged **30 to 39**



## YEARS OF LIFE LOST (YLL)



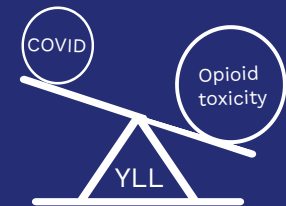
**276%** increase in  
the YLL from 2011 to 2021



**2.9M** YLL due to  
accidental opioid toxicity in 2021

Among those aged **15 to 39**,  
the YLL due to opioid toxicity  
in both 2020 and 2021 were

**higher** than those  
attributable to COVID-19



### For more information

Gomes, T., Ledlie, S., Tadrous, M., Mamdani, M., Paterson, J., Juurlink, D. (2023). Trends in opioid-toxicity deaths in the United States before and after the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2011-2021. *Journal of the American Medical Association.*