

New Jersey Overdose Prevention Data by the Numbers

Legislative Milestones

- Removing the municipal ordinance requirement in January 2022 (S3009) was the single policy change that unlocked statewide expansion of Harm Reduction Centers (HRC) — prior to it, localities had to pass their own ordinances before a site could open, keeping the number stuck at 7 for over a decade.¹
- In January 2024, Governor Murphy signed legislation decriminalizing xylazine test strips and other drug-checking equipment and exempting harm reduction supplies from the paraphernalia law.²
- Governor Sherrill has committed to building on the harm reduction framework established by the Murphy administration.³

Scale of Harm Reduction Expansion in New Jersey

- Before 2022, New Jersey had 7 harm reduction sites. By July 31, 2025, New Jersey Department of Health authorized over 50 HRC sites to operate across the state — with at least one in each of the state's 21 counties.⁴
- Participants increased from 2,616 in 2022 to 5,808 in 2024 — a 122% increase. 78% of 2024 participants were new, meaning they had limited access before expansion.⁵

Declines in Overdose Deaths in New Jersey

- Overdose deaths fell from 3,174 in 2022 to 2,827 in 2023 — the first statewide decline across all racial and ethnic groups in over a decade.⁶
- Suspected overdose deaths dropped further to 1,314 in 2025 — a 58% reduction since 2022.⁷

Racial Disparities Persist, but Progress is being made.

¹ Taylor, Jirka, et al. *Examining New Jersey's New Naloxone Direct Program and Expansion of Licensed Harm Reduction Programs: An Analysis of Naloxone Procurement Data, 2022–2025*. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2025.

² “ICYMI – Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Expand Access to Crucial Harm Reduction Supplies.” New Jersey Department of Health, 12 Jan. 2024, <https://www.nj.gov/health/news/2024/approved/20240112a.shtml>

³ Stainton, Lilo H. “NJ Expands Harm Reduction to Reduce Shame, Stigma Around Addiction.” *New Jersey Monitor*, 3 Mar. 2026, <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2026/03/03/nj-harm-reduction-addiction/>

⁴ New Jersey Department of Health. (2025). *New Jersey harm reduction centers biennial report, 2022–2024*. <https://nj.gov/health/hivstdtb/documents/nj-harm-reduction-centers-biennial-report-2022-2024.pdf>

⁴ [Department of Health | Population Health | New Jersey SUDORS Overdose Mortality Data Explorer](#)

⁵ New Jersey Department of Health. *Harm Reduction Centers Biennial Report*.

⁶ [Department of Health | Population Health | New Jersey SUDORS Overdose Mortality Data Explorer](#)

⁷ OCSME Dashboard. New Jersey Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner, <https://ocsme.nj.gov/Dashboard>. Accessed 23 Apr. 2026.

- While overall deaths dropped 11% from 2022 to 2023, fatalities among Black residents fell only 5% and among Hispanic residents only 6%.⁸

Naloxone — Distribution and Utilization

- HRCs distributed 9,348 naloxone kits in 2022, rising to 16,274 in 2024 — a 74% increase.⁹
- Following S3009 implementation in August 2023, average monthly naloxone orders by harm reduction programs increased 130%. Among licensed harm reduction programs specifically, self-reported use of kits to reverse overdoses increased 31% — compared to just 4% among all other organization types.¹⁰

Health System Linkage

- HRCs have successfully increased linkage to medical and social referral services from 64% in 2022 to 78% in 2024.¹¹
- Low-threshold buprenorphine programs covered 497 prescriptions in program Year 2 — nearly twice the number from Year 1.¹²

Funding for Overdose Prevention Services in New Jersey

- New Jersey is receiving over \$1 billion in opioid settlement funds. In 2025, the state invested 118.7 million over five and half years for the continuation and expansion of harm reduction centers.¹³ This investment supplements the \$24 million allocated for the expansion of harm reduction services in 2024.¹⁴
- The NJ Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council's strategic plan through 2030 designates harm reduction as one of four core investment areas alongside housing, treatment, and wraparound services.¹⁵

⁸ “Overdose Deaths See a Historic Drop. What’s N.J. Doing Right?” Rutgers Institute for Translational Medicine and Science, 28 Apr. 2025, [Access article](#)

⁹ Taylor et al.

¹⁰ Taylor et al.

¹¹ New Jersey Department of Health. *Harm Reduction Centers Biennial Report*

¹² New Jersey Department of Health. *Harm Reduction Centers Biennial Report*

¹³ “Governor Murphy Announces More Than \$130 Million in Opioid Settlement Funding to Expand Harm Reduction and Support Families Affected by Substance Use.” New Jersey Department of Human Services, 17 Sept. 2025

¹⁴ “State Opioid Settlement Spending Decisions: New Jersey.” National Academy for State Health Policy, <https://nashp.org/state-tracker/state-opioid-settlement-spending-decisions/new-jersey/>. Accessed 23 Apr. 2026.

¹⁵ New Jersey Department of Human Services. “New Jersey Opioid Recovery and Remediation Advisory Council Releases Statewide Strategic Plan to Inform Opioid Settlement Investments Through 2030.” 12 June 2025, <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/news/pressreleases/2025/approved/20250612.shtml>