

Homelessness and Medical, Behavioral Health, SUD Treatment

DEATHS OF THE HOMELESS

In the last year **243** individuals experiencing homelessness have died statewide.



65%

of OCME reported deaths cite drug and alcohol use as cause of death

- Between January 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, **65% of homeless individuals died from the result of drug overdose or complications** (of these, over 88% resulted from opioid use)
 - 17% died of natural causes; 14% from accidental /injuries. (MD Interagency Council on Homelessness Report 2021)
- People who are homeless suffer from substance abuse and addiction at a greater rate than those who have homes. The 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress indicated: 21 percent of individuals experiencing homelessness reported having a serious mental illness, and 16 percent reported having a substance use disorder. (SAMHSA)
- People who are homeless are at elevated risk for experiencing trauma, medical conditions, employment challenges, and incarceration.
- Economic instability can create chronic stress for individuals and may lead to illegal drug use and mental health issues, such as anxiety or depression.