

Clay County

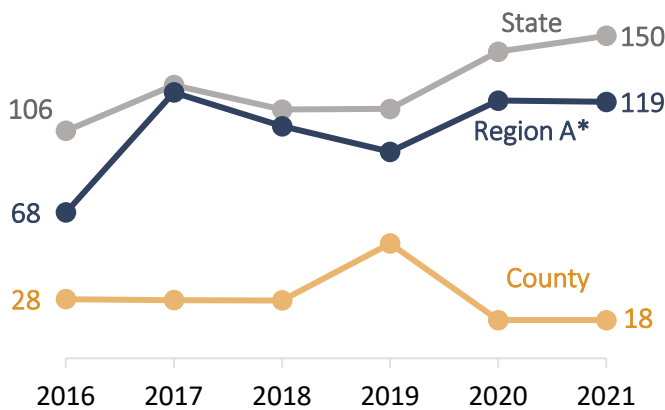
Region A Opioid Abatement Needs Assessment



i Clay County is a small, rural community, with a total population of 11,150 in 2020.¹ Between 2017-2021, the county's **median household income** was roughly \$13,000 less than the state's median (\$47,155 vs \$60,516). In 2020, Clay County had the highest **median age** in the region (54 years), far greater than in the state (39 years). This page highlights indicators specific to opioids and opioid use disorder (OUD).

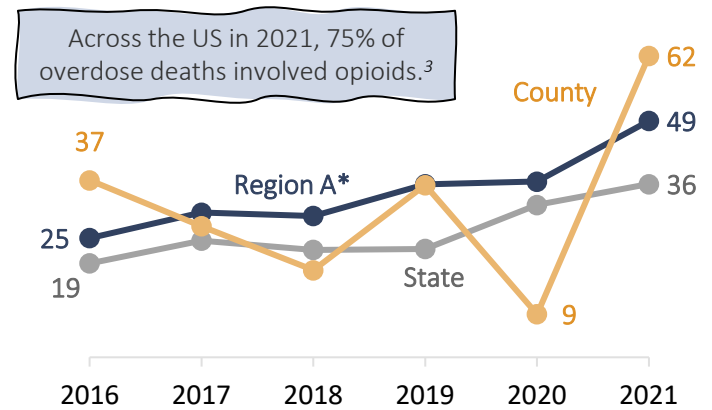
Overdose ED Visits

Rate of emergency department visits with a drug overdose diagnosis, per 100,000 residents (Crude)²



Overdose Deaths

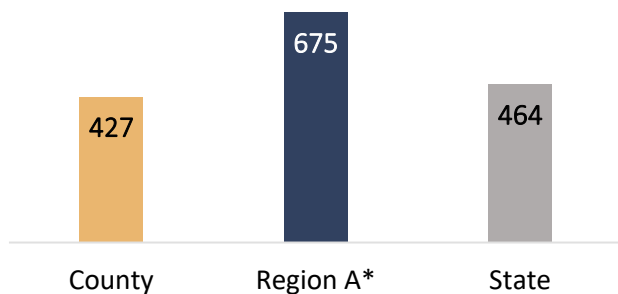
Rate of unintentional overdose deaths due to any drug, per 100,000 residents (Crude)²



Between 2020 and 2021, the **rate of unintentional OD deaths** in Clay County increased by nearly 7x, while the rate of overdose ED visits remained unchanged.

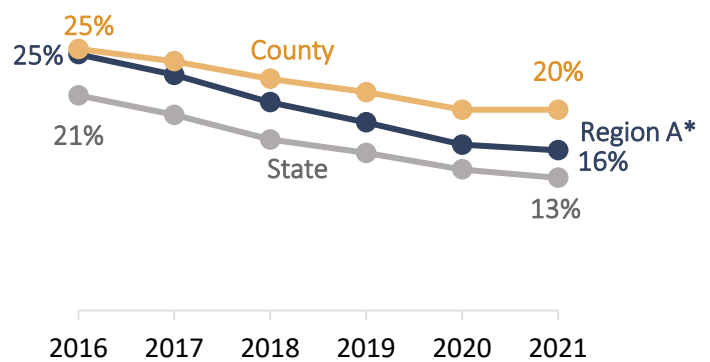
Access to OUD Care

Rate of individuals[†] served by treatment programs for Opioid Use Disorder, per 100,000 residents (Crude, 2021)²



Opioid Prescriptions

Percentage of residents receiving dispensed opioid pills²



In 2020, Clay County's **rate of individuals served by treatment programs for OUD** was lower than in both the region and state. Although the **percentage of county residents receiving opioid pills** has been decreasing, it has consistently been higher than in the region and state.

* Region A figures are estimates extrapolated from county-level counts, rates, and/or percentages.

† Among Medicaid beneficiaries and those who are uninsured.

Sources: ¹Census; ²NCCDHS Opioid Action Plan Dashboard; ³CDC

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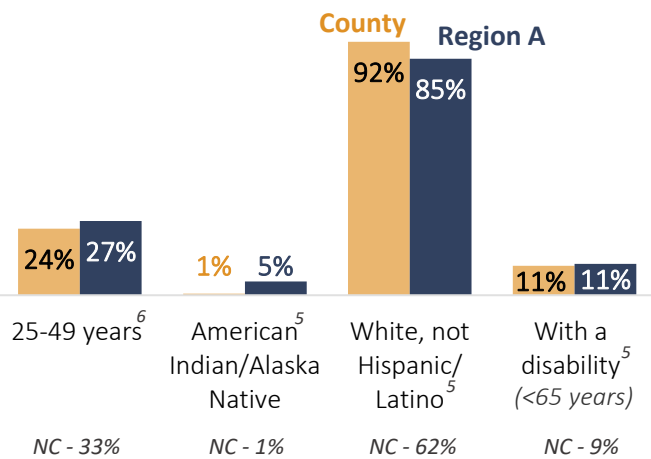


i This page highlights sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics associated with higher risk of unfavorable opioid-related outcomes, as well as indicators related to mental health.

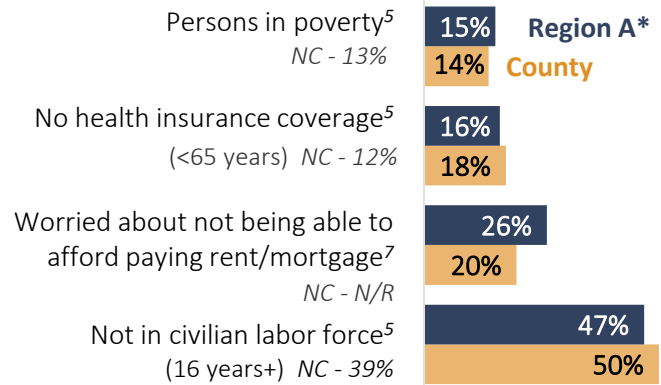
Sociodemographic Risk Factors

100% of Clay County residents live in a **rural area** (77% in Region A, 34% in NC).⁴

1 in 2 Clay County residents are **male** (same in Region A and NC).⁵



Socioeconomic Risk Factors



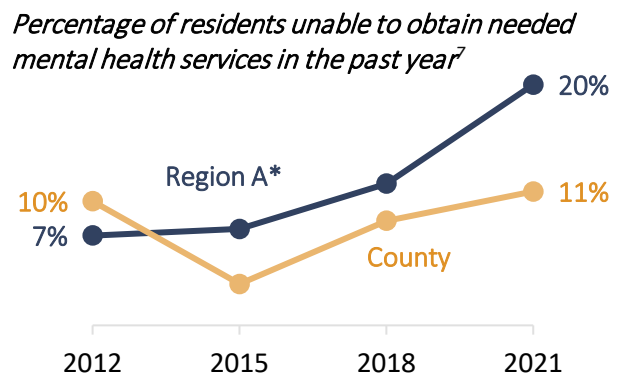
There are 60 senior adults per 100 working-age people in Clay County (46 per 100 in Region A*; 26 per 100 in NC).⁶

The large older population is a driver of **lower labor force participation** and likely increases **household financial stress**. It may also increase the supply of **prescription opioid pills** in the county due to the higher prevalence of chronic pain issues among older adults.

Mental Health

84% of Clay County residents **always** or **usually** received needed social/emotional support (72% in Region A*, N/R for NC).⁷

14% of Clay County residents reported **8+ days of poor mental health in past month** (23% in Region A*, N/R for NC).⁷



Compared to the region, a higher percentage of Clay County residents **received needed social/emotional support** and a smaller percentage experienced a high number of **poor mental health days**. Moreover, the proportion of those **unable to obtain needed mental health services** has trended lower in the county than across the region. **This suggests that residents in Clay County may have more support and stronger mental health than other counties in the region.**

* Region A figures are estimates extrapolated from county population data and county rates/percentages. Sources: ⁴Census (2020); ⁵Census (2017-2021); ⁶Census (2016-2020); ⁷WNC Health Network (2021)