

# Jackson County

## Region A Opioid Abatement Needs Assessment

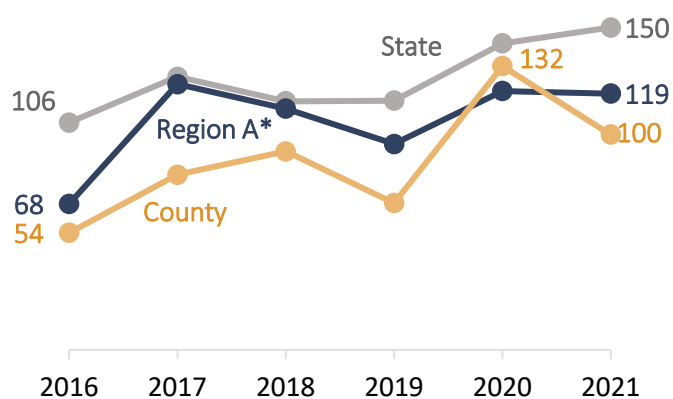


Jackson County is a rural community with a total population of 43,435 in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Between 2017-2021, the county's **median household income** was roughly \$12,000 less than the state's median (\$47,989 vs \$60,516). In 2020, the **median age** in the county was the same as in the state (39 years vs 39 years). This page highlights indicators specific to opioids and opioid use disorder (OUD).



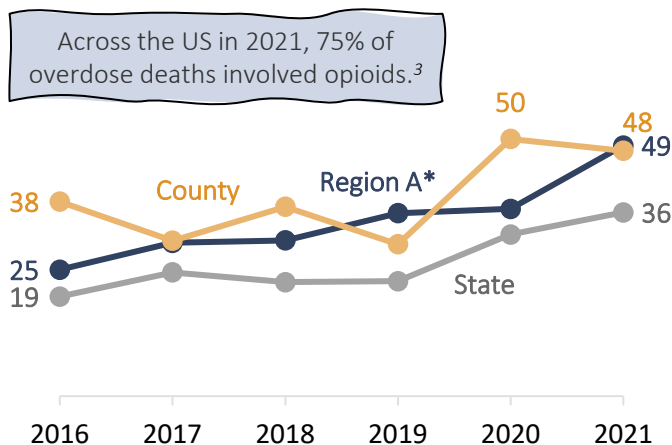
### Overdose ED Visits

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



### Overdose Deaths

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

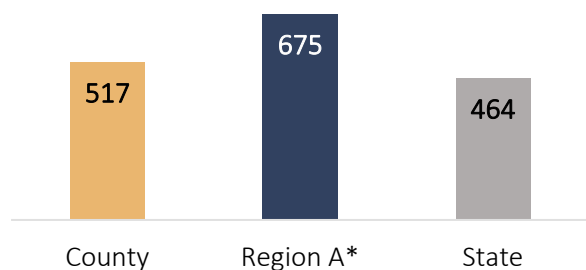


Historically, the rate of overdose ED visits has trended lower in Jackson County than in the region, while the rate of unintentional OD deaths has been similar and sometimes higher. The rate of unintentional OD deaths in the county has increased since 2019.



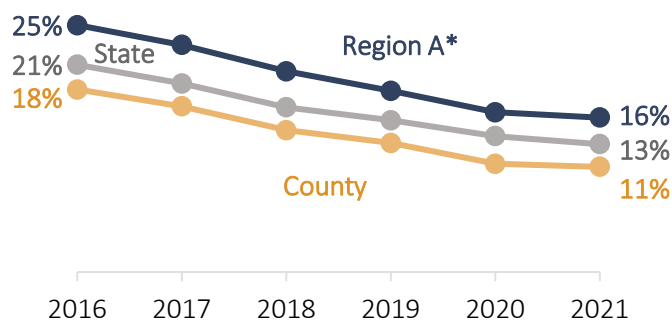
### Access to OUD Care

Rate of individuals<sup>†</sup> served by treatment programs for Opioid Use Disorder, per 100,000 residents (Crude, 2021)<sup>2</sup>



### Opioid Prescriptions

Percentage of residents receiving dispensed opioid pills<sup>2</sup>



In 2021, the rate of individuals served by treatment programs for OUD was lower in Jackson County than in Region A\* overall. Between 2016-2021, Jackson County had the lowest percentage of residents receiving opioid pills among all counties in the region.

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

† Among Medicaid beneficiaries and those who are uninsured.

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Census; <sup>2</sup>NCCDHS Opioid Action Plan Dashboard; <sup>3</sup>CDC

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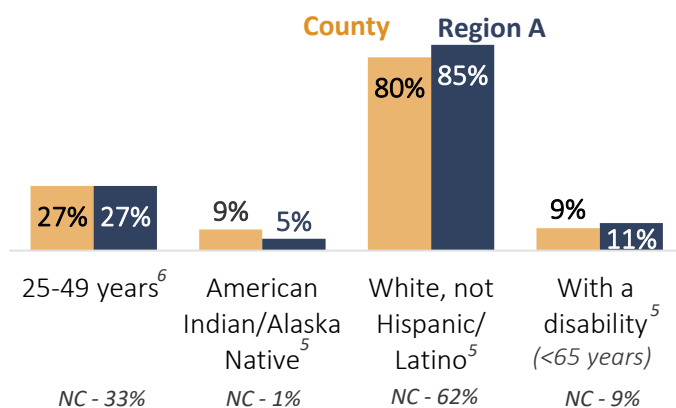


**i** This page highlights sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics associated with higher risk of unfavorable opioid-related outcomes, as well as indicators related to mental health.

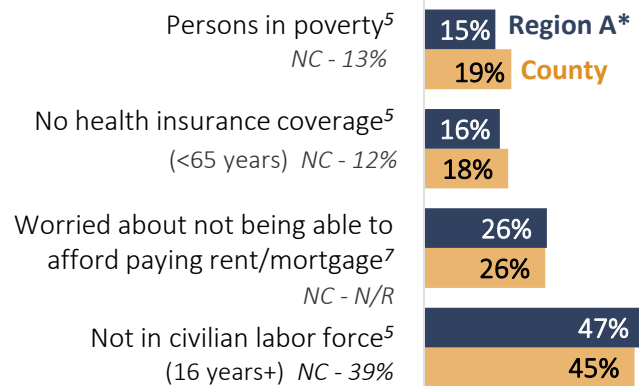
### Sociodemographic Risk Factors

**78%** of Jackson County residents live in a **rural area** (77% in Region A, 34% in NC).<sup>4</sup>

**1 in 2** Jackson County residents are **male** (same in Region A and NC).<sup>5</sup>



### Socioeconomic Risk Factors



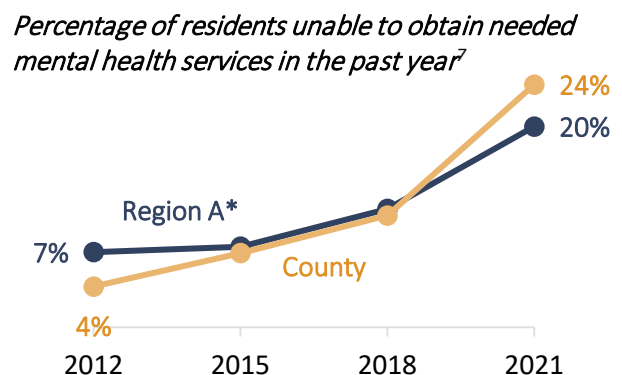
**There are 31 senior adults per 100 working-age people** in Jackson County (46 per 100 in Region A\*; 26 per 100 in NC).<sup>6</sup>

Although lower than the region, a large older population could be 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

**66%** of Jackson County residents **always** or **usually** received needed social/emotional support (72% in Region A\*, N/R for NC).<sup>7</sup>

**20%** of Jackson County residents reported **8+ days of poor mental health in past month** (23% in Region A\*, N/R for NC).<sup>7</sup>



While most Jackson County residents typically **received needed social/emotional support**, more than 3 in 10 residents did not, and 1 in 5 experienced a high number of poor mental health days. In addition, the percentage of county residents who **were unable to obtain needed mental health services** in the past year was the highest among Region A\* counties in 2021. **This highlights the need for an increase in various types of support.**

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