

Macon County

Region A Opioid Abatement Needs Assessment

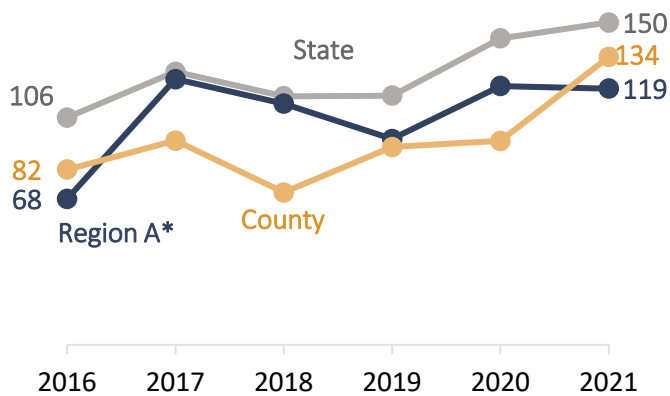


Macon County is the 3rd largest county in Region A by population size (35,172 in 2020).¹ Between 2017-2021, the county's **median household income** was roughly \$12,000 less than the state's median (\$48,169 vs \$60,516). In 2020, the **median age** in the county was 50 years, much greater than in the state (39 years). This page highlights indicators specific to opioids and opioid use disorder (OUD).



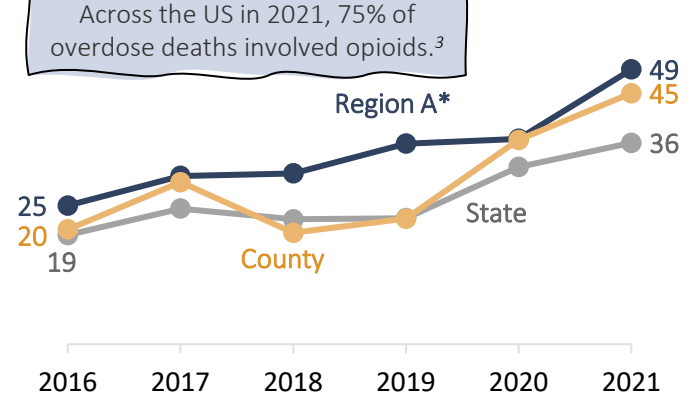
Overdose ED Visits

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



Overdose (OD) Deaths

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

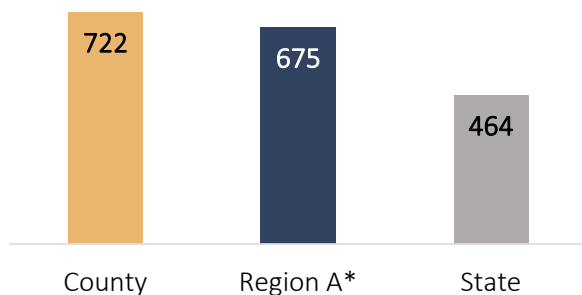


The rate of ED visits due to a drug OD in Macon County has increased over time. The county's rate of unintentional OD deaths has tended to be similar to or below the region's rate.



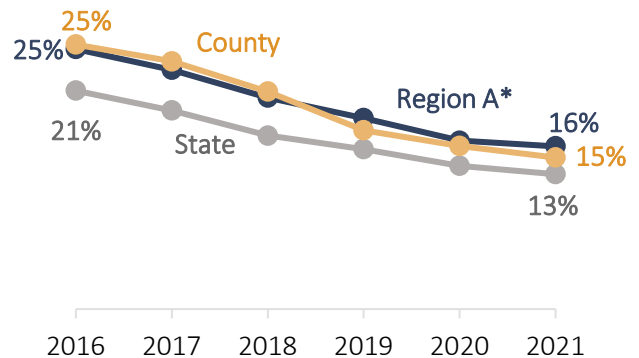
Access to OUD Care

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 2021, Macon County had a higher **rate of individuals in treatment programs for OUD** compared to both the region and the state. In addition, the **decline in the percentage of county residents receiving opioid pills** closely mirrored the trends observed 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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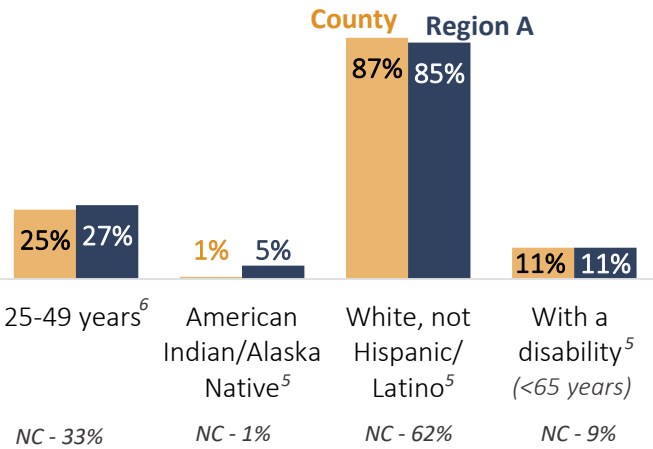


i This page highlights sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics associated with higher risk of unfavorable opioid-related outcomes, as well as indicators related to mental health.

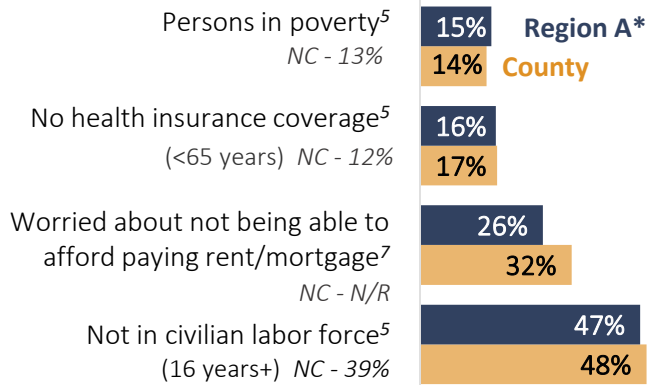
Sociodemographic Risk Factors

81% of Macon County residents live in a **rural area** (77% in Region A, 34% in NC).⁴

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



Socioeconomic Risk Factors



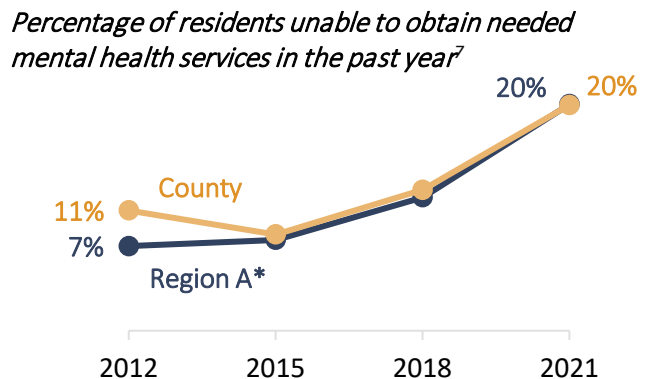
There are 54 senior adults per 100 working-age people in Macon County (46 per 100 in Region A*; 26 per 100 in NC).⁶

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

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

28% of county residents reported **8+ days of poor mental health in past month** (23% in Region A*, N/R for NC).⁷



A lower proportion of Macon County residents received needed social and emotional support compared to the region, while a larger percentage reported experiencing a **high number of poor mental health days**. Although the percentage of county residents unable to obtain needed mental health services has generally aligned with the regional average over time, in 2021, Macon County had the 2nd highest rate among all counties in Region A. **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: ⁴Census (2020); ⁵Census (2017-2021); ⁶Census (2016-2020); ⁷WNC Health Network (2021)