

# Swain County

## Region A Opioid Abatement Needs Assessment

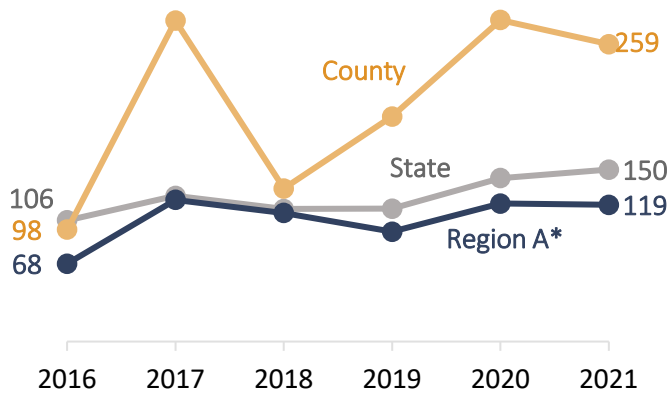


**Swain County** is a rural community with a total population of 14,241 in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Between 2017-2021, the county's **median household income** was roughly \$12,000 less than the state's median (\$48,608 vs \$60,516). In 2020, the **median age** in the county was slightly greater than in the state (42 years vs 39 years). This page highlights indicators specific to opioids and opioid use disorder (OUD).



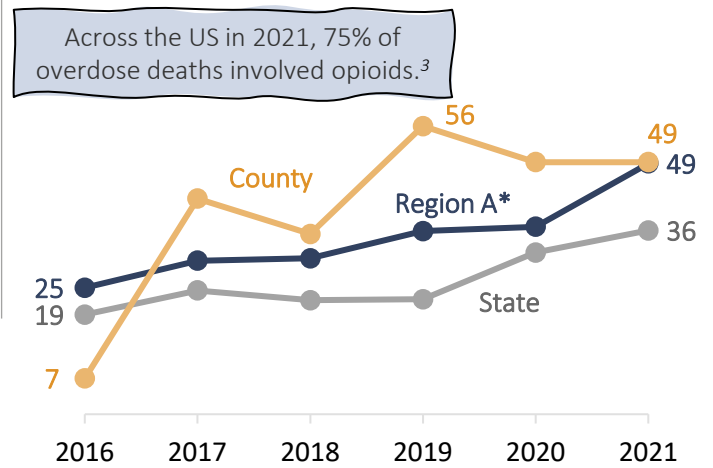
### Overdose ED Visits

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>

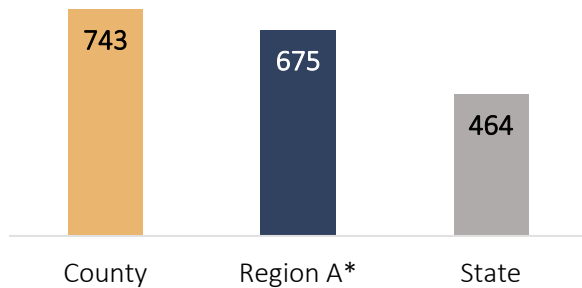


Historically, both the **rate of overdose ED visits** and the **rate of unintentional OD deaths** have trended higher in Swain County than in Region A\*. However, the rate of unintentional OD deaths in the county has been decreasing since its peak in 2019.



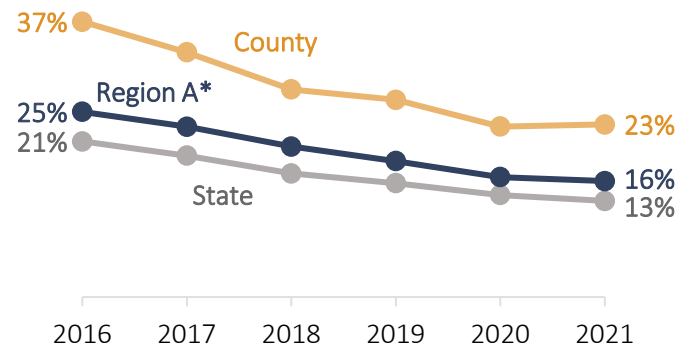
### Access to OUD Care

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 greater in Swain County than in the region and state. However, between 2016-2021, Swain County had the largest **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

# Swain County

## Region A Opioid Abatement Needs Assessment

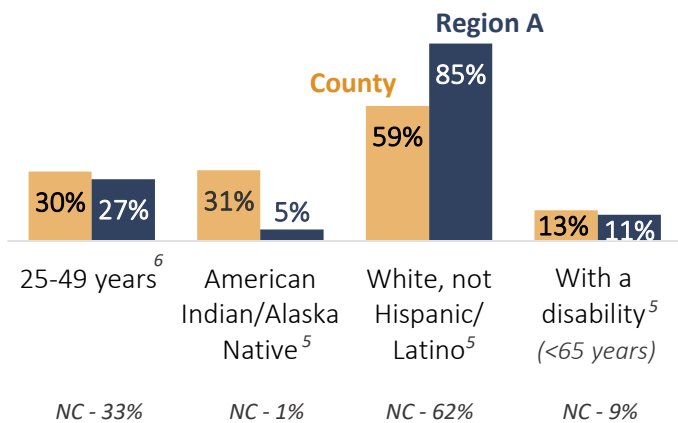


**i** This page highlights sociodemographic and socioeconomic characteristics associated with higher risk of unfavorable opioid-related outcomes, as well as indicators related to mental health.

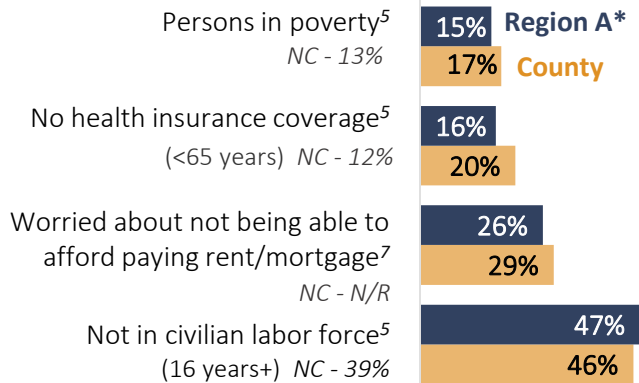
### Sociodemographic Risk Factors

**100%** of Swain County residents live in a **rural area** (77% in Region A, 34% in NC).<sup>4</sup>

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



### Socioeconomic Risk Factors

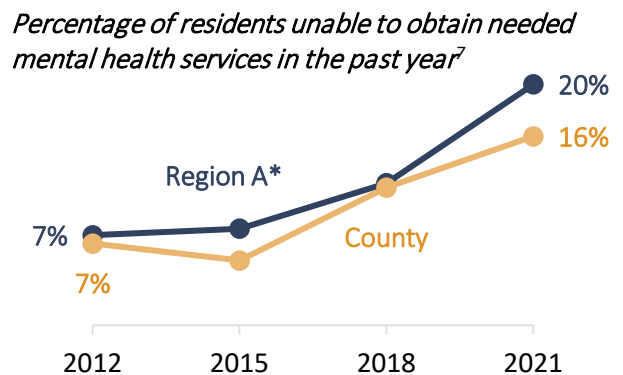


**There are 33 senior adults per 100 working-age people in Swain County (46 per 100 in Region A\*; 26 per 100 in NC).<sup>6</sup>** Although lower than the region, the large older population could be a **driver of lower labor force participation** and likely **increases household financial stress**. 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

**70%** of Swain County residents **always** or **usually** received needed social/emotional support (72% in Region A\*, N/R for NC).<sup>7</sup>

**24%** of Swain 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 Swain County residents typically **received needed social/emotional support**, about 3 in 10 residents did not, and 1 in 4 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 has been rising. **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)