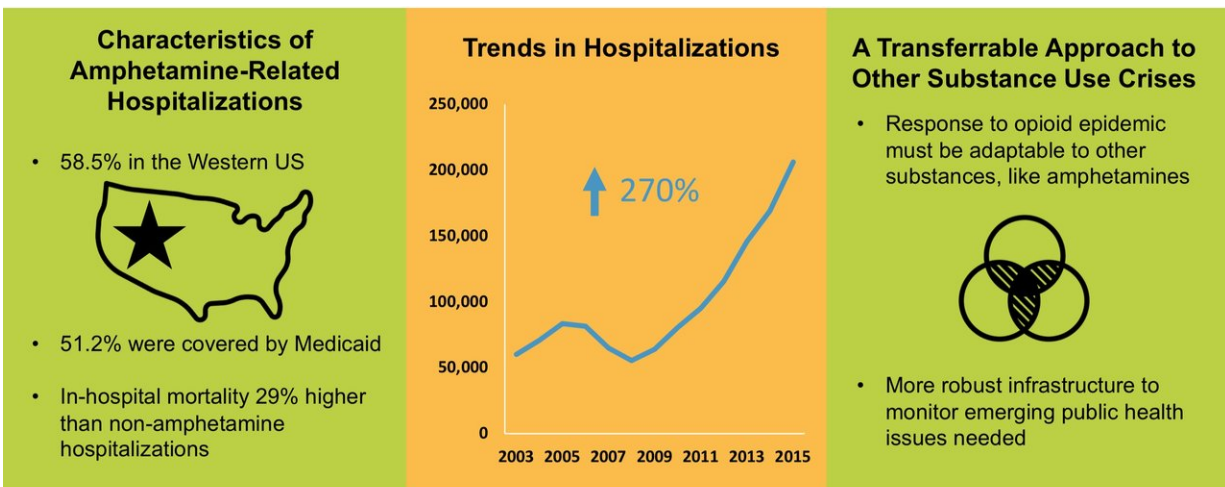


# Amphetamine-related hospitalizations surged between 2003 and 2015

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Winkelman TNA, Admon LK, Jennings L, et al.  
JAMA Network Open, October 2018  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2707432>



An analysis conducted by Hennepin Healthcare, University of Minnesota School of Public Health and University of Michigan researchers shows amphetamine-related hospitalizations increased more than 270 percent from 2008 to 2015, costing up to \$2.17 billion per year.

The study was recently published in *JAMA Network Open*.

"It's worrying," said Associate Professor and co-author Nathan Shippee.

"The sharp increase in amphetamine-related hospitalizations suggests the need for a [public health](#) response; yet, we lack the kind of treatments that we have for opioids."

After a period of decline in the mid-2000s, the reemergence of amphetamine use comes as the public health field pushes to address the ongoing [opioid](#) crisis.

To learn more about the scope of the amphetamine problem, the study's lead author Tyler Winkelman and co-investigators analyzed national [hospital](#) data on 1.3 million amphetamine-related hospitalization cases in the United States.

The study showed:

- Between 2008 and 2015, amphetamine-related hospitalizations increased from 55,447 to 206,180.
- The majority of amphetamine-related hospitalizations were in the western United States.
- Medicaid was the biggest payer of amphetamine-related hospitalizations across the United States.
- Amphetamine patients had nearly 30 percent higher in-hospital mortality rates compared with other patients, possibly due to the way the drugs harm cardiovascular function.

The researchers point out that, unlike opioids, there are no medicines for [amphetamine](#)-use disorders.

"Hospitalizations related to amphetamines were associated with thousands of deaths over our study period," said Winkelman, a physician with Hennepin Healthcare and assistant professor in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. "We can't just focus our attention on opioids. The nation's response to the opioid epidemic needs

to address other substances like amphetamines too."

The study suggests the United States needs to develop improved strategies that prevent people from developing substance use disorders and new drugs and treatments for people who already have them.

"Not only did hospitalizations related to [methamphetamine](#) increase most dramatically, we found hospitalizations related to alcohol and most other drugs increased," said study co-author Gavin Bart, a physician and director of Addiction Medicine at Hennepin Healthcare HCMC and associate professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota. "This underscores the importance of the hospital as a key focal point for initiating treatment for substance use disorders."

**More information:** Tyler N. A. Winkelman et al. Evaluation of Amphetamine-Related Hospitalizations and Associated Clinical Outcomes and Costs in the United States, *JAMA Network Open* (2018). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.3758](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.3758)

Provided by University of Minnesota

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