This map shows rates of non-heroin opioid-involved overdoses (a subset of opioid-involved overdoses). Overdoses in this category are due to prescription opioids and illicitly manufactured opioids such as fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine but exclude overdoses that involve heroin.

There is a marked difference in death distribution compared to heroin-involved overdoses. Deaths due to non-heroin opioid-involved overdoses occur at high rates throughout both urban and rural Missouri. While the St. Louis area continues to have high rates, other counties across the state are experiencing higher rates as well. However, many rural counties’ high rates are based on small numbers.

In contrast to the mortality map shown here, Emergency room visits due to non-heroin opioid abuse show fewer clusters of very rural counties ranking in the highest quartile (map available in the Costs of Opioid Misuse section). This may be due to limited access to care; in rural communities, people abusing non-heroin opioids may not be able to get to the emergency room in time for treatment, resulting in higher incidences of fatal overdoses.