



Estimates of the Economic Burden of the Opioid Epidemic in Virginia: Productivity Losses, Health Care Costs, and Government Impacts, 2017

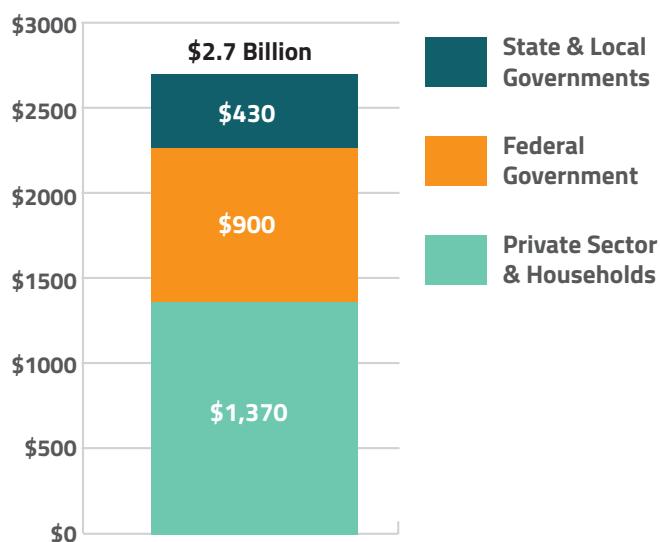
The annual economic burden of the opioid epidemic in Virginia is estimated to have reached nearly \$2.7 billion in 2017. This number represents both lost future economic activity and today's direct spending that may have been avoided if the opioid epidemic was better addressed. These costs are shouldered by Virginia families, businesses, and state and local governments.

Not all Virginia counties and cities bear the same weight of the economic burden caused by the opioid epidemic. The four heavily populated counties in Northern Virginia – Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, and Loudoun – account for just over a fifth of the state's total economic burden. But while some of the larger counties like Fairfax and Prince William are in the top five for the total costs, due to large population sizes, these counties also have per-capita costs (total costs divided by the total population)

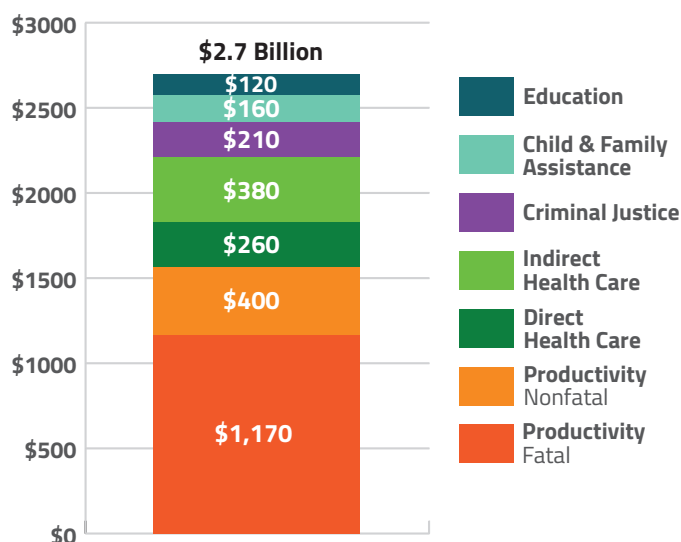
that are below average for the state. Culpeper County, on the other hand, had the highest estimated per-capita burden at \$665 per person – twice the state average of \$318 per person.

The negative impacts of opioid misuse result in a significant burden for Virginia's workers, employers, and governments. The portion of the total economic costs that are due to lost productivity, lower labor force participation, decreased earnings, and lower tax revenues are estimated to have reached \$1.57 billion

Costs by Payer (\$Millions), 2017



Costs by Type (\$Millions), 2017



ABOUT THE CENTER

The Center on Society and Health is an academic research center that studies the connections between social factors and health.

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☎ 804-628-2462
 🖱 societyhealth.vcu.edu
 ✉ societyhealth@vcu.edu



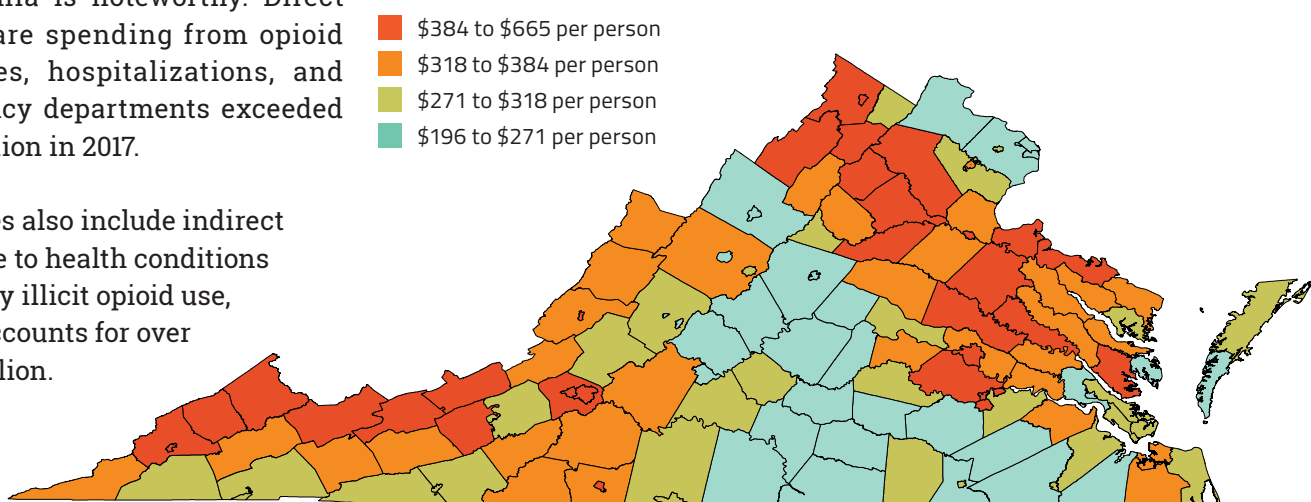
in 2017, with most of that burden falling on households and the private sectors. The largest component of these 2017 productivity losses is due to deaths from overdose, estimated at nearly \$1.2 billion, while losses due to nonfatal opioid use exceeded \$340 million. The contribution of health care costs to the total economic burden of the epidemic in Virginia is noteworthy. Direct healthcare spending from opioid overdoses, hospitalizations, and emergency departments exceeded \$261 million in 2017.

Estimates also include indirect costs due to health conditions caused by illicit opioid use, which accounts for over \$380 million.

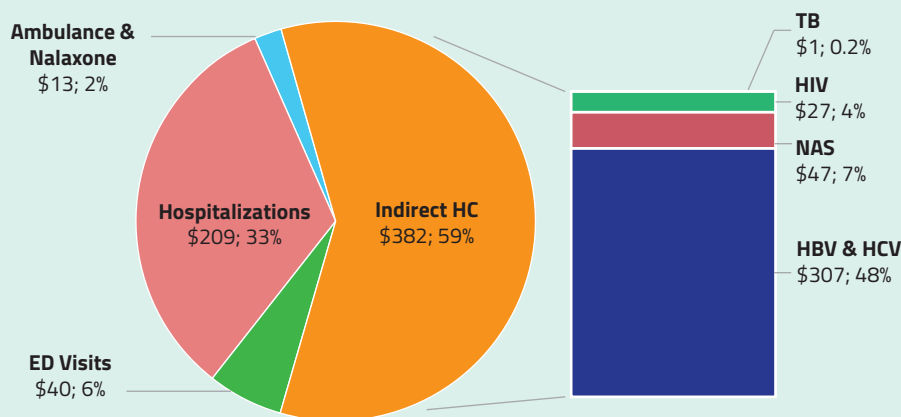
In calculating the economic costs of loss of life it's important to remember that these estimates do not include the value of lives lost, which are incalculable. There are negative effects of the opioid epidemic that cannot be reduced to

a dollar amount, including emotional impacts, decreased quality of life, and other community-level impacts. In these ways, the estimates cited in this study, while significant, are an under-estimate of the total impact of the opioid burden in Virginia.

Annual Economic Burden of Opioids Per Capita by Locality, Virginia, 2017



Health Care Costs by Type (\$Millions; % of Total)



ED = Emergency Department, HC = Health Care, TB = Tuberculosis, HIV = Human Immunodeficiency Virus, NAS = Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, HBV = Hepatitis B Virus, HCV = Hepatitis C Virus

Top 5 Localities by Annual Total and Per-Capita Economic Losses, 2017

Total Opioid Economic Burden	
Fairfax County	\$278 Million
Prince William County	\$140 Million
Virginia Beach City	\$139 Million
Chesterfield County	\$134 Million
Henrico County	\$117 Million
Annual Per-Capita Burden	
Culpeper County	\$665
King George County	\$653
Warren County	\$648
Bland County	\$628
Hopewell City	\$566