

# Injury Prevention Service

Creating an injury-free Oklahoma through programs, policies, and partnerships

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## Tracking Overdose Deaths: Meth Surpasses Opioids

A poisoning is bodily harm or a toxic effect that results from contact with a substance. An unintentional poisoning occurs when a person does not intend to cause harm to themselves or someone else. The person may intentionally be exposed to a substance (e.g., take more medication than prescribed) but does not intend to harm themselves. In 2017, 86% of poisoning deaths were unintentional. Drug overdoses are the most common cause of poisoning death.

the IPS Fatal Unintentional Poisoning Surveillance System. For over a decade, the most common type of substance involved in unintentional poisoning deaths was prescription opioids.

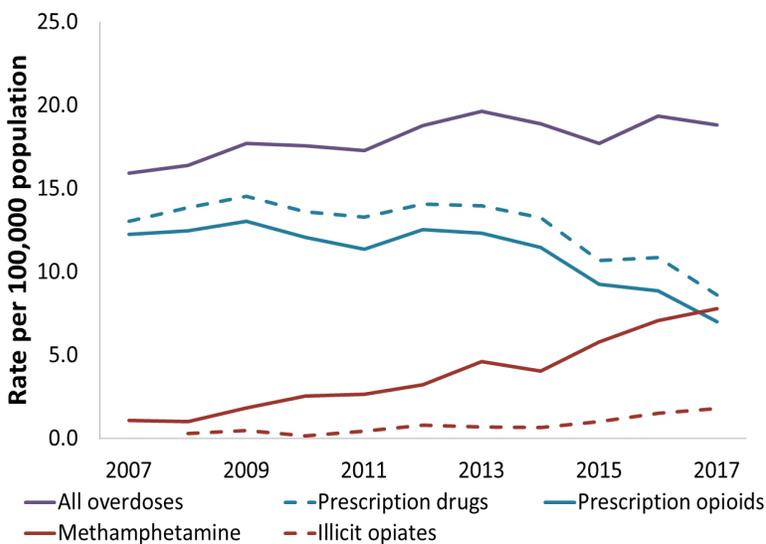
**2017:  
More Oklahomans died of an unintentional methamphetamine overdose than a prescription opioid overdose.**

**600%.** In 2007, there were 39 unintentional methamphetamine overdose deaths, compared to 307 in 2017. Oklahoma had the second highest absolute increase in methamphetamine overdose death rates of any state in the past decade. From 2014-2016, Oklahoma had the third highest methamphetamine overdose death rate in the country. Men were twice as likely to die as women and overdose rates were highest among adults aged 45-64.

Nationally and in Oklahoma, drug overdose is the leading

From 2007-2013, the rate of unintentional prescription

Unintentional Poisoning Deaths, Oklahoma, 2007-2017



cause of injury death for adults aged 25-64. The Injury Prevention Service (IPS) collects data on all overdose deaths in the state. Deaths with a manner of “accident” and a poisoning listed in the cause of death are included in

opioid overdoses remained fairly stable. From 2013-2017, **Oklahoma had a 43% decrease in its prescription opioid overdose death rate.** From 2007-2017, the rate of **methamphetamine-related overdose death increased by**

Curbing the current drug epidemic and making real change will take more than addressing one particular substance or drug class. Drug addiction is a complex disease. Drugs change the brain in ways that make quitting hard, even for those who want to quit. Fortunately, researchers know more than ever about how drugs affect the brain and have found treatments that can help people recover from drug addiction.

**If you suspect someone is experiencing an overdose, react to this true emergency by calling 911 immediately.**

**For help finding treatment referrals, call 211.**

The Injury Prevention Service at the Oklahoma State Department of Health was created in 1987. For the past 30 years, we have used the public health approach to address Oklahoma’s injury problem in collaboration with communities and stakeholders across the state.

[ips.health.ok.gov](http://ips.health.ok.gov)  
405-271-3430



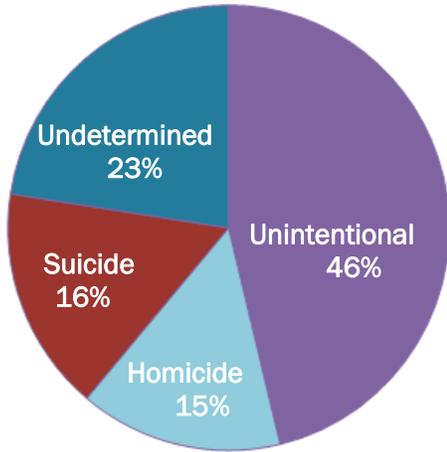
The Injury Prevention Service offers trainings, educational presentations, data reports, and technical assistance for leading causes of injury, including:

- Drug overdose/poisoning
- Falls
- Concussions/traumatic brain injury
- Childhood injury
- Motor vehicle-related injury
- Sexual violence
- Suicide
- Homicide
- Drowning

Visit our [website](http://ips.health.ok.gov) for program overviews as well as fact sheets, publications, and other resources.

# Data-Driven: Childhood Injuries

Childhood injury deaths among children 0-19 years of age, Oklahoma, 2016-2017



The IPS developed and maintains the Childhood Injury Surveillance System to collect data on all injury-related deaths among children 0-19 years of age. Abstracted from medical examiner reports and death certificates, collected information includes decedent demographics; injury mechanism and circumstances; manner of death; and place, date, and time of death. The purpose of the surveillance system is to maintain timely, complete data on injury-related deaths of children. This system can be utilized to inform planning and evaluation efforts of child-focused prevention programs.

From 2016-2017, there were 625 injury-related deaths among children aged 0-19.

**Injuries killed 6 Oklahoma children every week from 2016-2017**

- 46% of these deaths were due to unintentional injury
- Boys had a higher injury death rate than girls: 40.0 vs 19.0 per 100,000
- Black children had the highest injury death rate: 42.0 per 100,000
- Leading causes of injury death by age group:
  - Less than 1 year: Sudden unexpected infant death (SUID)† - 68% of deaths
  - 1-4 years old: Drowning - 36% of deaths
  - 5-9 years old: Motor vehicle crashes - 46% of deaths
  - 10-14 years old: Motor vehicle crashes - 40% of deaths
  - 15-19 years old: Firearms - 43% of deaths

†Sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) is the death of an infant less than 1 year of age that occurs suddenly and unexpectedly, and whose cause of death is not immediately obvious before investigation. Most SUIDs are reported as one of three types: sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), unknown cause, and accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed (ASSB). Cases are identified by the following ICD-10 codes: SIDS (R95), unknown cause (R99) and ASSB (W75).

# OKVDRS: Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System

The Oklahoma Violent Death Reporting System (OKVDRS), housed in the IPS, links detailed data from multiple sources to track all violent deaths in the state. Information on the decedents, weapons, circumstances, and perpetrator relationships are used to guide prevention.

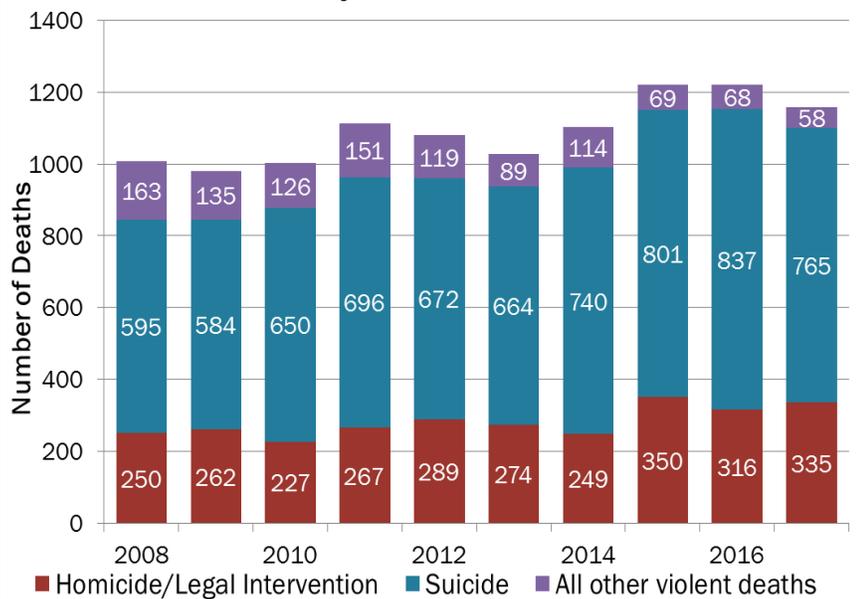
From 2008-2017 in Oklahoma, there were 10,915 violent deaths:

- 7,004 suicides (64%)
- 2,819 homicide/legal intervention deaths (26%)
- 1,092 other violent deaths - unintentional firearm or undetermined violent deaths (10%)

**2008-2017: Over 7,000 Oklahomans died by suicide, or roughly the population of Piedmont.**

The suicide rate in Oklahoma decreased 9% from 2016-2017. Even with the decrease in 2017, suicides have increased over time. The suicide rate for 2017 was 20% higher than in 2008 (19.5 and 16.2 per 100,000, respectively). Oklahoma's homicides increased 6% from 2016-2017. The number of homicides in 2017 was 34% higher than in 2008.

Violent deaths by intent, Oklahoma, 2008-2017



Includes Oklahoma residents and non-residents who died in Oklahoma.

