



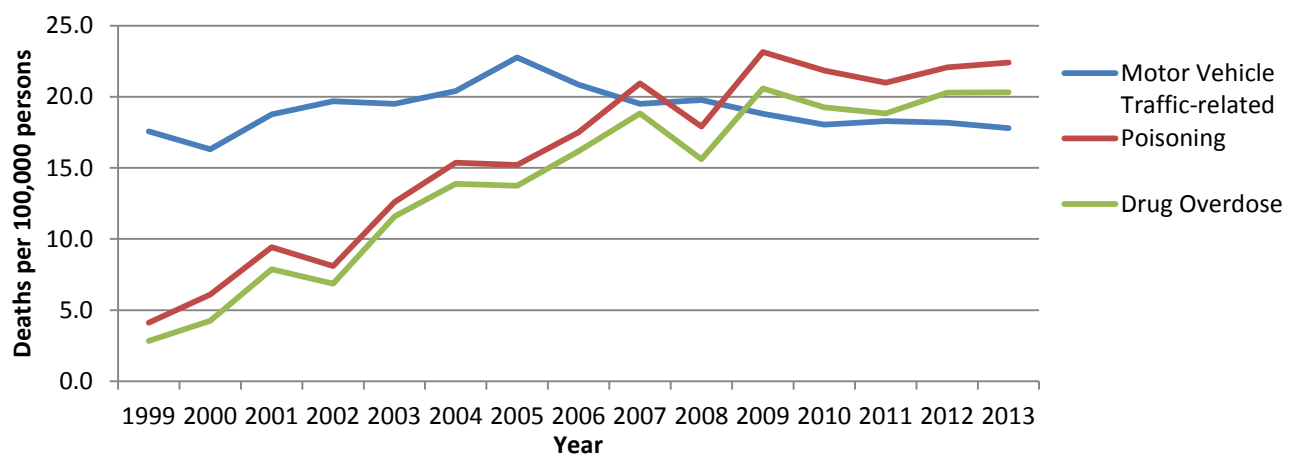
Oklahoma

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 1999-2013

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Oklahoma; drugs cause 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, increased sevenfold from 1999 to 2013, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2009 (Figure 1). In 2013, the poisoning death rate was 22.4 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 20.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 17.8 deaths per 100,000 persons.

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Oklahoma residents, 1999-2013



Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2013, drugs and medications –prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications, - were the underlying cause of death for 91% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 85% were unintentional, 8% were suicide or intentional self-harm, and for 7% the intent was undetermined. Males had rates 18% higher than females and persons aged 45-54 years had the highest rate of all age categories.

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Oklahoma residents, 2013

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	359	46%	18.6
	Male	418	54%	21.9
Age (in years)*	15-24	62	8%	11.4
	25-44	272	35%	27.3
	45-54	224	29%	45.0
	55 and older	215	28%	21.1
	Unintentional (also known as “accidental”)	660	85%	17.1
Intent	Suicide	58	8%	1.5
	Undetermined	57	7%	1.5

*0-14 age group not included due to small numbers.



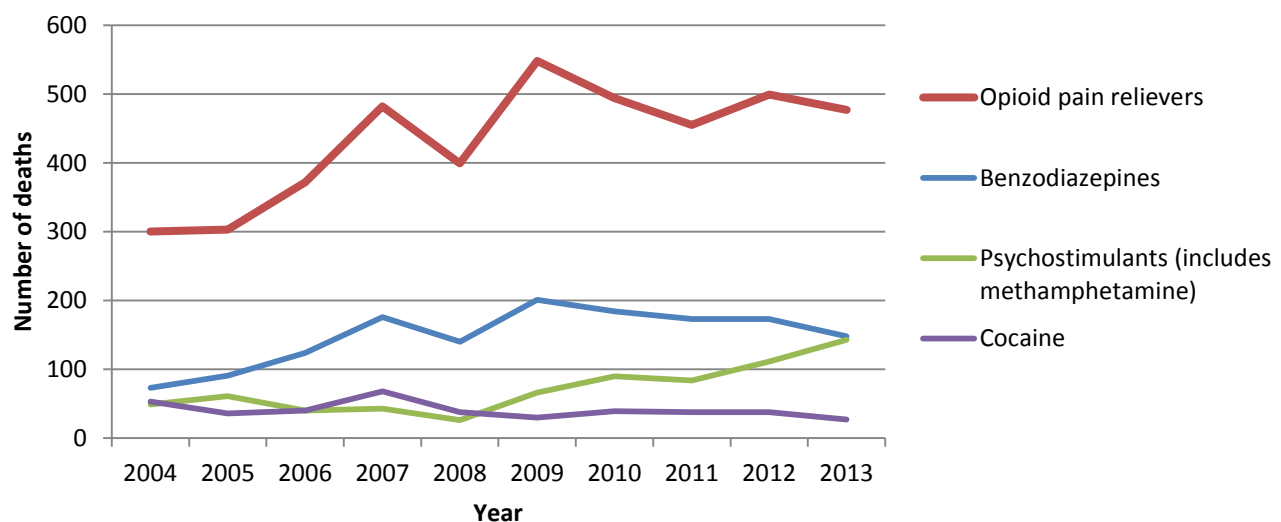
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Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 61% of Drug Overdose Deaths

Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 477 (61%) of the 777 drug overdose deaths in 2013. More deaths involved opioid pain relievers than cocaine, benzodiazepines, and methamphetamine combined. These results might be undercounts, because the percent of drug overdose deaths that had only unspecified drug(s) listed as contributing to the death ranged from 4% in 2004 to 6% in 2013.

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Oklahoma residents, 2004-2013



Addressing the Issue

- Injury Prevention Service (IPS) staff are involved in multiple program and policy efforts for prescription drug overdose (PDO) prevention involving numerous partnerships.
- IPS efforts are funded by the Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program, Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, and the Prescription Drug Overdose: Prevention for States grant.
- Drug overdose prevention is a priority area for the Governor and Secretary of Health and Human Services in Oklahoma.
- Statewide activities include:
 - State plan to reduce prescription drug abuse
 - Policy successes: prohibited refills of hydrocodone, first responder and family member access to naloxone, prescription drug monitoring program sharing with public health and mental health departments
 - Creation, distribution, and evaluation of opioid prescribing guidelines
 - Provided training as well as naloxone and atomizers for emergency medical services providers across the state

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Injury Prevention Service

<http://poison.health.ok.gov>

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