Oklahoma Prescription Drug Facts
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- Prescription drug abuse is Oklahoma’s fastest growing drug problem.

- In 2010, Oklahoma ranked fourth in the nation for unintended opioid pain reliever-related overdose deaths. (Oklahoma State Department of Health)

- Oklahoma has the ninth-highest rate of deaths involving prescription painkillers. (CDC, 2011)

- In 2011, prescription painkillers (opioids) were involved in 87% of prescription drug-related deaths, with 417 deaths. (OSDH)

- From 2007-2011, the Oklahoma State Medical Examiner reported 2,535 Oklahomans deaths were prescription-drug related.

- The most common prescription drugs involved in overdose deaths are hydrocodone, oxycodone, and alprazolam. In Oklahoma, more overdose deaths involved hydrocodone or oxycodone than all illegal drugs and alcohol combined. (OSDH)

- Adults age 35-54 have the highest death rate of any age group for prescription-related overdose deaths. (OSDH)

- Adults age 45-54 are more than three times as likely to die of an unintentional poisoning compared to teens and young adults age 15-24. (OSDH)

- Men are more likely to die of an opioid-related overdose compared to women (14.0 and 10.0 per 100,000, respectively); however, females age 45-54 and 65 and older actually have slightly higher death rates than males. (OSDH)

- An increase in availability and accessibility has contributed to the prescription drug epidemic.

- Oklahoma also is one of the leading states in prescription painkiller sales per capita.

- In 2011, Oklahoma ranked in the top five for per capita distribution of many common opioids, such as hydrocodone, morphine, fentanyl and meperidine (Demerol). (OSDH)

- Hydrocodone was the single most prescribed drug in 2011 in the United States. (CDC)

- Ten-year trend data has shown a 247 percent increase in consumers admitted for opioid analgesics from FY2003-FY2012 to Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment facilities. (ODMHSAS)

- In Oklahoma, for every one death from prescription opioid analgesics, there are 5 consumers in treatment for opioid analgesics and 418 who misuse opioid analgesics. (ODMHSAS)