



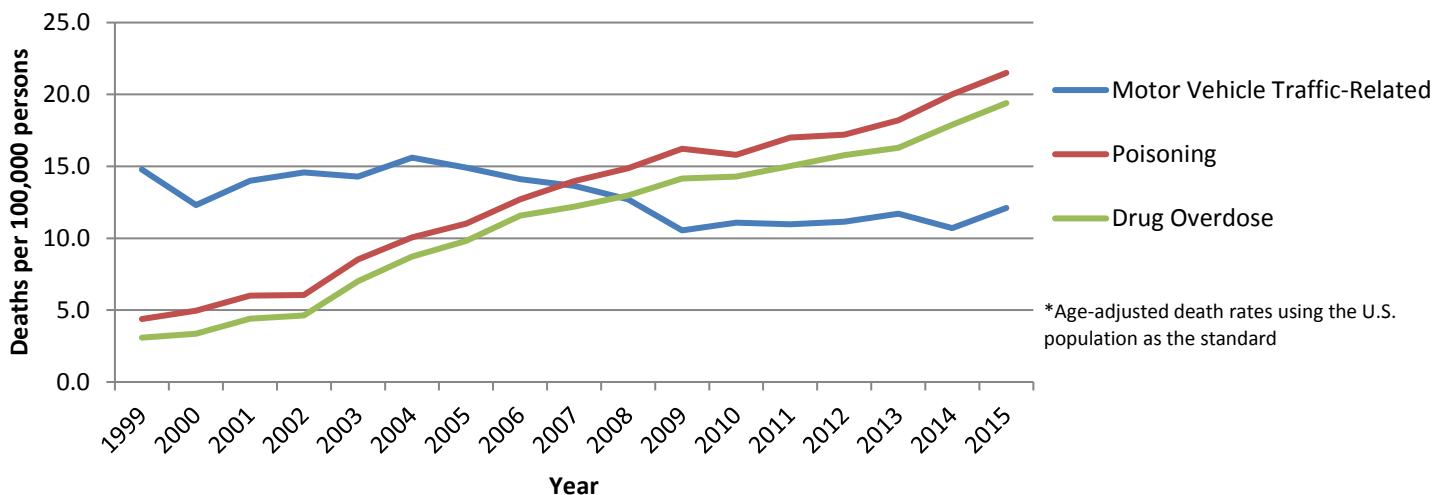
# Indiana

## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 1999-2015

### A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana, and drugs caused 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, increased five-fold since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2008 (Figure 1). In 2015, the poisoning death rate was 21.4 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 19.4 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 12.1 deaths per 100,000 persons. At a national level, from 2014 to 2015, the death rate from synthetic opioids other than methadone, which includes fentanyl, increased by 72.2% and heroin death rates increased by 20.6%.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates\* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Indiana residents, 1999-2015



### Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2015, drugs and medications – prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications – were the underlying cause of death for 90.2% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 85.1% were unintentional, 6.9% were suicide or intentional self-harm, and 7.8% had undetermined intent. Males had rates 1.7 times higher than females, and people aged 25-34 had the highest rate of all age categories (39.3 per 100,000).

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Indiana residents, 2015

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	460	37.2	14.2
	Male	776	62.8	24.5
Age (in years)*	15-24	130	10.5	13.8
	25-34	334	27.0	39.3
	35-44	278	22.5	33.8
	45-54	282	22.8	32.1
	55 and older	209	16.9	11.5
Intent	Unintentional	1052	85.1	16.5
	Suicide	85	6.9	1.3
	Undetermined	97	7.8	1.5

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



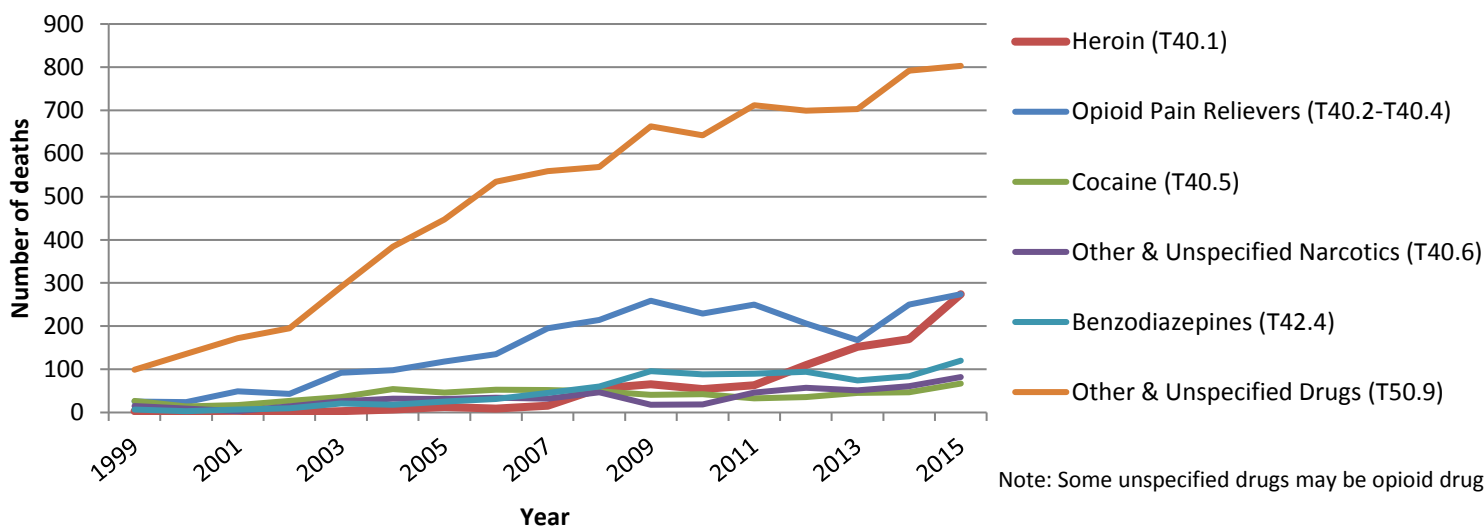
# Indiana

## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 1999-2015

### Opioid Pain Relievers & Heroin Contribute to Drug Overdose Deaths

Any drug has the potential to be misused or abused and may be even more dangerous when used in combination with other drugs or alcohol. The three most commonly prescribed drugs that are abused include opioids, depressants, and stimulants. Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 274 (22.2%) of the 1,236 drug overdose deaths in 2015. These results may understate the burden of opioid deaths, and a death may be included in more than one drug category. The number of heroin overdoses increased 40.6% from 2014 to 2015. This increase may be due to increased heroin supply (cheaper and easier accessibility), widespread prescription opioid exposure, and increasing rates of opioid addiction. Heroin is an opioid and acts on the same receptors in the brain as opioid pain relievers.

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Indiana residents, 1999-2015



### Addressing the Issue

The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention at the Indiana State Department of Health works to prevent injuries and create a healthier and safer Indiana.

**Activities: CDC Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention for States** program combats the drug overdose epidemic with resources to maximize prescription drug monitoring programs, implement community interventions, and conduct policy evaluations.

**Surveillance:** The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention conducts statewide PDO surveillance through analyzing data from death certificates, hospitalizations, and ED visits.

**ISDH Drug Overdose Prevention:**  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/27358.htm>

**INSPECT Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:**  
<http://www.in.gov/pla/inspect/>

**Overdose Prevention Therapy-Indiana:**  
<https://optin.in.gov/>

### Resources

The **Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse** is responsible for coordinating substance abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement throughout the state. The Commission went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017, transitioning from and building on the work accomplished by the Governor’s Drug Task Force.

The **Indiana Attorney General’s Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force** works to significantly reduce the abuse of controlled prescription drugs and to decrease the number of deaths associated with these drugs in Indiana.

Website: <http://www.in.gov/bitterpill/>

**Proper disposal of unused medications through Drug Take-Back Events** ensures unwanted or unneeded medications do not end up on the street or cause damage to the environment.

**Indiana Poison Center:** Helpline: 1-800-222-1222  
<http://indianapoison.org/>

**CDC Injury Center:** <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/>

1. Rudd RA, Seth P, David F, Scholl L. Increases in Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths — United States, 2010–2015. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. ePub: 16 December 2016. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6550e1>.

Report prepared by the following guidelines: Gabella BA, Proescholdbell SK, Hume B, et. al. State Special Emphasis Report: Instructions Drug Overdose Data. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2014.