



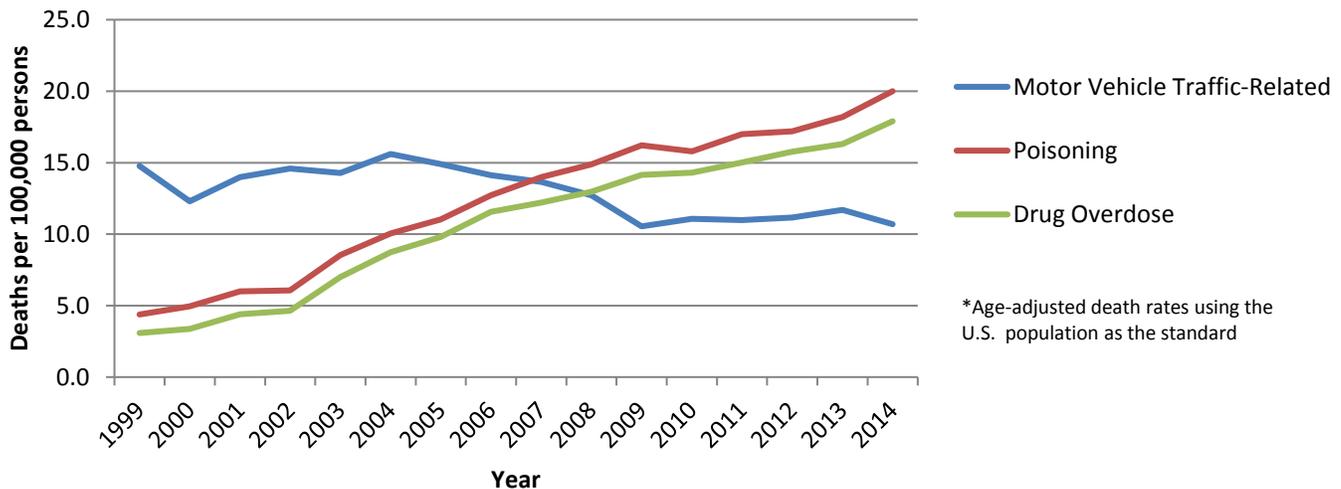
# Indiana

## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 1999-2014

### 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 2014, the poisoning death rate was 20.0 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 17.9 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 10.7 deaths per 100,000 persons. Nationwide, 61% of drug overdose deaths involved a type of opioid, including heroin. The national age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths involving opioids increased by 14% and the heroin overdose death rate increased by 26% in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates\* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Indiana residents, 1999-2014



### Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2014, drugs and medications – prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications – were the underlying cause of death for 89.0% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 79.9% were unintentional, 9.7% were suicide or intentional self-harm, and 10.4% had undetermined intent. Males had rates 1.5 times higher than females and people aged 45-54 had the highest rate of all age categories (27.1 per 100,000).

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Indiana residents, 2014

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	469	40.7	14.3
	Male	683	59.3	21.5
Age (in years)*	15-24	101	8.8	10.7
	25-34	265	23.0	31.3
	35-44	258	22.4	31.3
	45-54	312	27.1	35.0
	55 and older	214	18.6	12.0
Intent	Unintentional	920	79.9	14.4
	Suicide	112	9.7	1.6
	Undetermined	120	10.4	1.9

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



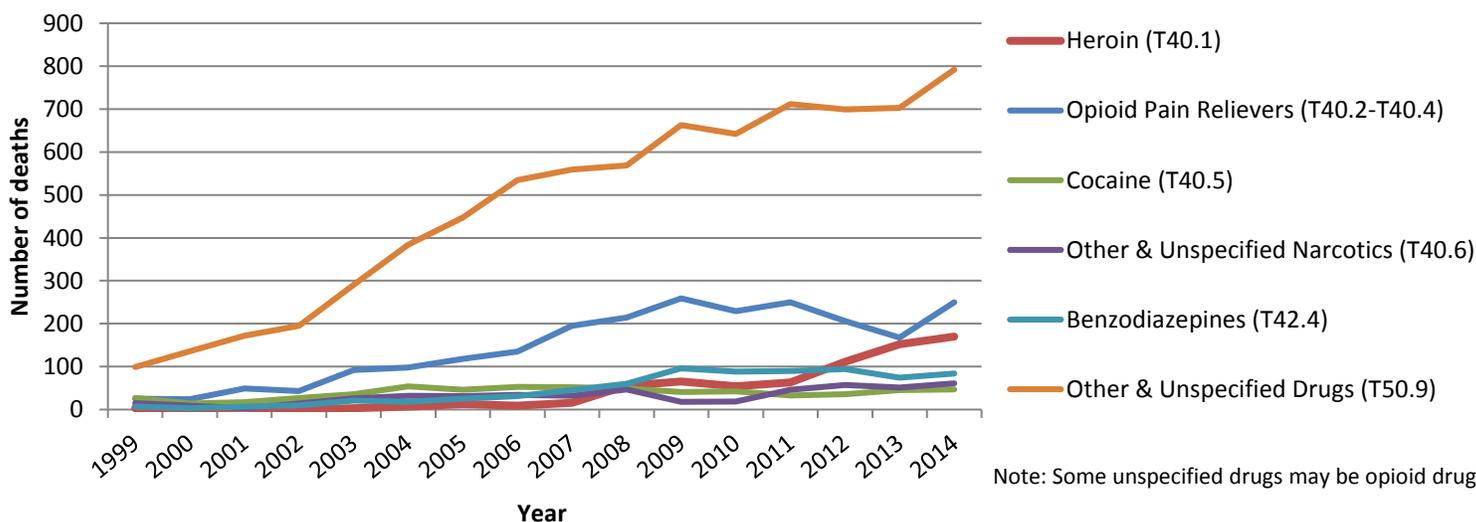
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### Opioid Pain Relievers & Heroin Contribute to Drug Overdose Deaths

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 prescription drugs that are abused include opioids, depressants, and stimulants. Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 250 (21.7 percent) of the 1,152 drug overdose deaths in 2014. These results may underestimate the burden of opioid deaths, and a death may be included in more than one drug category. The number of heroin overdoses increased 2.7 times from 2011 to 2014. This increase may be due to increased heroin supply (cheaper and easier accessibility) and 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, 1999-2014



### 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 injury surveillance through death certificates, hospitalizations, and ED visits.

**ISDH Drug Overdose Information:**  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/26689.htm>

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

### Resources

The **Governor’s Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention** brings together Indiana experts from a variety of specialties to evaluate the growing national drug problem in Indiana. Website: <http://www.in.gov/gtfdetp/>

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, Aleshire N, Zibbell JE, Gladden RM. Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths — United States, 2000–2014. MMWR 2015; 64(50):1378-82. 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.