



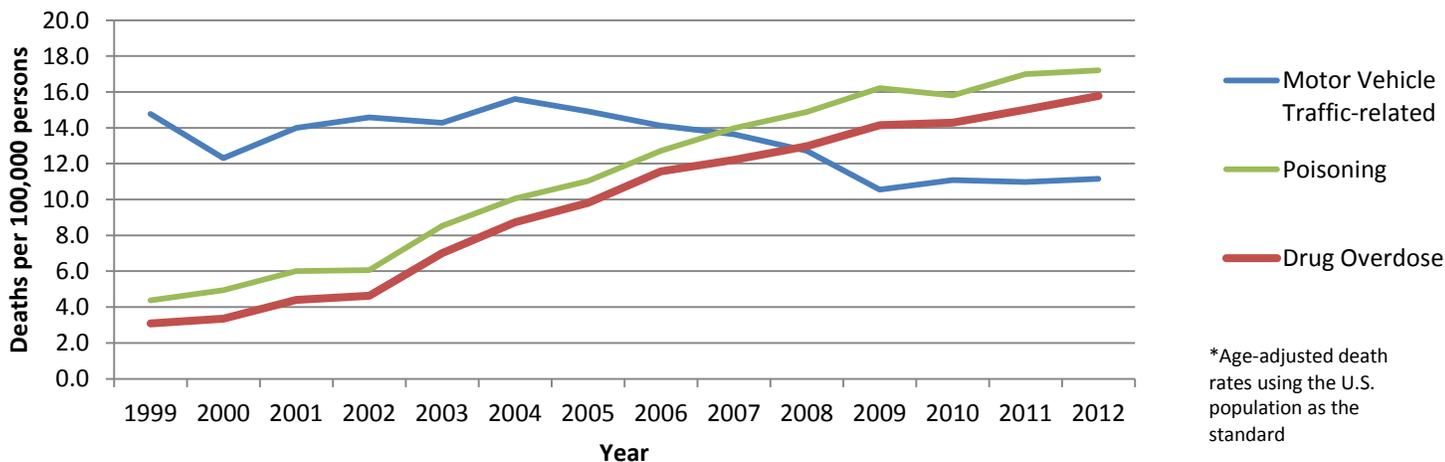
Indiana

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 1999-2012

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Indiana, and drugs cause 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 2012, the poisoning death rate was 17.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 15.8 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 11.2 deaths per 100,000 persons. Nationally, overdose death rates due to opioid pain relievers have quadrupled from 1999-2010, and heroin overdoses increased by <50%.¹

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Indiana residents, 1999-2012



Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2012, drugs and medications –prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications- were the underlying cause of death for 91.3% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 77% were unintentional, 12.2% were suicide or intentional self harm, and 10.7% had undetermined intent. Males had rates 1.6 times higher than females and persons aged 35-44 years had the highest rate of all age categories (29.3 per 100,000).

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Indiana residents, 2012

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	393	39.3	12.1
	Male	606	60.7	19.4
Age (in years)*	15-24	116	11.6	12.4
	25-34	232	23.2	27.8
	35-44	242	24.2	29.3
	45-54	252	25.2	27.4
	55 and older	153	15.3	9.0
Intent	Unintentional	769	77.0	12.2
	Suicide	122	12.2	1.9
	Undetermined	107	10.7	1.7

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





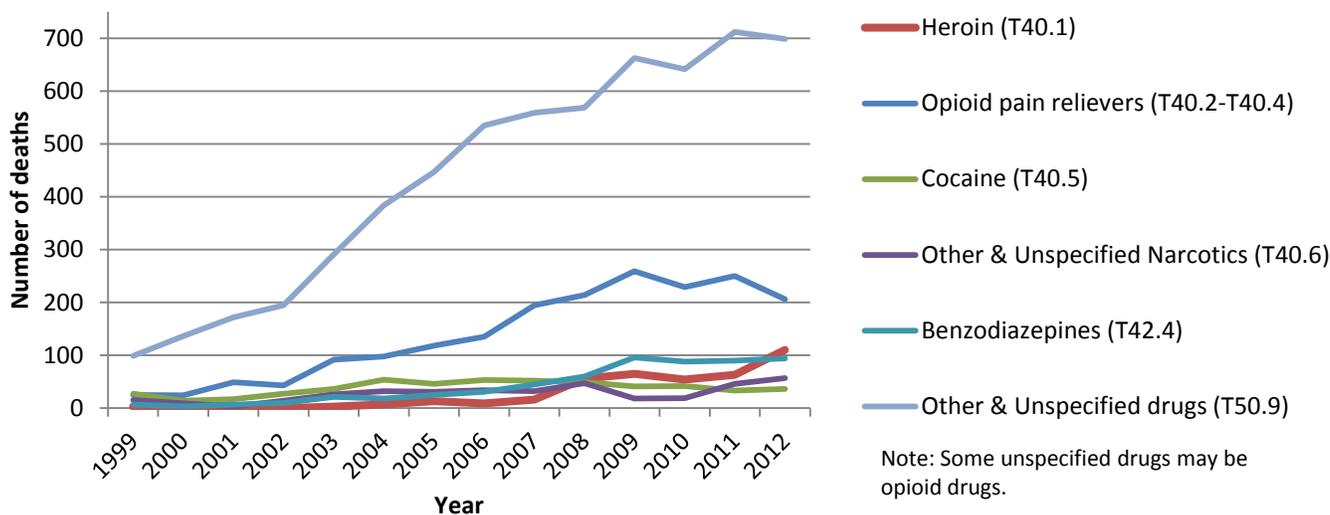
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Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 20% of the Drug Overdose Deaths

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 common include painkillers, depressants, and stimulants. Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 206 (20.6 percent) of the 999 drug overdose deaths in 2012. These results may underrepresent the burden of opioid deaths, and a death may be included in more than one drug category. The increase in heroin overdose 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. Approximately three out of four new heroin users report having abused prescription opioids prior to using heroin.¹

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Indiana residents, 1999-2012



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.

Actions: The **Indiana Statewide Trauma System** Injury Prevention Plan is currently being drafted and will include opportunities for collaborative poisoning prevention efforts

Surveillance: The Division of Trauma and Injury Prevention conducts statewide injury surveillance through death certificates, hospitalizations, and ED visits.

Partnerships: The **Indiana Injury Prevention Advisory Council**, made up of members working in injury and violence prevention, works to reduce the number and severity of preventable injuries through leadership and advocacy.

Resources

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 they 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:
www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/overdose

¹Rudd, Rose; Paulozzi, Len; Bauer, Michael; et al. MMWR 2014; 63: 849-854

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.