

Montana

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 2003 to 2012

Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 39% of the Drug Overdose Deaths

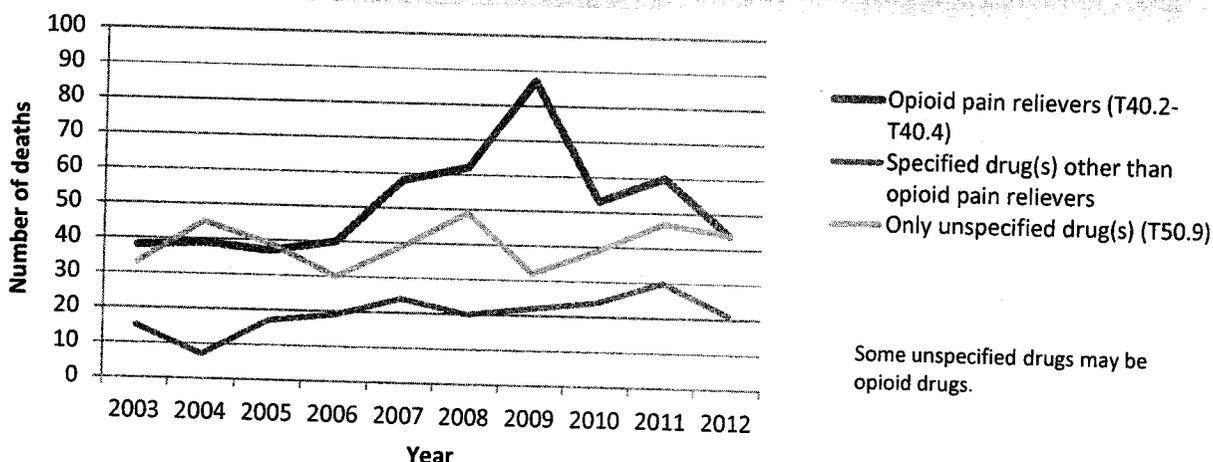
Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 44 (39 percent) of the 113 drug overdose deaths in 2012. (Figure 2) These results might be undercounts, because the percent of drug overdose deaths that had only unspecified drug(s) listed as contributing to the death ranged from 23 percent in 2009 to 46 percent in 2004.

The rise in opioid overdose deaths parallels a rise in opioid prescriptions, which quadrupled in the U.S. from 1999 to 2010.¹ The misuse of opioid pain relievers leads to a particularly high risk of overdose due to their often long-acting nature, addictiveness, and availability through leftover medication misuse or provision to others.²

References

1. CDC. Vital Signs: overdoses of prescription opioid pain relievers – United States, 1999-2008. MMWR 2011; 60:1487-92.
2. MTDPHHS. Unintentional poisoning due to use and misuse of opioid prescription medication. Montana Public Health 2013; 8:2.

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Montana residents, 2003-2012



Addressing the Issue

Individual prevention strategies

- Keep prescription drugs properly stored and out of reach of children.
- Properly dispose of unwanted or unused prescriptions.
- Discuss proper use with your health care provider.
- Call the Poison Help Center hotline for additional information.

Public prevention strategies

- **Operation Medicine Cabinet:** System of permanent prescription drug drop locations throughout Montana for the safe disposal of unused drugs. Launched in 2011. Consult website for locations.
- **Montana Prescription Drug Registry:** A powerful tool for health care providers and pharmacists to efficiently access a patients' prescription history and monitor distribution of controlled substances. Launched in 2012.

State resources:

- Operation Medicine Cabinet: www.dojmt.gov/prescriptiondrugabuse
- Montana Injury and Poison Prevention: www.dphhs.mt.gov/ems/prevention
- Poison Help Center: 1-800-222-1222

EXHIBIT 2

DATE 2/20/15

HB 497

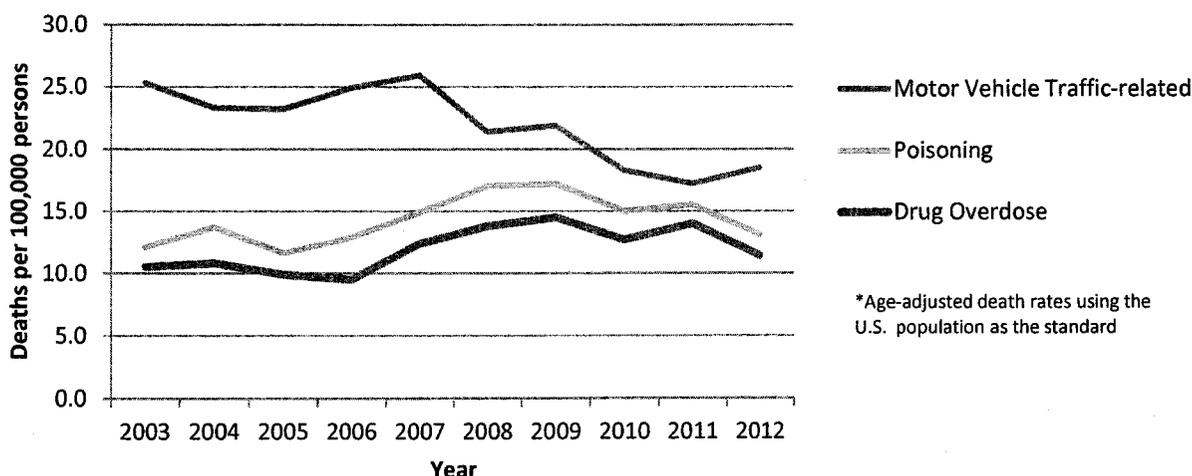
Montana

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 2003 to 2012

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is a leading cause of injury deaths in Montana, and drugs cause nearly 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, have increased since 2003, approaching motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2011 (Figure 1). In 2012, the age-adjusted poisoning death rate was 13.1 deaths per 100,000 persons (95% Confidence Interval (CI) 11.1, 15.5), and the drug overdose death rate was 11.4 deaths per 100,000 persons (95% CI 9.5, 13.7), compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 18.5 deaths per 100,000 persons (95%CI 15.9, 21.4).

Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Montana residents, 2003-2012



Drugs Caused Nearly 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 87% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 66% were unintentional, 18% were suicide or intentional self-harm, and 16% had undetermined or other intent. Males and females had drug poisoning death rates that were approximately equal and persons aged 25-54 had the highest rates of all age categories.

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Montana residents, 2003-2012

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons (95% CI)
Gender	Female	486	47%	10.1 (9.3, 11.1)
	Male	555	53%	11.5 (10.6, 12.5)
Age (in years)	0-14	7	<1%	†
	15-24	101	9%	7.1 (5.8, 8.6)
	25-44	488	43%	21.1 (19.3, 23.0)
	45-54	342	30%	23.3 (20.9, 25.8)
	55 and older	195	17%	7.5 (6.5, 8.6)
Intent	Unintentional (also known as "accidental")	681	60%	7.1 (6.6, 7.6)
	Suicide	247	22%	2.6 (2.3, 2.9)
	Other/Undetermined	205	18%	2.1 (1.9, 2.4)

†Rate not calculated for 0-14 age group due to small numbers.