



Beaver, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward Counties

Unintentional Poisoning Facts

State Facts:

- From 2007-2012, nearly 3,900 Oklahomans died of an unintentional poisoning (UP).
- More Oklahoma adults age 25-64 die of UP than motor vehicle crashes or suicide.
- Opioid prescription painkillers are the most common drugs involved in UP deaths.
- Oklahoma had the fifth highest poisoning death rate in the U.S.

What is a Poisoning?

A poisoning is the ingestion, inhalation, absorption, or contact with a substance resulting in a toxic effect or bodily harm. An unintentional poisoning occurs when a person does not intend to hurt themselves or someone else. The person may intentionally be exposed to a substance (e.g., a person ingests a medication at higher than prescribed levels) but does not intend to harm themselves.

In the late 1990s the most common cause of overdose deaths became prescription drugs.

Four out of five unintentional poisoning deaths in Oklahoma involve at least one prescription drug.

Number of UP deaths by type of substance, select counties†, 2007-2012

All unintentional poisonings	39
Prescription drugs	32
Prescription painkillers (opioids)	27
Anti-anxiety medications	8
Alcohol	8

Most common substances* in overdose deaths, select counties†:

Hydrocodone	Carisoprodol
Alcohol	Fentanyl
Methadone	Morphine
Alprazolam	Carbon monoxide
Oxycodone	Cyclobenzaprine

Injury Prevention Service

(405) 271-3430
<http://poison.health.ok.gov>



Beaver, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward County Data (2007-2012)

- Eight out of ten deaths involved at least one prescription drug.
- Seven out of ten deaths involved at least one prescription painkiller.
- Females were more likely to die of an unintentional poisoning than males.
- Adults age 25-54 had the highest rate of unintentional poisoning death.
- Three out of ten people who died of an unintentional poisoning had a history of mental health problems.
- Four out of ten people who died had a history of substance abuse.
- Six out of ten deaths occurred at a home or apartment, while one in three occurred at a hospital.
- No unintentional poisoning deaths occurred in Harper County.
- The most common cities of residence for decedents were Guymon, Woodward, and Alva.

*Top three substances in bold.

†Beaver, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward Counties

