



Garvin, Grady, Murray, Stephens 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	169
Prescription drugs	152
Prescription painkillers (opioids)	137
Illicit drugs	17
Alcohol	24

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

Hydrocodone	Alcohol
Alprazolam	Fentanyl
Oxycodone	Carisoprodol
Morphine	Methamphetamine
Methadone	Tramadol

Injury Prevention Service

(405) 271-3430

<http://poison.health.ok.gov>



Garvin, Grady, Murray, Stephens County Data (2007-2012)

- All four counties had higher unintentional poisoning death rates than the state rate; Stephens County had the 10th highest unintentional poisoning death rate in the state and the 3rd highest unintentional prescription drug overdose death rate.
- Nine out of ten deaths involved at least one prescription drug.
- Males were more likely to die of an unintentional poisoning than females.
- Adults age 35-54 had the highest rate of unintentional poisoning death.
- Adults age 35-44 were more than three times as likely to die of an unintentional poisoning compared to teens and young adults age 15-24.
- One in three people who died of an unintentional poisoning had a history of mental health problems.
- Seven out of ten people who died had a history of substance abuse.
- Seven out of ten deaths occurred at a home or apartment, while one in five occurred at a hospital.

*Top three substances in bold.

†Garvin, Grady, Murray, Stephens Counties

