



# Beckham, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Tillman 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	48
Prescription drugs	33
Prescription painkillers (opioids)	30
Illicit drugs	8
Alcohol	8

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

<b>Hydrocodone</b>	Heroin
<b>Oxycodone</b>	Methadone
<b>Alcohol</b>	Fentanyl
Morphine	Methamphetamine
Alprazolam	Tramadol

### Beckham, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Tillman County Data (2007-2012)

- Beckham County had a higher unintentional poisoning death rate than the overall state rate; Jackson County had one of the lowest death rates in the state.
- Seven out of ten deaths involved at least one prescription drug.
- Six out of ten deaths involved at least one prescription painkiller.
- 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 nearly four times as likely to die of an unintentional poisoning compared to teens and young adults age 15-24.
- Two out of ten people who died had a history of mental health problems.
- Two out of three people who died had a history of substance abuse.
- Three out of four deaths occurred at a home or apartment, while one in five occurred at a hospital.

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



\*Top three substances in bold. †Beckham, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Tillman Counties

