



Tulsa County

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 in Tulsa County by type of substance, 2007-2012

All unintentional poisonings	806
Prescription drugs	636
Prescription painkillers (opioids)	552
Illicit drugs	204
Alcohol	120

Most common substances* in Tulsa County overdose deaths:

Alprazolam	Morphine
Oxycodone	Methamphetamine
Metadone	Cocaine
Hydrocodone	Diazepam
Alcohol	Fentanyl

Injury Prevention Service

(405) 271-3430

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



Tulsa County Data (2007-2012)

- From 2007-2012, there were 806 unintentional poisoning deaths in Tulsa County; an average of 11 deaths every month.
- Tulsa had the 11th highest unintentional poisoning death rate in the state.
- Seven out of ten of these deaths involved a 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 45-54 were more than 2.5 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.
- Six out of ten people who died had a history of substance abuse.
- Two out of three deaths occurred at a home or apartment, while one in four occurred at a hospital.

*Top three substances in bold.

