



# Opioid Overdoses

## State Facts:

- From 2011-2015, more than 2,100 Oklahomans died of an unintentional prescription opioid overdose.
- More Oklahoma adults aged 25-64 die of unintentional prescription opioid overdoses than motor vehicle crashes.
- In 2015, enough opioids were prescribed in Oklahoma for every adult to have 110 pills.

## Injury Prevention Service

(405) 271-3430

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



## Scope of the Epidemic

Oklahoma was one of only six states that saw a decrease in the rate of drug overdose deaths from 2013-2015 and had the largest decrease in the rate of drug overdose deaths of any state. Oklahoma had the 18th highest drug overdose death rate in the nation in 2015 (19.0 deaths per 100,000 population). From 2013-2015, the unintentional opioid (prescription painkiller) overdose death rate in Oklahoma decreased nearly 25%. However, Oklahoma is still in the midst of a prescription drug abuse epidemic.

**More overdose deaths involve prescription opioids than alcohol and all illicit drugs combined.**

### Number of Overdose Deaths by Type of Substance\*, 2011-2015

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| All unintentional overdoses | 3,553 |
| Prescription drugs          | 2,509 |
| Prescription opioids        | 2,113 |
| Illicit drugs               | 1,070 |
| Alcohol                     | 543   |

\*Deaths may involve more than one substance

### Most Common Substances Involved in Unintentional Overdose Deaths, 2011-2015

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Methamphetamine    | <b>Morphine</b>  |
| <b>Oxycodone</b>   | <b>Methadone</b> |
| <b>Hydrocodone</b> | <b>Fentanyl</b>  |
| Alcohol            | Cocaine          |
| Alprazolam         | Diazepam         |

Opioids in bold.

## Oklahoma Data (2011-2015)

- From 2011-2015, there were 3,553 unintentional overdose deaths in Oklahoma.
- 60% of unintentional overdose deaths involved an opioid.
- Nine out of 10 opioid-related overdose deaths were unintentional. The decedent may have intentionally taken a substance to treat pain, sleep, or get high, but did not intend to kill themselves.
- Overall, men were slightly (8%) more likely to die of an unintentional opioid overdose than women. However, women aged 35 and older had higher overdose rates than men in the same age group.
- Adults aged 35-64 had the highest rate of unintentional opioid overdose death.
- 35% of people who died of an unintentional opioid overdose had a history of mental health problems.
- 60% of people who died had a history of substance abuse.
- 39% of people who died had a history of pain.
- 70% of deaths occurred at a residence, while 25% occurred at a hospital.

## Successes

- Creation of Governor's Task Force
- Development of state plan
- Creation of opioid prescribing guidelines (2013)
- Revised opioid prescribing guidelines with marketing and supplemental materials (2017)
- Implemented mandatory Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) checks (HB 1948)
- Naloxone programs for emergency medical services and law enforcement
- Enhancing and maximizing the PMP
  - Maintained Oklahoma's status as the only real-time PMP in the nation
- Implementing practice facilitation for providers to enhance knowledge and skills on pain management
- Multiple federal grants to support statewide efforts



## Oklahoma Prescribing Data\* (2015)

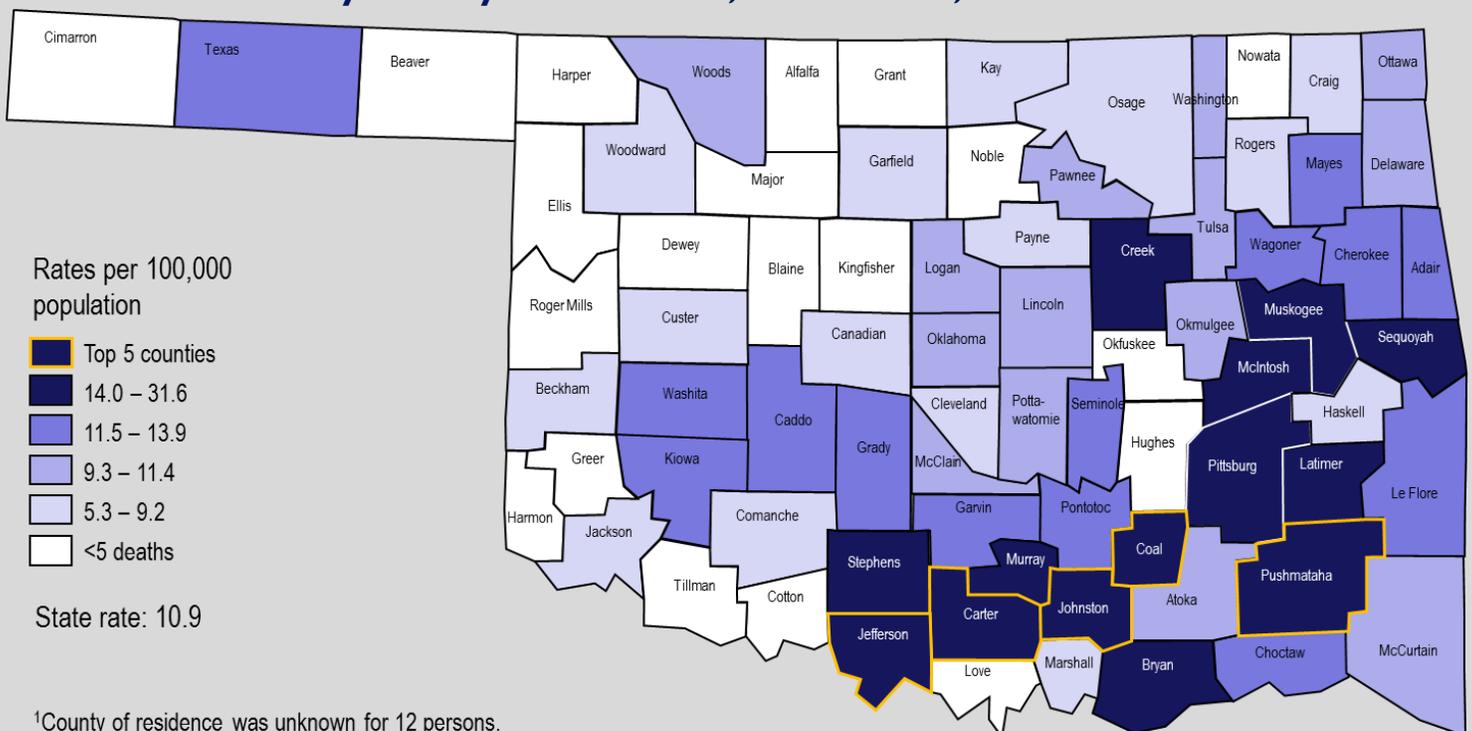
- Over **326 million opioid pills** were dispensed to Oklahoma residents, enough for every adult to have **110 pills**.
- Adults aged 55-64 had the **highest opioid prescription rate** followed by adults aged 65-74.
- **Pawnee, Creek, and Johnston** Counties had the highest prescribing rates.
- The **most commonly prescribed opioids** were:
  - Hydrocodone
  - Oxycodone
  - Tramadol
  - Morphine
  - Codeine

(SIGNATURE)

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\*Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program data

## Unintentional Prescription Opioid Overdose Death Rates by County of Residence,<sup>1</sup> Oklahoma, 2011-2015



Source: OSDH, Injury Prevention Service, Fatal Unintentional Poisoning Surveillance System (Abstracted from Medical Examiner reports)