The most common prescription drugs involved in unintentional poisoning deaths in Oklahoma:
- Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet, Endocet)
- Hydrocodone (Lortab, Vicodin, Lorcan, Norco)
- Alprazolam (Xanax)
- Methadone
- Morphine (MS Contin, Kadian, Avinza)

- Men are more likely to die of an unintentional prescription drug overdose compared to women.
- Adults age 35-54 have the highest rate of prescription drug overdose death.

Medical Examiner Reports

Injury Prevention Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer

This brochure was supported by grant number 2B01OT009043-16 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or the U.S. government.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) is an equal opportunity employer and provider. This publication, issued by the OSDH, was authorized by Terry L. Cline, PhD, Commissioner of Health, Secretary of Health and Human Services. 10,000 copies were printed by OU | University Printing Services at a cost of $1,300. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and are available for download at www.health.ok.gov. May 2017 | 16083IPS
Painkillers, they are killing more than just pain.

Of the approximately 700 unintentional poisoning deaths in Oklahoma each year, seven out of ten involve at least one prescription drug. Prescription painkillers (opioids) are the most common class of drugs involved in overdose deaths in Oklahoma (involved in more than 80% of prescription drug-related deaths). More overdose deaths involve prescription painkillers than alcohol and all illicit drugs combined.

DO NOT:
- Allow the victim to “sleep it off.”
- Put the victim in a bath or shower.
- Leave the victim alone.
- Treat the victim with home remedies – they do not work and often postpone potentially life-saving medical treatment.
- Postpone calling 911 to clean up the scene.

Prevention Tips:
- Only take medications as prescribed and never take more than the recommended dosage.
- Never share or sell your prescription drugs.
- Dispose of unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs. To find a local drop box, visit https://portal.obn.ok.gov/takeback.
- Keep all pain medications in a safe place to avoid theft and access to children.
- Keep medicines in their original bottles or containers.
- Never drink alcohol while taking medication.
- Naloxone is a safe and effective drug that reverses an opioid overdose. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- Call 211 for help finding treatment referrals.
- Put the Poison Control number 1-800-222-1222 on or near every home phone and cell phone for 24/7 access.

911

If you suspect someone is experiencing an overdose, react to this true medical emergency by calling 911 immediately.

Signs and Symptoms of a Drug Overdose Emergency:
- Won’t awaken when aroused
- Bluish purple skin tones for lighter skinned people and grayish or ashen tones for darker skinned people
- Slow, shallow, erratic or absent breathing
- Snore-like gurgling or choking sounds
- Elevated body temperature
- Vomiting
- Irrational behavior or confusion

Signs and symptoms of an overdose may differ depending upon the type of drug consumed.