Fact Sheet on Prescription Drug Abuse, Misuse and Consequences Among Oklahoma

Adult and Adolescent Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse:
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths involving opioid pain relievers (OPR) have been climbing and now surpass deaths involving heroin and cocaine combined. In 2008, the number of deaths in the United States involving OPR was 14,800.1 Oklahoma ranks 9th nationally for the rate of overdose deaths involving OPR. The 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) results show Oklahoma ranks first in all age categories for the consumption of nonmedical pain relievers2.

Quick Facts:
- The 2009 NSDUH shows Oklahoma ranks #1 nationally for the nonmedical use of pain relievers in the past year for all age categories2.
- Oklahoma has been above the national average in all age categories since 20042.
- 8.1% of Oklahomans aged 12+ reported using painkillers nonmedically compared to the national percentage of 4.8.1
- Oklahoma had a rate of 9.2 kilograms of OPR sold per 10,000 population in morphine equivalents in 2010 compared to the national rate of 7.1.1
- In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department (ED) visits were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals; an increase of 98.4% since 20041.
- Diversion of prescription drugs is an enormous problem and has been spreading at an alarming rate over the past five years4.
- A conservative estimate of health care costs from diversion is up to $72.5 billion annually4.
- Nearly half a million emergency department visits in 2009 were due to people misusing or abusing prescription painkillers4.
Morbidity and Mortality Related to Non-Illlicit Narcotic Drug Misuse and Abuse:

Quick Facts:
- Oklahoma had a rate of 15.8 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population compared to the national rate of 11.9\(^1\)
- Oklahoma had an age-adjusted rate of 14.4 deaths per 100,000 population involving opioid analgesics compared to the national rate of 10.5 per 100,000\(^2\)
- In 2009, 83% of drug overdose deaths were attributed to pharmaceutical drugs, 17% were attributed to street drugs\(^7\)
- 86.1% of fatal drug overdose deaths involved Oklahomans who were White\(^7\)
- 21.4% of non-fatal drug overdoses were among individuals in the 26-35 age range\(^8\)

Nonmedical Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Treatment:

Quick Facts:
- From 2005-2010, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) funded treatment facilities saw a 67.5% increase in the misuse of prescription medication\(^8\)
- According to the 2010 Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 10.8% of treatment admissions were categorized as “other opiates”\(^9\)
References


7. Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN), (2010). *Non-fatal overdose records*
