

Oklahoma Prescription Drug Facts

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- Prescription drug abuse is Oklahoma's fastest growing drug problem.
- In 2010, Oklahoma ranked fourth in the nation for unintended opioid pain reliever-related overdose deaths. (*Oklahoma State Department of Health*)
- Oklahoma has the ninth-highest rate of deaths involving prescription painkillers. (*CDC, 2011*)
- In 2011, prescription painkillers (opioids) were involved in 87% of prescription drug-related deaths, with 417 deaths. (*OSDH*)
- From 2007-2011, the Oklahoma State Medical Examiner reported 2,535 Oklahomans deaths were prescription-drug related.
- The most common prescription drugs involved in overdose deaths are hydrocodone, oxycodone, and alprazolam. In Oklahoma, more overdose deaths involved hydrocodone or oxycodone than all illegal drugs and alcohol combined. (*OSDH*)
- Adults age 35-54 have the highest death rate of any age group for prescription-related overdose deaths. (*OSDH*)
- Adults age 45-54 are more than three times as likely to die of an unintentional poisoning compared to teens and young adults age 15-24. (*OSDH*)
- Men are more likely to die of an opioid-related overdose compared to women (14.0 and 10.0 per 100,000, respectively); however, females age 45-54 and 65 and older actually have slightly higher death rates than males. (*OSDH*)
- An increase in availability and accessibility has contributed to the prescription drug epidemic.
- Oklahoma also is one of the leading states in prescription painkiller sales per capita.
- In 2011, Oklahoma ranked in the top five for per capita distribution of many common opioids, such as hydrocodone, morphine, fentanyl and meperidine (Demerol). (*OSDH*)
- Hydrocodone was the single most prescribed drug in 2011 in the United States. (*CDC*)
- Ten-year trend data has shown a 247 percent increase in consumers admitted for opioid analgesics from FY2003-FY2012 to Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment facilities. (*ODMHSAS*)
- In Oklahoma, for every one death from prescription opioid analgesics, there are 5 consumers in treatment for opioid analgesics and 418 who misuse opioid analgesics. (*ODMHSAS*)