

Data Brief 81: Drug Poisoning Deaths in the United States, 1980–2008

Data table for Figure 1. Motor vehicle traffic, poisoning, and drug poisoning death rates: United States, 1980–2008

	Motor vehicle traffic		Poisoning		Drug Poisoning	
	Number	Deaths per 100,000 population	Number	Deaths per 100,000 population	Number	Deaths per 100,000 population
1980	51,930	22.9	10,969	4.8	6,094	2.7
1981	50,196	21.9	11,096	4.8	6,227	2.7
1982	44,713	19.3	11,174	4.8	6,299	2.7
1983	43,428	18.6	11,301	4.8	6,445	2.8
1984	45,208	19.2	11,541	4.9	6,723	2.8
1985	44,822	18.8	11,900	5.0	7,082	3.0
1986	46,867	19.5	13,048	5.4	7,969	3.3
1987	47,297	19.5	12,990	5.4	7,920	3.3
1988	48,024	19.6	13,533	5.5	9,031	3.7
1989	46,586	18.9	13,408	5.4	9,275	3.8
1990	45,827	18.4	12,390	5.0	8,413	3.4
1991	42,621	16.8	13,232	5.2	9,392	3.7
1992	39,985	15.6	14,240	5.5	10,604	4.1
1993	40,899	15.7	15,770	6.1	12,133	4.7
1994	41,507	15.8	16,272	6.2	12,714	4.8
1995	42,331	15.9	16,307	6.1	12,779	4.8
1996	42,522	15.8	16,685	6.2	13,227	4.9
1997	42,340	15.5	17,692	6.5	14,445	5.3
1998	42,191	15.3	18,392	6.7	15,315	5.5
1999	40,965	14.7	19,741	7.1	16,849	6.0
2000	41,994	14.9	20,230	7.2	17,415	6.2
2001	42,443	14.9	22,242	7.8	19,394	6.8
2002	44,065	15.3	26,435	9.2	23,518	8.2
2003	43,340	14.9	28,700	9.9	25,785	8.9
2004	43,432	14.8	30,308	10.3	27,424	9.3
2005	43,667	14.7	32,691	11.0	29,813	10.1
2006	43,664	14.6	37,286	12.5	34,425	11.5
2007	42,031	13.9	40,059	13.3	36,010	11.9
2008	37,985	12.5	41,080	13.5	36,450	12.0

NOTE: Deaths were classified using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) in 1999–2008 and using the Ninth Revision of the ICD (ICD-9) in 1980–1998. Poisoning ICD-10 underlying cause of death codes (UCOD) are: X40–X49, X60–X69, X85–X90, Y10–Y19, Y35.2, or *U01(.6–.7) and ICD-9 UCODs are: E850.0–E869.9, E950.0–E952.9, E962(.0–.9), E980.0–E982.9, E972. Drug poisoning ICD-10 UCODs are: X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, Y10–Y14 and ICD-9 UCODs are: E850–E858, E950.0–E950.5, E962.0, E980.0–E980.5. Motor vehicle traffic ICD-10 UCODs are: V30–V39 (.4–.9), V40–V49 (.4–.9), V50–V59 (.4–.9), V60–V69 (.4–.9), V70–V79 (.4–.9), V81.1 V82.1, V83–V86 (.0–.3), V20–V28 (.3–.9), V29 (.4–.9), V12–V14 (.3–.9), V19 (.4–.6), V02–V04 (.1, .9), V09.2, V80 (.3–.5), V87(.0–.8), V89.2 and ICD-9 UCODs are: E810.0–E819.9, E958.5, E988.5. When the ICD-10 replaced ICD-9 in 1999, approximately 5% fewer deaths were classified as motor vehicle deaths and 2% more deaths were classified as poisoning deaths.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 2. Age-adjusted poisoning death rates: Comparison of state and U.S. rates: United States, 2008

State	Leading cause of injury death	Poisoning deaths		
		Number	Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population	Comparison to US age-adjusted poisoning rate
United States	Poisoning	41,080	13.4	
Alabama	Motor Vehicle Traffic	674	14.5	Similar
Alaska	Poisoning	166	24.2	Higher
Arizona	Poisoning	951	15.0	Higher
Arkansas	Motor Vehicle Traffic	410	14.9	Similar
California	Poisoning	4,334	11.6	Lower
Colorado	Poisoning	900	17.5	Higher
Connecticut	Poisoning	438	12.2	Similar
Delaware	Poisoning	141	16.3	Similar
District of Columbia	Firearm	66	10.8	Similar
Florida	Poisoning	3,266	18.0	Higher
Georgia ^{\$}	\$	1,049	\$ 10.7	Difference not tested [§]
Hawaii	Poisoning	159	12.1	Similar
Idaho	Motor Vehicle Traffic	184	12.3	Similar
Illinois	Poisoning	1,526	11.8	Lower
Indiana	Poisoning	951	15.1	Higher
Iowa	Motor Vehicle Traffic	279	9.5	Lower
Kansas	Motor Vehicle Traffic	259	9.4	Lower
Kentucky	Poisoning	860	20.2	Higher
Louisiana	Motor Vehicle Traffic	695	16.1	Higher
Maine	Poisoning	199	14.9	Similar
Maryland	Poisoning	748	12.8	Similar
Massachusetts	Poisoning	867	12.9	Similar
Michigan	Poisoning	1,399	13.7	Similar
Minnesota	Poisoning	518	9.6	Lower
Mississippi	Motor Vehicle Traffic	347	12.2	Similar
Missouri	Motor Vehicle Traffic	867	14.8	Higher
Montana	Motor Vehicle Traffic	164	17.3	Higher
Nebraska	Motor Vehicle Traffic	132	7.6	Lower
Nevada	Poisoning	556	21.0	Higher
New Hampshire	Poisoning	153	11.2	Similar
New Jersey	Poisoning	829	9.4	Lower
New Mexico	Poisoning	590	30.8	Higher
New York	Poisoning	1,910	9.5	Lower
North Carolina	Motor Vehicle Traffic	1,296	14.0	Similar
North Dakota	Motor Vehicle Traffic	57	9.5	Lower
Ohio	Poisoning	1,924	16.7	Higher
Oklahoma	Motor Vehicle Traffic	644	18.1	Higher
Oregon	Poisoning	538	13.8	Similar
Pennsylvania	Poisoning	2,031	16.4	Higher
Rhode Island	Poisoning	212	19.9	Higher
South Carolina	Motor Vehicle Traffic	618	13.8	Similar
South Dakota	Motor Vehicle Traffic	72	9.6	Lower
Tennessee	Motor Vehicle Traffic	1,039	16.4	Higher
Texas	Motor Vehicle Traffic	2,248	9.4	Lower
Utah	Poisoning	526	20.8	Higher
Vermont	Poisoning	83	12.3	Similar
Virginia	Motor Vehicle Traffic	802	10.1	Lower
Washington	Poisoning	1,122	16.4	Higher
West Virginia	Poisoning	492	27.6	Higher
Wisconsin	Poisoning	691	12.0	Lower
Wyoming	Motor Vehicle Traffic	98	18.6	Higher

NOTE: \$ The cause of death was inconclusive for a high percentage of deaths in Georgia at the close of the 2008 final mortality file. The manner of death was pending for 8.8% of deaths and was assigned an ill-defined cause in 3.5% of deaths for Georgia. Causes of death which require lengthy investigations, including poisoning deaths, are among causes that remain pending at the close of the file. Thus, the poisoning death rate for Georgia may not be based on the final numbers of poisoning deaths. Poisoning ICD-10 underlying cause of death codes (UCOD) are: X40-X49, X60-X69, X85-X90, Y10-Y19, Y35.2, or *U01(.6-.7). Drug poisoning ICD-10 UCODs are: X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 3. Number of drug poisoning deaths involving opioid analgesics and other drugs: United States, 1999–2008

Drugs involved in drug poisoning deaths			
Year	Any opioid analgesic	Specified drug(s) other than opioid analgesic	Only non-specified drug(s)
Number of deaths			
1999	4,030	9,253	3,566
2000	4,400	9,073	3,942
2001	5,528	9,446	4,420
2002	7,456	10,774	5,288
2003	8,517	11,358	5,910
2004	9,857	11,314	6,253
2005	10,928	12,063	6,822
2006	13,723	12,738	7,964
2007	14,408	12,746	8,856
2008	14,800	12,408	9,242

NOTE: Drug categories are mutually exclusive. Opioid analgesics include natural and semi-synthetic opioid analgesics (e.g. morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone) and synthetic opioid analgesics (e.g. methadone, fentanyl). Some deaths in which the drug was poorly specified or unspecified may involve opioid analgesics. Drug poisoning ICD-10 underlying cause of death codes are: X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14. Among deaths with drug poisoning as the underlying cause, the following ICD-10 codes indicate the type of drug(s) involved: any opioid analgesic (any of the codes T40.2-T40.4); specified drug(s) other than opioid analgesic (any of the codes T36-T50.8 other than T40.2-T40.4); only nonspecified drug(s) (only T50.9).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 4. Number of drug poisoning deaths involving opioid analgesic by opioid analgesic category: United States, 1999–2008

Opioid analgesic involved in drug poisoning deaths			
Year	Natural and semi-synthetic opioid analgesic	Methadone	Synthetic opioid analgesic, excluding methadone
	Number of deaths		
1999	2,749	784	730
2000	2,917	986	782
2001	3,479	1,456	957
2002	4,416	2,358	1,295
2003	4,867	2,972	1,400
2004	5,231	3,845	1,664
2005	5,774	4,460	1,742
2006	7,017	5,406	2,707
2007	8,158	5,518	2,213
2008	9,119	4,924	2,306

NOTE: Opioid analgesic categories are not mutually exclusive. Deaths involving more than one opioid analgesic category are counted multiple times. Natural and semi-synthetic opioid analgesics include morphine, oxycodone and hydrocodone and synthetic opioid analgesics include fentanyl. Drug poisoning deaths ICD-10 underlying cause of death codes are: X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14. Among deaths with drug poisoning as the underlying cause, the following ICD-10 codes indicate the type of drug(s) involved: natural and semi-synthetic opioid analgesic (T40.2); methadone (T40.3); synthetic opioid analgesic, excluding methadone (T40.4).

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

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Data table for Figure 5. Drug poisoning death rates by age: United States, 1999–2008

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Age (years)	Deaths per 100,000 population									
Under 15	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
15–24	3.2	3.7	4.3	5.2	6.0	6.6	6.9	8.2	8.4	8.2
25–34	8.1	7.9	8.6	10.3	11.3	11.7	13.3	15.7	16.4	16.5
35–44	14.0	14.3	15.5	18.0	18.8	19.1	19.4	21.5	21.2	20.9
45–54	11.1	11.6	13.1	16.1	18.0	19.3	21.1	24.1	25.1	25.3
55–64	4.2	4.2	4.7	6.0	7.0	7.9	9.1	10.6	12.4	13.0
65 and over	2.7	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	4.1

NOTE: Drug poisoning ICD-10 underlying cause of death codes are X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, Y10–Y14.

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.