



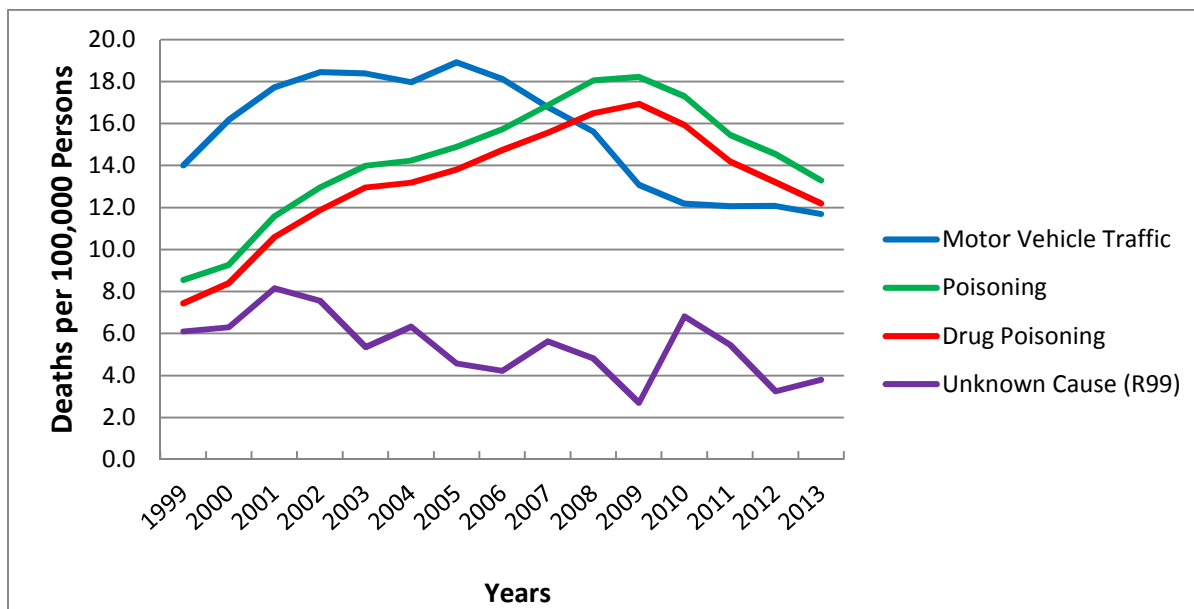
# Florida

## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths, [1999-2013]

### A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the second leading cause of injury deaths in Florida, and drugs contributed to 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, almost doubled since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2008 (Figure 1). In 2013, the poisoning death rate was 13.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug poisoning death rate was 12.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 11.7 deaths per 100,000 persons. These death rates were age-adjusted to remove the potential effect of differences in ages in the population each year.

Figure 1. Drug poisoning death rates\* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, Florida residents, 1999 - 2013



### Drugs Caused # out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2013, drugs and medications – over-the-counter drugs, prescription drugs, and illicit drugs - were the underlying cause of death for 91% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug poisoning deaths, 80% were unintentional, 18% were suicide or intentional self-harm, and 3% had undetermined intent. Persons age 45-54 years old, and males had a higher rate than expected, given their population size.

Table 1. Drug poisoning deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, Florida residents, 2013

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	1,019	43.1%	10.3
	Male	1,345	56.9%	14.2
Age (in years)	15-24	126	5.4%	5.6
	25-44	906	38.5%	19.0
	45-54	697	29.6%	25.8
	55 and older	627	26.6%	10.4
Intent	Unintentional (also known as "accidental")	1,880	79.5%	9.7
	Suicide	416	17.6%	2.2
	Assault	5	0.2%	0.03
	Undetermined	63	2.7%	0.3





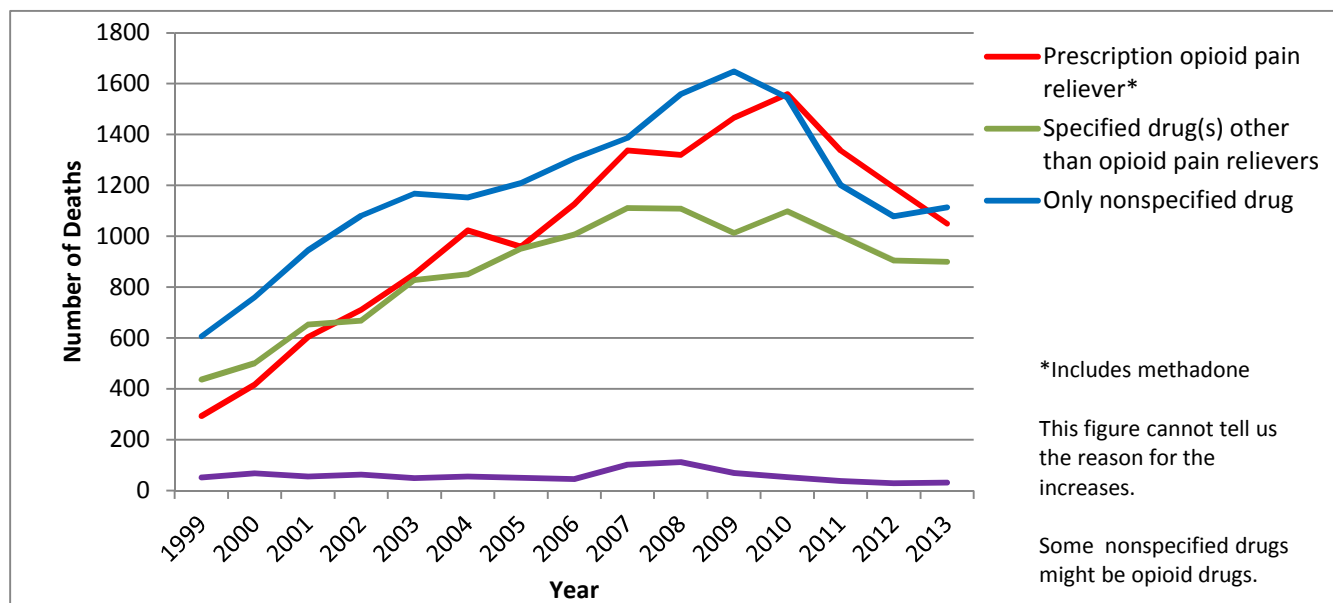
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### Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 47% of the Drug Poisoning Deaths

As shown in Figure 2, prescription opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone (Percocet) or hydrocodone (Vicodin), contributed to 1,049 (44 percent) of the 2,364 drug poisoning deaths in 2013. These results might be undercounts, because the percent of drug poisoning deaths that had only unspecified drug(s) listed as contributing to the death ranged from 43 percent in 2013 to 53 percent in 1999. Thirty-one percent of the drug poisoning deaths involved more than one grouping of drugs.

Figure 2. Number of drug poisoning deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Florida residents, 1999-2013



### Florida Drug Abuse Efforts



Prescription drug abuse is the most threatening substance abuse issue in the State of Florida. According to the 2014 Florida Medical Examiners Commission Report on Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons, prescription medications such as prescription medications such as benzodiazepines, carisoprodol/meprobamate, zolpidem, and all prescription opioids caused the most drug-related deaths.

Visit webpage at: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/e-forcse/>

The Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, known as E-FORCSE® was created by the 2009 Florida Legislature in an initiative to encourage safer prescribing of controlled substances and to reduce drug abuse and diversion within the state of Florida.

Section 893.055, F.S., created the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) within the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to provide information that can help guide a health care practitioner's prescribing and dispensing decisions regarding highly abused controlled substance prescription drugs. Section 893.055, F.S., requires the DOH to establish a comprehensive database system that collects controlled substance prescription information from health care practitioners within seven (7) days of dispensing controlled substances to an individual.