

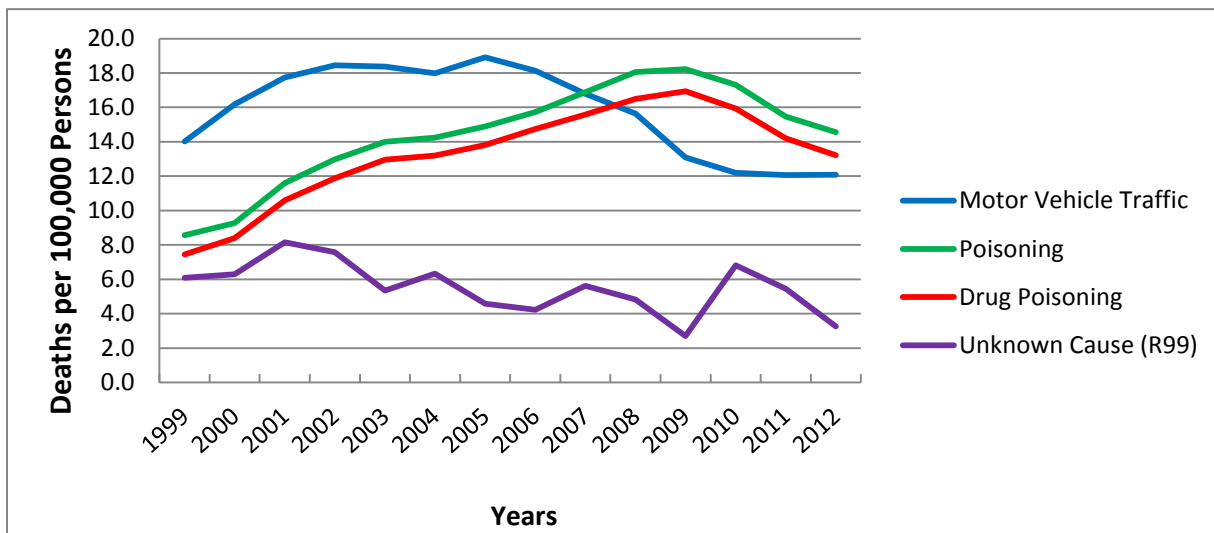
Florida

Special Emphasis Report: Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths, [1999-2012]

A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in Florida, and drugs contributed to 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, doubled since 1999, surpassing motor vehicle traffic-related deaths in 2008 (Figure 1). In 2012, the poisoning death rate was 14.6 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug poisoning death rate was 13.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 12.1 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 - 2012



Drugs Caused # out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2012, 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, 79% 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, 2012

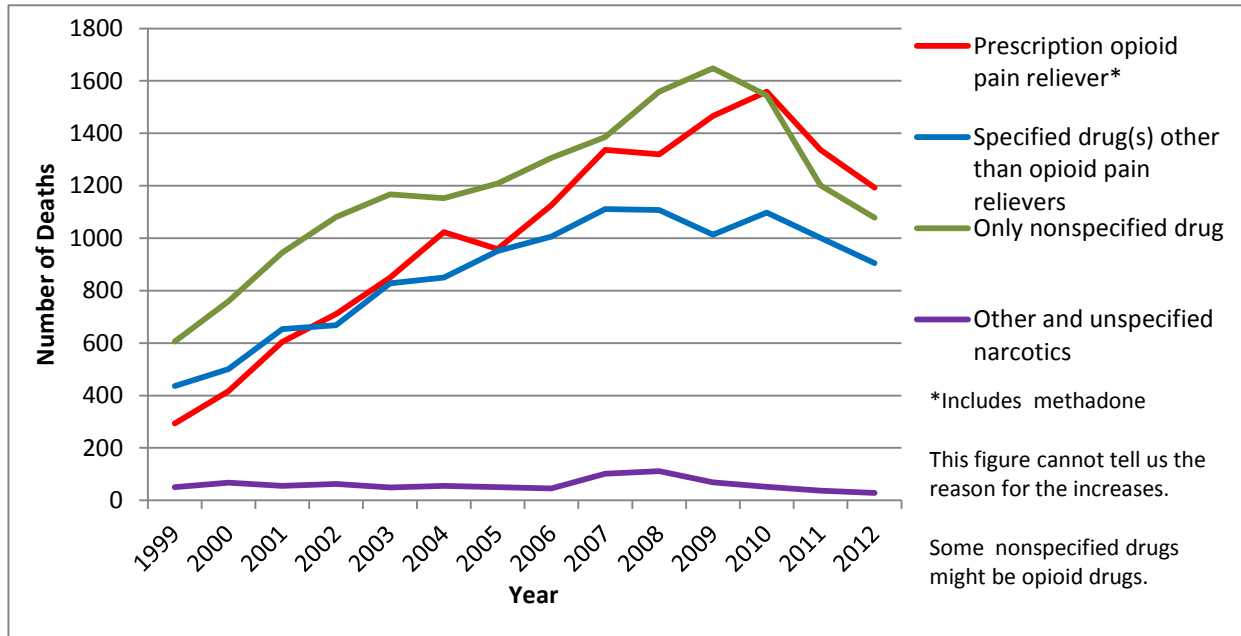
		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	1,080	42.5%	11.1
	Male	1,463	57.5%	15.4
Age (in years)	15-24	140	5.5%	6.3
	25-44	960	37.8%	20.3
	45-54	794	31.3%	29.5
	55 and older	645	25.4%	11.0
Intent	Unintentional (also known as "accidental")	2,014	79.1%	10.6
	Suicide	459	18.0%	2.4
	Assault	4	0.2%	0.02
	Undetermined	68	2.7%	0.4



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Figure 2. Number of drug poisoning deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs, Florida residents, 1999-2012



Florida Drug Abuse Efforts

Prescription drug abuse is the most threatening substance abuse issue in the State of Florida. According to the 2012 Florida Medical Examiners Commission Report on Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons, prescription medications such as Benzodiazepines and Oxycodone, Methadone, Morphine and Hydrocodone caused the most drug-related deaths. Visit webpage at: http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/content/getdoc/79241c67-253b-45eb-a238-1a07cf4a2a0c/2012-drug-report_final.aspx

The Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, known as E-FORCSE was created in an initiative to

encourage safer prescribing of controlled substances and to reduce drug abuse and diversion within the state of Florida. The web-based program facilitates the collection, storage, maintenance, and analysis of controlled substance dispensing data.

Since implementation, dispensers have reported over 125 million controlled substance prescriptions to the database. During the last year, health care practitioners have queried these records over 9.75 million times, a 64% increase over the prior year. The effectiveness of the E-FORCSE® is documented by a 53 percent decrease in multiple provider episodes in a 90-day period. Evidence of the value of the PDMP as a clinical decision making tool to reduce prescription drug abuse, misuse and diversion is supported not only by the increased usage, but also by a 19 percent increase in health care practitioner registration.