



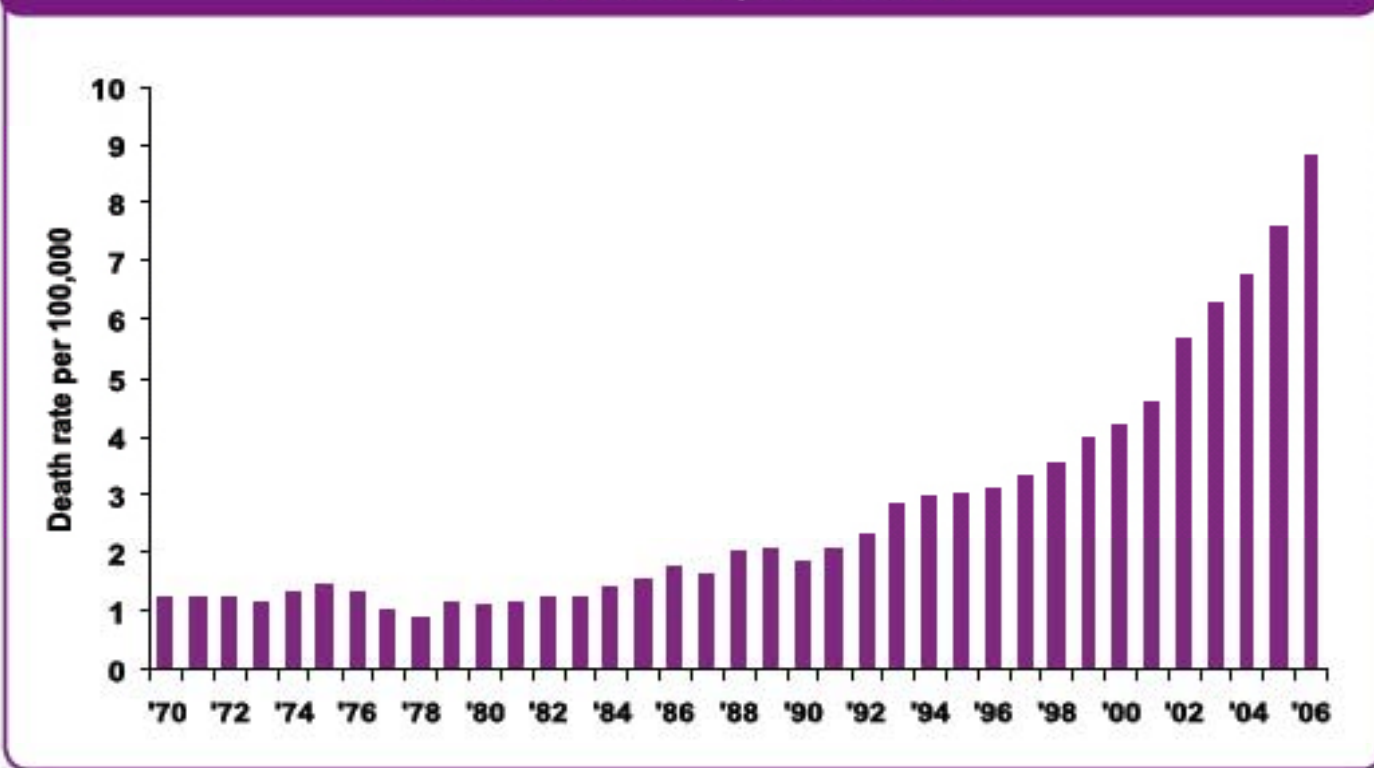
Prescription Drug Abuse

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Figure 1: Rate of unintentional drug overdose death in the United States, 1970-2006

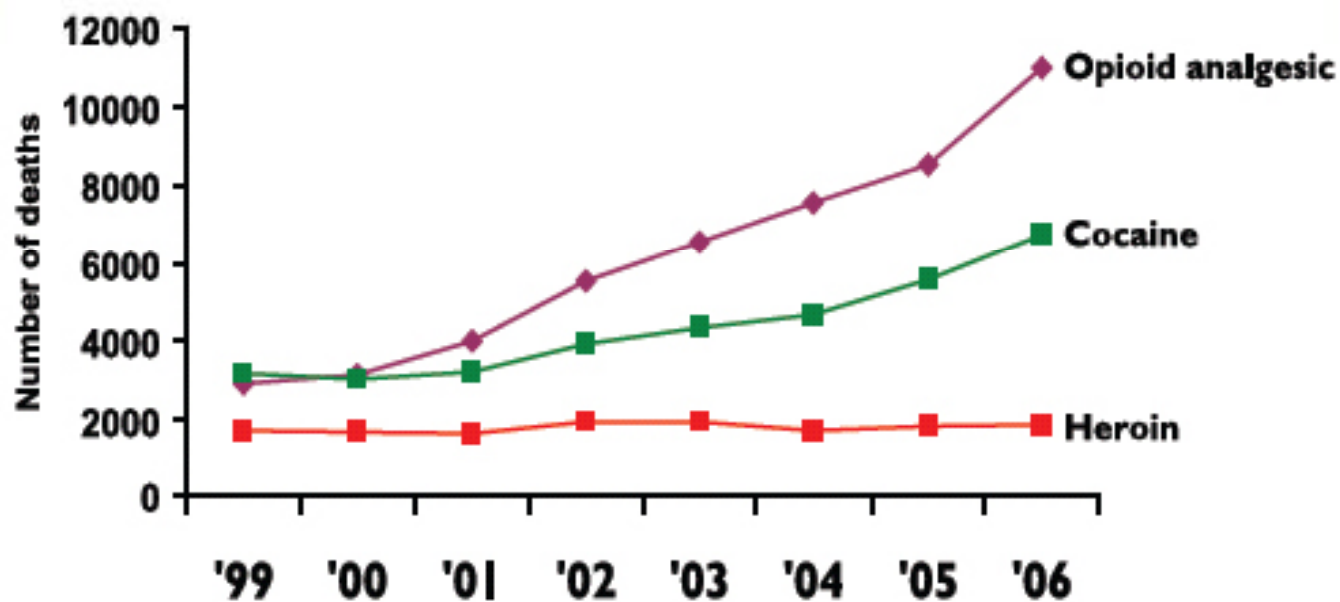


Source: National Vital Statistics System






Figure 2: Unintentional drug overdose deaths by major type of drug, United States, 1999-2006



Source: National Vital Statistics System



- ❑ Drug overdose deaths were second only to motor vehicle crash deaths among leading causes of unintentional injury death in 2006 in the United States.
- ❑ Rates have increased roughly five-fold since 1990.
- ❑ The increase in drug overdose death rates is largely because of prescription opioid painkillers.
- ❑ Opioid painkillers – prescription medications such as hydrocodone and oxycodone which are derived from opium.

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- ED visits for the nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs are now comparable to ED visits for use of illicit drugs like heroin and cocaine.
 - In 2008, DAWN estimates show that prescription or over-the-counter drugs used nonmedically were involved in 1.0 million ED visits – approximately the same as for illicit drugs.

A Troubling Trend



- During 1999–2006, people aged 35–54 years had higher poisoning death rates involving opioid analgesics than those in other age groups.
- Increases among age groups ranged from about twofold (65 years and over) to more than fivefold (15–24 years).
- In 2006, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Utah, New Mexico, and Nevada had the five highest rates of death due to opioid analgesic poisoning.


Increase in Fatal Poisonings Involving Opioid Analgesics
in the United States 1999 to 2006
NCHS Data Brief , No. 22, September 2009



Why such an increase?



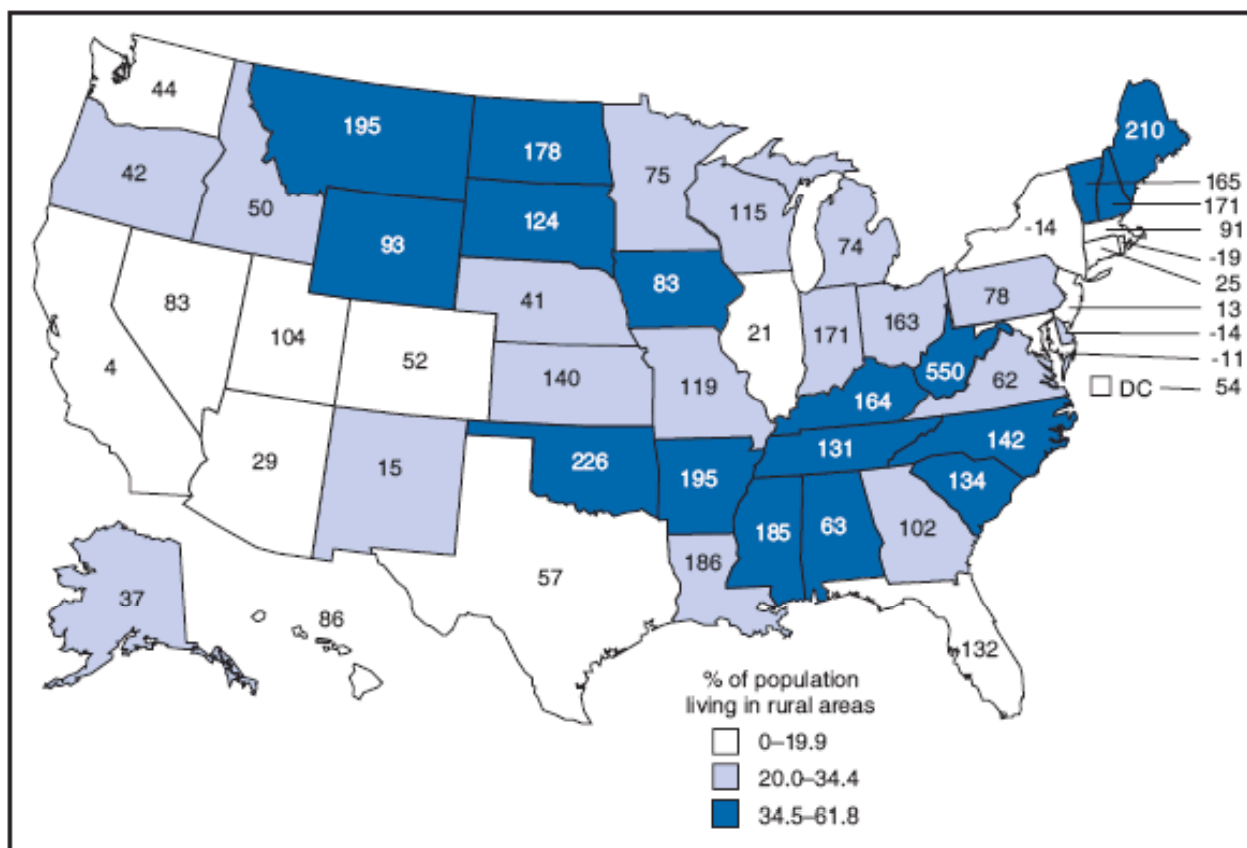
- There has been at least a 10-fold increase in the medical use of opioid painkillers during the last 15 years because of a movement toward more aggressive management of pain.
- In 2007, nonmedical users of prescription pain relievers aged 12 or older indicated they obtained them from a friend or relative for free.

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- 40% of 12th-graders reported that painkillers are “fairly” or “very” easy to get; more than half say the same thing for stimulants.
 - The majority of teens indicate that prescription drugs are easier to obtain than illicit drugs; more than half say they abuse prescription painkillers *because* they are not illegal.
 - Teens also believe that there is less shame attached to using these drugs (33%) and that their parents would not be as concerned if they got caught (21%).

Office of National Drug Control Policy. *The Abuse of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drugs*. September 2007.



FIGURE. Percentage change in unintentional poisoning mortality rates,* by rural status of state† — United States, 1999–2004

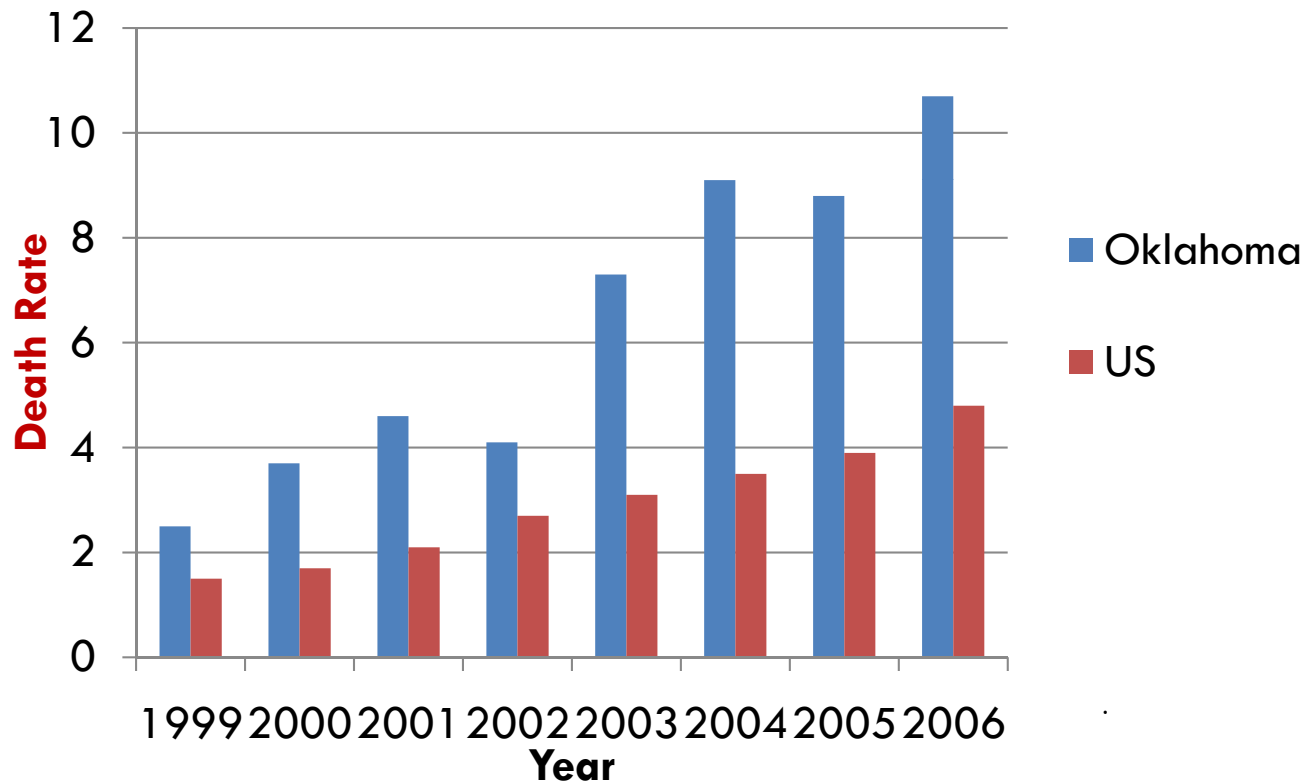


* Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 population.

† Defined as the percentage of the population living in census blocks below a certain population density, based on U.S. Census data for 2000 (4).



Opioid Overdose Deaths per 100,000



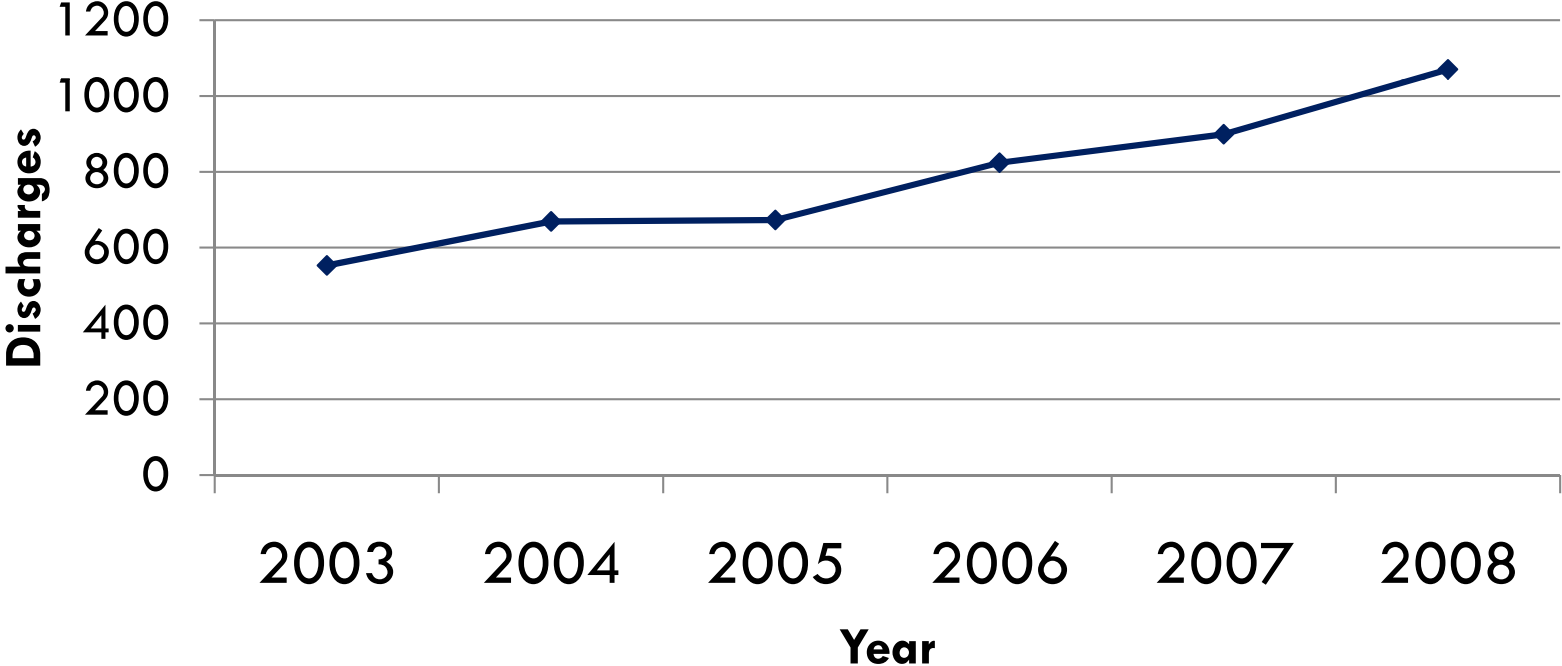
CDC , National Center for Health Statistics.
Multiple Causes of death 1999-2006



Oklahoma Hospitalizations Associated with Opioids



Oklahoma Hospital Inpatient Data 2003-2008



What Can Be Done?



- ❑ Lexington, SC has developed a multi-faceted program to target prescription drug abuse.
- ❑ Initiative was developed because of rising prescription drug abuse. In the 2009-2010 school year, 80% of students recommended for expulsion due to drug violations were prescription drug-related.
- ❑ The Lexington One Community Coalition (LOCC) was formed to develop an ongoing campaign to prevent prescription drug abuse



- Strategies employed include an annual Youth Photography Contest, where students in grades 9-12 submit photos and narratives.
- ▣ Submitted material relates either the students' impression of the negative impact of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco or positive factors which influence their decision not to use these substances
- ▣ Many students submit material related to the use of prescription medications



- ❑ The LOCC has partnered with the South Carolina State Board of Pharmacy to develop a program designed to increase awareness of prescription drug abuse.
- ❑ A continuing education program addressing youth prescription drug misuse/abuse was also provided for South Carolina pharmacists.
- ❑ Plans are being made to educate other health care professionals via in-services and continuing education.



- The coalition has also partnered with local media, law enforcement, and pharmacies to develop a prescription take-back campaign in which residents may dispose of unwanted prescription medication.
- Awareness activities and educational materials have been developed to educate parents on the prevalence of teenage prescription medication abuse, as well as provide tips for detection and prevention.

South Carolina's Lexington One Community Coalition – Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse at the Community Level.

http://ofsubstance.gov/blogs/pushing_back/archive/2010/07/12/51451.aspx

