

SAFETY AMBASSADOR

UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE



How many of you have friends or family who may be taking or who have taken prescription painkillers for back pain, arthritis, following surgery, etc.?

Now...how many of you can name one of the greatest contributors to unintentional drug overdose?

Current data

- Drugs account for about 90% of unintentional poisoning deaths
 - “Drugs” refers to illegal substances, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and vitamins



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Making our World Safer

Understanding the data

- Deaths from unintentional drug overdose occur overwhelmingly among adults rather than children
- Deaths have rapidly increased over the past decade
 - Strongly related to the drastic increase in the consumption of prescription drugs
- Nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers is the issue



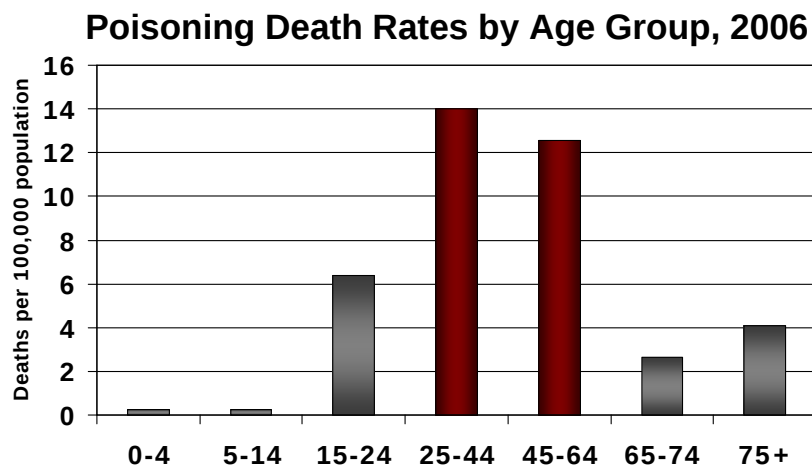
UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Making our World Safer

- Deaths from unintentional drug overdose are overwhelmingly an adult issue rather than children
- Unintentional drug overdose deaths have rapidly increased over the past decade
 - Strongly related to the drastic increase in the consumption of prescription drugs

It's the nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers that is the issue. People taking pain relievers to get high.

Understanding the data (cont.)



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

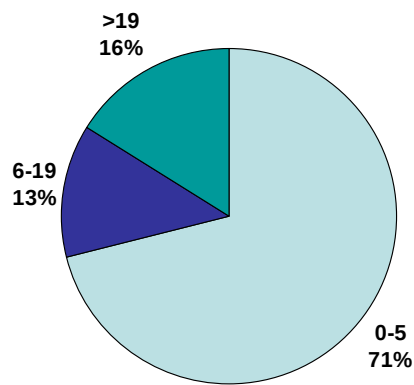


Making our World Safer

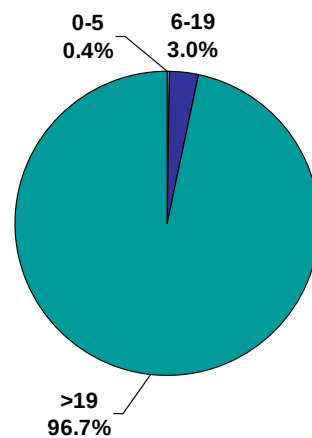
- Accidental drug overdose is a leading cause of unintentional injury and death after motor vehicle crashes
- For those between the ages of 45-64, unintentional drug overdose presents the fastest growing death rate. And it's preventable!
- Unintentional drug overdose deaths have tripled over the past 20 years, overwhelmingly among adults aged 20-65

Understanding the Data (cont.)

Poisoning Exposures, 2005



Poisoning Deaths, 2003



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE



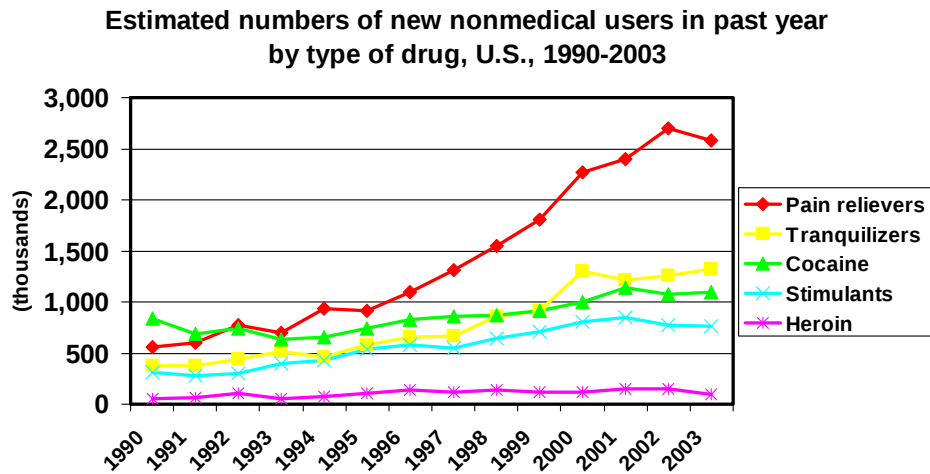
Making our World Safer

While more children experience nonfatal poisoning exposures, the greatest number of poisoning deaths is made up of people over 19 years of age. How many of you were aware of that?

Nonfatal poisoning exposures are defined as calls to poison control centers and are tracked through the Toxic Exposure Surveillance System.

Source: NCHS mortality data

Understanding the Data (cont.)



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

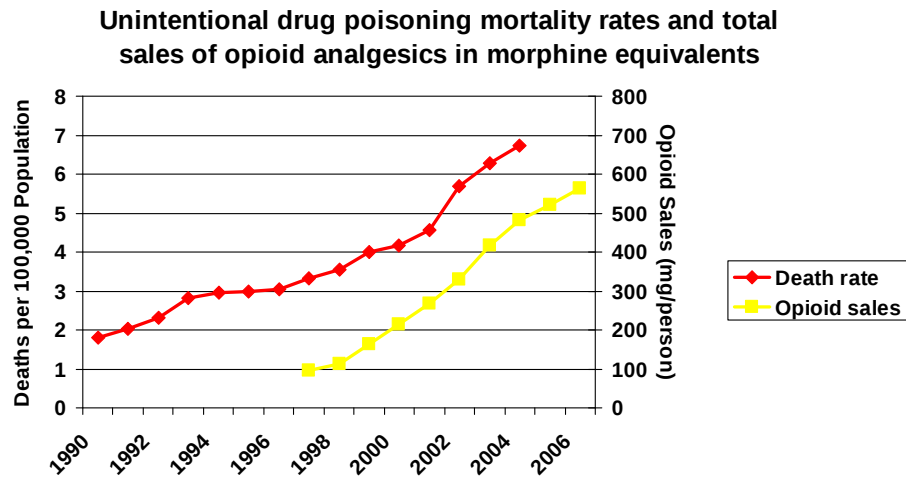


Making our World Safer

As you can see here, the number of **new** individuals misusing prescription pain relievers has really skyrocketed in the last 10 years.

Source: Paulozzi, L. (2007). The epidemiology of unintentional drug poisoning in the United States. Retrieved June 28, 2007, from http://www.astho.org/templates/display_pub.php?pub_id=2626.

Understanding the Data (cont.)



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE



Making our World Safer

And as we prescribe more, the number of deaths increases. So that begs the question....How do we make a change?

Opioid analgesics include prescription pain relievers.

Source: Paulozzi, L. (2007). The epidemiology of unintentional drug poisoning in the United States. Retrieved June 28, 2007, from http://www.astho.org/templates/display_pub.php?pub_id=2626.

Solution/Prevention

- Injury prevention reduces the need for prescription pain killers, which in turn minimizes the opportunity for misuse to occur
- Don't share your prescriptions with friends or family members – tell them to see a doctor



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Making our World Safer®

NSC strategy to address data

- Document science and evaluate solutions
- Develop programs
- Seek legislation: connect national to local interests
- Develop recognized expertise
- Create partnerships
- Develop NSC public policy statements
- Work the issue at every level



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Making our World Safer

As a key area of concern due to the high number of injuries and deaths pertaining to unintentional drug overdose, the National Safety Council is working to aggressively address this issue by:

- Documenting the science behind unintentional drug overdose, including the scope, causes, and proven solutions
- Influencing federal- and state-level policy to promote unintentional drug overdose as a social priority
- Developing new programs and products to increase education and awareness and encourage enforcement of best practices

The Council will also develop recognized expertise, build a national profile for those experts, and as necessary, partner with other organizations or businesses.

The National Safety Council will also establish public policy statements and work the issue at every level.

The Council will evaluate results against objectives and make modifications when necessary. But they can't do it alone. They need your help.

Activities & Involvement

- Safety tips, guides, articles, and fact sheets at [nsc.org](https://www.nsc.org).
- National Safety Month (June)
 - Key Issue
 - [nsc.org/nsm](https://www.nsc.org/nsm)
- Advocacy and outreach
- Educating the public



UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Making our World Safer®

There's a lot that needs to be done to address this growing concern and the Council can't do it alone. There are ways that you can help.

- You can find information on unintentional drug overdose on the Council's Web site at [nsc.org](https://www.nsc.org) and educate your employees, friends, and neighbors.
- Your business can get involved during National Safety Month – held each June. Unintentional drug overdose is a key issue that gets increased attention throughout the month. Participation is easy. You sign up, the Council sends you information, and you share it with those you know.
- The National Safety Council also offers advocacy and outreach to help educate the public.

Activities & Involvement

National Poison Prevention Week *Third week of March*

- Sponsored: Poison Prevention Week Council
- Information: poisonprevention.org

American Assoc. of Poison Control Centers

- Poisoning Emergencies: 1-800-222-1222
- Information/tips: aapcc.org



Making our World Safer

UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Additional ways to get involved include participating in National Poison Prevention Week. You can find additional information and tips on the American Association of Poison Control Centers Web site at aapcc.org.

You Can Get Involved

- Properly dispose of unused or expired medicines
- Post the number for Poison Control Centers near your telephone(s) 1-800-222-1222
- Discuss with your family the importance of taking medicine safely
- Learn and practice what to do in the event of an unintentional drug overdose



Making our World Safer®

UNINTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE

Prevention is critical. To stay safe:

- Go through you medicine cabinets and properly dispose of unused or expired medicines
- Post the number for Poison Control Centers near your telephone(s)
- Discuss with your family the importance of taking medicine safely
- Practice what to do in the event of an unintentional drug overdose

You Can Get Involved

- Visit nsc.org
- Become a proud member company of the National Safety Council - join.nsc.org
- Donate to Friends of Safety - nsc.org
- Become a Safety Ambassador – safetyambassador.nsc.org

Disclaimer: Information and recommendations are compiled from sources found in the NSC Library that are believed to be reliable. The NSC makes no guarantee as to, and assumes no responsibility for the correctness, sufficiency, or completeness of such information or recommendations.



Making our World Safer®

UNTENTIONAL DRUG OVERDOSE