



## Prescription Drug Overdoses among Arizona Residents, 2014

Poisoning was the leading cause of unintentional injury-related mortality among Arizona residents in 2014.

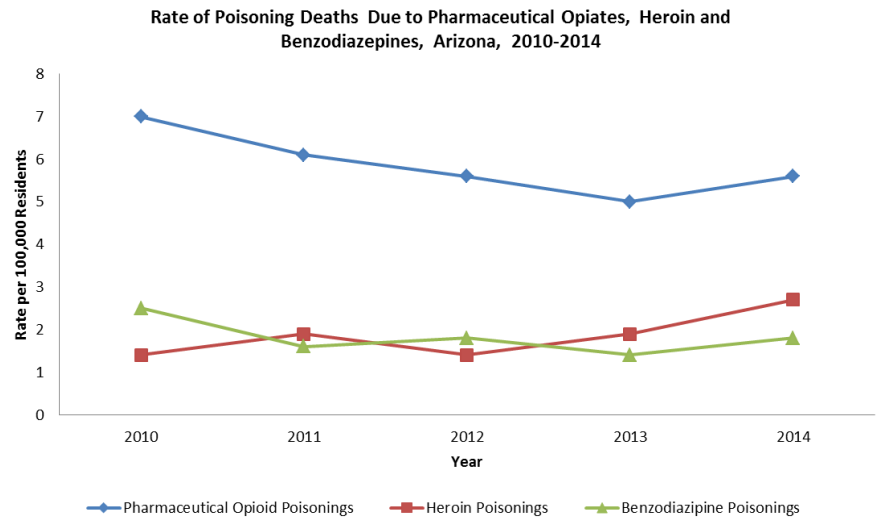
372 (30%) of those deaths were attributable to prescription opiates, a 14% increase from 2013 (n=328).

In Arizona one person died every day, on average, due to an opiate overdose.

- In 2014, Adults 55 to 64 years of age had the highest age-specific mortality rates, followed closely by those 45 to 54 years of age.
- 78% of all opiate overdose deaths were unintentional (n=291).
- Suicides accounted for 14% of the opiate overdose deaths.
- Males accounted for 52% of the opiates overdoses and females comprised the remaining 48%.
- 80% (n=297) of prescription opiate overdoses occurred in the decedent's place of residence.
- Heroin overdoses have more than doubled from 2010-2014 indicating a need for continued surveillance as prescription opiates become less available.

### Prevention Tips:

- Never take a prescription medication that is not prescribed to you or take it more often or in higher doses than prescribed.
- Never share prescription medications with anyone.
- Store prescription medications out of reach with the label attached and with the child-resistant cap secured.
- Keep track of how many prescription medications properly. If possible, take unused prescriptions to a permanent collection site or drop-off event.
- Go to [www.dumpthedrugsaz.org](http://www.dumpthedrugsaz.org) for a map of prescription drug drop-off sites.



Many drug overdose deaths included more than one drug. Often seen in the death records were a combination of an opiate and a benzodiazepine in conjunction with either alcohol or another prescription drug.

