

Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths during the Period January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2015

Data are preliminary and subject to change!

There were 1,069 Kentucky resident drug overdose deaths in 2014 according to the death certificates submitted to the Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics. These deaths represented overdoses by illicit and/or prescription drugs that were inflicted intentionally or unintentionally. Most of the deaths involved more than one drug. The total number of drug overdose deaths increased approximately 7% from 2013 to 2014. However, the deaths from historically abused prescription drugs declined from 2011 to 2014 (e.g., oxycodone – 48% decline, oxymorphone – 64%, hydrocodone – 21%, and alprazolam – 39% (see page 2 of the following special emphasis report, http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/programs/KVIPP/drug_overdose_deaths_00-14.pdf). These declining trends suggest that Kentucky’s prescription drug abuse prevention laws passed in House Bill 1 from the 2012 Special Session and the subsequent licensing board regulations contributed to better prescribing practices and decreased diversion of prescribed opioids. Deaths resulting from other drugs (e.g., heroin and fentanyl), however, increased during the reporting period. Fentanyl is a pharmaceutical opioid. However, there is evidence suggesting that in the majority of the fentanyl overdose deaths the fentanyl was illicitly obtained and not diverted from prescribing. According to a CDC health advisory from Oct 26, 2015, Kentucky had the 6th highest number of fentanyl seizures in the U.S. in 2014. (<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00384.asp>).

Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths (Data are provisional and subject to change)						
	Year of Death					
	Jan- Dec 2011	Jan- Dec 2012	Jan- Dec 2013	Jan- Dec 2014	January - June 2015	Total
Total number of overdose deaths (regardless of the manner of the death or the drugs involved; a death that involved multiple drugs was counted under each relevant drug category in the reports that follow) Drug overdose deaths by county of residence	1,020	1,032	1,003	1,069	583 (this number reflects only the period Jan 1- Jun 30, 2015)	4,707
Drug overdose deaths involving <u>heroin</u> Note: A death that involved multiple drugs was counted under each relevant drug category. For example, a death that involved heroin and a fentanyl was counted in this report and in the report on fentanyl overdose deaths. Heroin overdose deaths by county of residence	42	129	201	228	213 (this number reflects only the period Jan 1- Jun 30, 2015)	813
Drug overdose deaths involving <u>fentanyl</u> Note: A death that involved multiple drugs was counted under each relevant drug category. For example, a death that involved fentanyl and heroin was counted in this report and was also included in the report on heroin overdose deaths. Fentanyl overdose deaths by county of residence	55	36	39	128	132 (this number reflects only the period Jan 1- Jun 30, 2015)	390
Drug overdose deaths involving <u>any pharmaceutical opioid except fentanyl</u> Note: A death that involved multiple drugs was counted under each relevant drug category. For example, a death that involved a pharmaceutical opioid (except fentanyl) and heroin was counted in this report and in the report on heroin overdose deaths. An overdose death that involved fentanyl and another pharmaceutical opioid (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone, oxymorphone) was counted in this report and in the report on fentanyl overdose deaths. Drug overdose deaths involving any pharmaceutical opioid except fentanyl, by county of residence	483	436	385	365	197 (this number reflects only the period Jan 1- Jun 30, 2015)	1,866