



Austin Public Health

Data Brief

Drug Overdose Deaths and Hospitalizations, Austin and Travis County



A Continuing Public Health Issue

Drug overdose is a substantial and persistent public health issue in Travis County. Drug overdoses may involve one or more over-the-counter, prescription and/or illegal drugs. This data brief summarizes drug overdose deaths in Travis County and Austin, and that resulted in hospitalizations among Travis County residents.

Figure 1. Drug Overdose Mortality Crude Rates Compared To Diabetes and Motor Vehicle Related Mortality Crude Rates, Travis County, 2006 - 2016

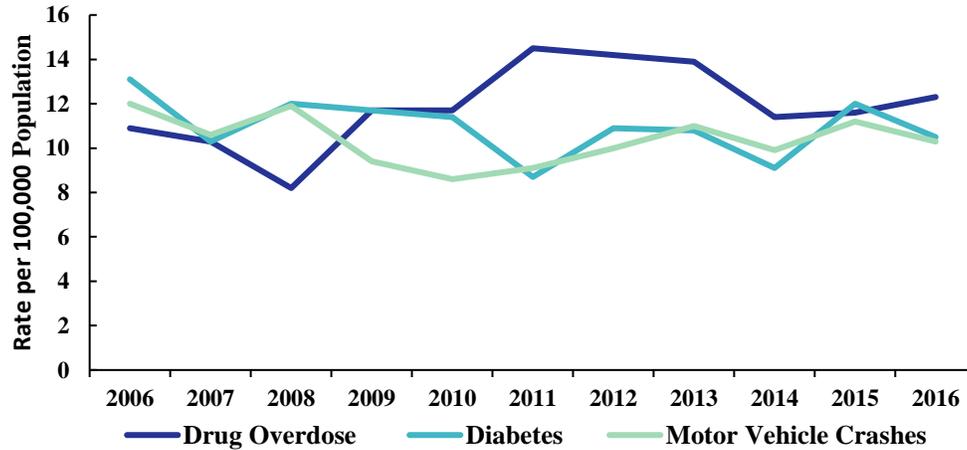


Table 1. Characteristics of Drug Overdose Deaths Occurring in the City Austin, 2015-2016

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Sex	Male	62%
	Female	38%
Age Group (in years)	15-24	12%
	25-39	34%
	40-54	30%
	55-64	18%
	65 and older	6%
Race/Ethnicity	White	71%
	Black	9%
	Hispanic	16%
Drug Types	Opioids	64%
	Benzodiazepines	30%
	Cocaine	17%
	Methamphetamine	17%
Opioid Types	Heroin	29%
	Methadone	7%
	Synthetic	10%
	Natural and Semi Synthetic	25%

Many overdose deaths involved more than one type of drug. Drug type categories are not mutually exclusive, therefore percent do not total 100%. The literal text on death certificate data were searched for references to specific drugs without considering the context.

Natural opioid: morphine and codeine. **Semi-synthetic opioid:** oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and oxymorphone.

Synthetic opioid: tramadol and fentanyl. **Data source:** Office of Vital Records, Austin Public Health



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Data on drug overdose hospitalizations for Travis County residents for the year 2016 were obtained and analyzed. There were 444 hospitalizations as a result of drug overdose.

Table 2. Drug Overdose Hospitalizations, Travis County, 2016

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Total Count	444	
Age Group (in years)	0-17	16%
	18-44	44%
	45-64	29%
	65-74	7%
	75 and older	4%
Race/Ethnicity	White	55%
	Black	13%
	Hispanic	25%
	Other	6%
Charges	Total	\$22,551,715
	Median	\$26,004
Average Length of Stay	4.6 days	
Payment Source	Medicaid	20%
	Medicare	21%
	Private Health Insurance	26%
	Uninsured	13%
	Other	20%
Drug Types	Opioids	20%
	Benzodiazepines	17%
	Cocaine	4%
	Methamphetamine	5%
Injury Intent	Unintentional (Accident)	54%
	Intentional self-harm (Suicide)	41%

Data source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data.

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RESOURCES:

Texas State Board of Pharmacy: <http://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/sb144.asp>

Texas Poison Control Center Network: 1-800-222-1222
<http://poisoncontrol.org/home/>

CDC Injury Center: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/index.html>

Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit, Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness Division