



Austin Public Health

Data Brief

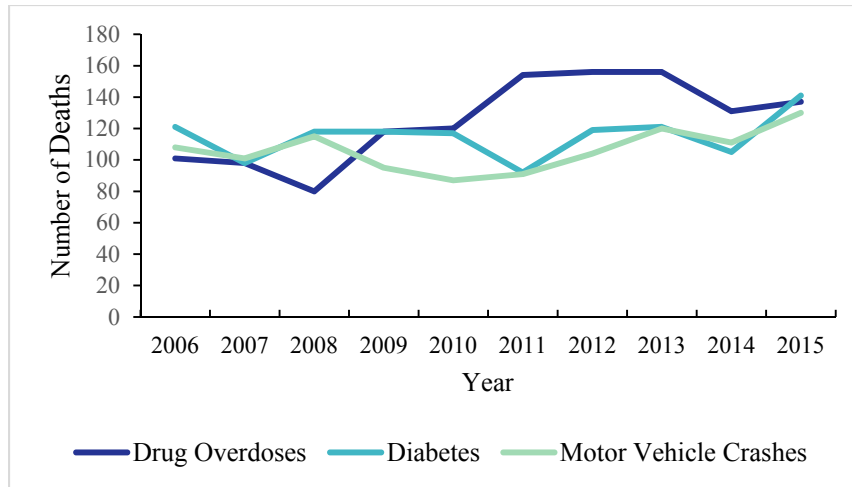
Drug Overdose Deaths and Poisoning Hospitalizations, Austin and Travis County



A Continuing Public Health Issue

Drug overdose deaths 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 poisonings that resulted in hospitalizations among Travis County residents.

Figure 1. Drug Overdose Deaths Compared To Diabetes and Motor Vehicle Related Deaths, Travis County, 2006 - 2015



Characteristics of Drug Overdose Deaths Occurring in Austin, 2015-2016

Table 1. Drug Overdose Deaths, City of Austin, 2015 - 2016

Characteristics	Number	Percent
Year	2015	49%
	2016	51%
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%
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 poisoning hospitalizations for Travis County residents for the years 2010 – 2014 were obtained and analyzed. For the five year period, there were 3,500 hospitalizations as a result of poisonings.

Table 2. Poisoning Hospitalizations, Travis County, 2010-2014

Characteristics	Number	Percent	
Total Count	3,500		
Age Group (in years)	0-17	260	7%
	18-44	1,627	46%
	45-64	1,209	35%
	65-74	232	7%
	75 and older	172	5%
Patient Status on Discharge	To home or self-care (routine discharge)	1,775	52%
	To psychiatric hospital or psychiatric distinct part of a hospital	1,073	31%
	To home health service	157	5%
	Left against medical advice	124	4%
	To skilled nursing facility	96	3%
	Died	67	2%
	Other	125	4%
Charges	Total (for years 2010-2014)	\$122,470,130	
	Average	\$34,991	
Average Length of Stay	3.4 days		
Payment Sources	Medicare	985	28%
	Uninsured	874	25%
	Private Health Insurance	676	19%
	Medicaid	529	15%
	Other	431	12%

Data source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data.

Missing frequency: discharge status (83), payment sources (5).

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