

Drug Overdose Deaths

DEFINITIONS AND METHODOLOGY

Data for this report come from Minnesota death certificates, with cause and manner of death information provided by a medical examiner or coroner. A drug overdose death is defined as having an underlying cause of death within the following range of ICD-10 codes:

- Any opioid-involved deaths: T40.0-T40.4, T40.6
- Accidental poisoning by drugs: X40-X44
- Intentional self-poisoning by drugs: X60-X64
- Assault by drug poisoning: X85
- Drug poisoning of undetermined intent: Y10-Y14

This “dashboard” provides the rate and number of drug overdose deaths within seven non-exclusive categories of drugs that contributed to the cause of death, by county and year. Note, for example, that an opioid-involved death may also be counted as a cocaine-involved death, if both drugs were listed on the death certificate as contributory causes. The seven non-exclusive categories of drug overdose deaths are defined as having a contributory cause of death within the following ranges of ICD-10 codes:

- Any opioid-involved deaths: T40.0-T40.4, T40.6
- Possible Prescription opioids: T40.2-T40.3
- Synthetic opioids (includes fentanyl): T40.4
- Heroin: T40.1
- Cocaine: T40.5
- Benzodiazepines: T42.4
- Psychostimulants with abuse potential (includes methamphetamine): T43.6

The methodology for defining drug overdose deaths and non-exclusive drug categories is based on the following sources:

Gabella BA, Proescholdbell SK, Johnson RL, Thomas KE. State Special Emphasis Report: Instructions Drug Overdose Death Data. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2014.

Injury Surveillance Workgroup 7. Consensus recommendations for national and state poisoning surveillance. Atlanta, GA: The Safe States Alliance; 2012. Available online at: http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.safestates.org/resource/resmgr/imported/ISW7%20Full%20Report_3.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opioid data analysis. Atlanta, GA; 2017. Available online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/analysis.html>