



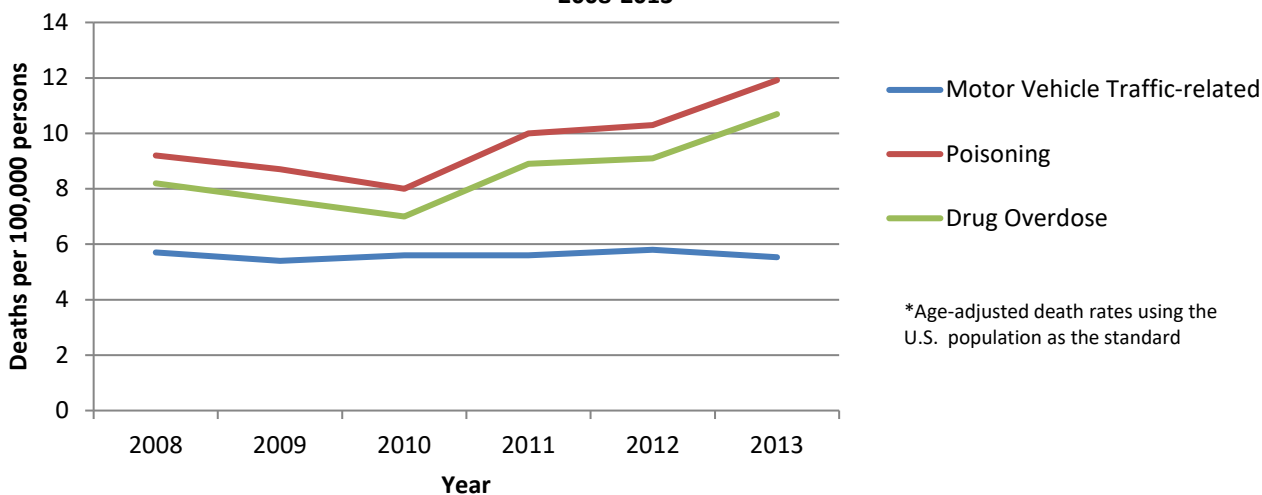
# New York State

## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 2008-2013

### A Public Health Crisis Continues

Poisoning is the leading cause of injury deaths in New York State, and drugs cause 9 out of 10 poisoning deaths. Drug poisoning deaths, also called overdoses, have surpassed motor vehicle traffic-related deaths (Figure 1). In 2013, the poisoning death rate was 11.9 deaths per 100,000 persons, and the drug overdose death rate was 10.7 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to a motor vehicle traffic-related death rate of 5.5 deaths per 100,000 persons. These death rates were age-adjusted to remove the potential effect of differences in ages in the population each year.

**Figure 1. Drug overdose death rates\* compared to motor vehicle-related death rates, New York State residents, 2008-2013**



### Drugs Caused 9 out of 10 Poisoning Deaths

In 2013, drugs and medications –prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter medications, - were the underlying cause of death for 89% of all poisoning deaths. Of the drug overdose deaths, 81% were unintentional, 13% were suicide or intentional self harm, and 6% had undetermined intent. Males had rates two times higher than females and persons aged 45 to 54 had the highest rate of all age categories

**Table 1. Drug overdose deaths: Demographic characteristics and intent, New York State residents, 2013**

		Number	Percent	Rate per 100,000 persons
Gender	Female	737	34%	7.3
	Male	1,450	66%	15.2
Age (in years)*	15-24	219	10%	8.1
	25-44	843	39%	15.8
	45-54	596	27%	21.2
	55 and older	522	24%	9.9
Intent*	Unintentional (also known as “accidental”)	1774	81%	9.0
	Suicide	278	13%	1.4
	Undetermined	132	6%	0.7

\*0-14 age group not included due to small numbers. Assault not included due to small numbers.



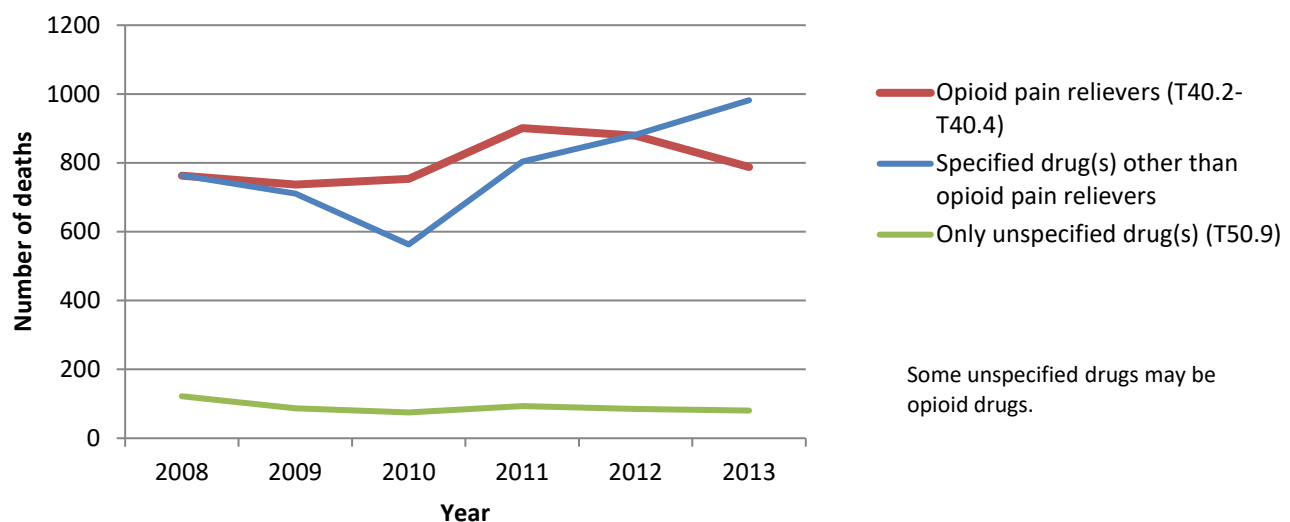
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## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 2008-2013

### Opioid Pain Relievers Contributed to 36% of the Drug Overdose Deaths

Opioid pain relievers, such as oxycodone or hydrocodone, contributed to 788 (36 percent) of the 2,187 drug overdose deaths in 2013.

Figure 2. Number of drug overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers and other drugs  
New York State residents, 2008-2013



### Addressing the Issue

- To help reduce access to prescription drugs, NYS has implemented the NY Internet-System for Tracking Over-Prescribing (I-STOP) law. This includes a series of provisions to overhaul the way prescription drugs are distributed and tracked in NY. I-STOP was signed into law on August 27, 2012.
- For more information on the I-STOP law, please see:
  - Attorney General's Office ([www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneidermans-landmark-i-stop-bill-curb-rx-drug-abuse-unanimously-passes-nys](http://www.ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-schneidermans-landmark-i-stop-bill-curb-rx-drug-abuse-unanimously-passes-nys))
  - Bill (<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/api/1.0/lrs-print/bill/S7637-2011>)
  - Prescription Monitoring Program ([www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/prescription\\_monitoring/](http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/prescription_monitoring/))