

Prevention for States Awardee Meeting

Policy Evaluation: Kentucky's Mandatory Decedent Controlled Substances Testing Law

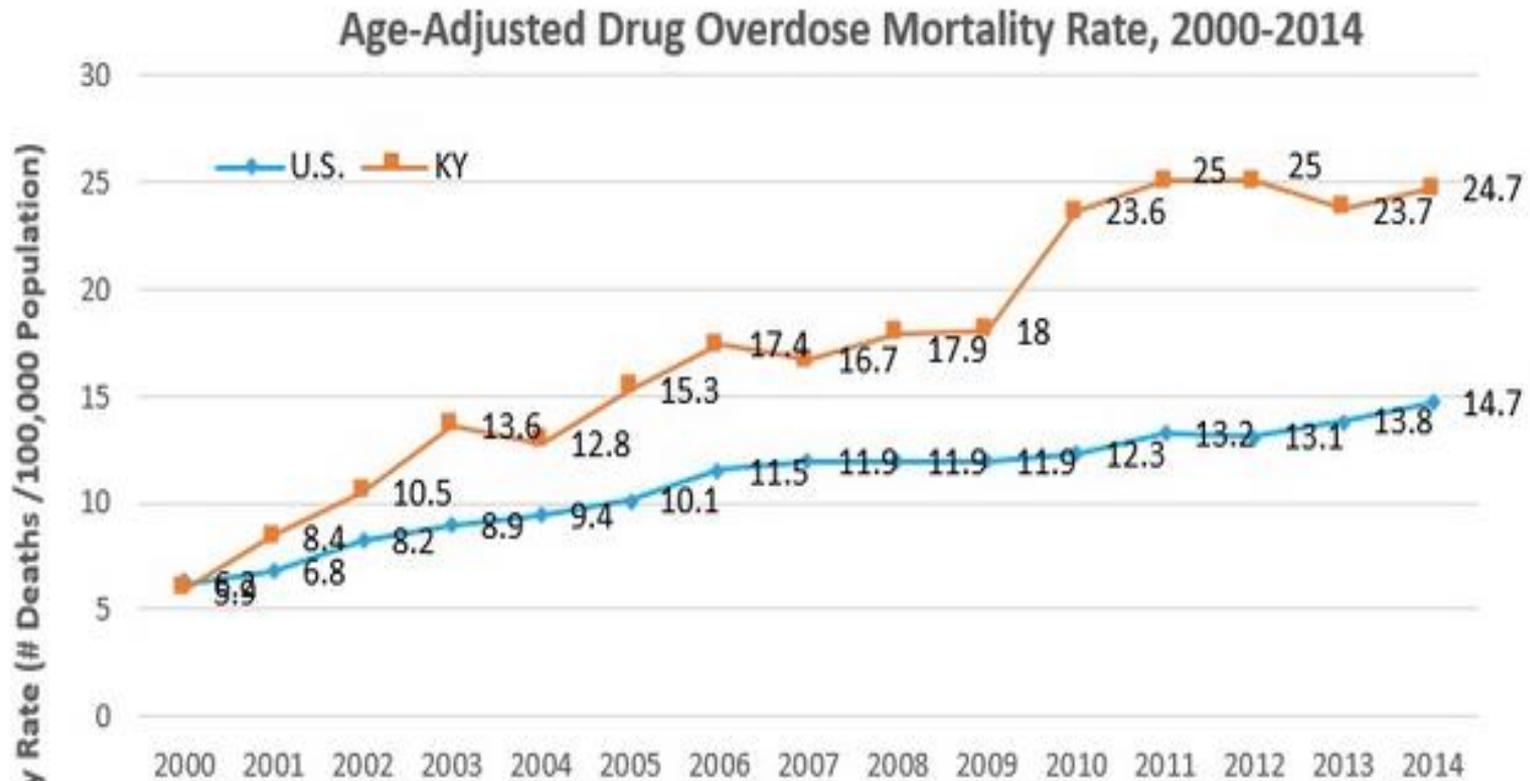
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Kentucky Injury Prevention and
Research Center

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Why New Policy?



Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, February 2016. Data source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2014 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2015.

KIPRC's PfS Policy Evaluation

- ❑ **House Bill 1 (2012) – omnibus legislation to address prescription drug diversion and overdose**
 - Pill mills restrictions
 - Mandatory registration for PDMP
 - Regulations on mandatory KASPER queries and controlled substance prescribing by clinical profession: physicians, advanced practice nurse practitioners, and dentists
 - Mandatory controlled substance testing by coroners and medical examiners of decedents unless another cause of death is clearly established

Decedent Controlled Substances Testing Law

72.026 Testing for presence of controlled substances in post-mortem examination – When required – Reporting of drug overdose – Administrative regulations.

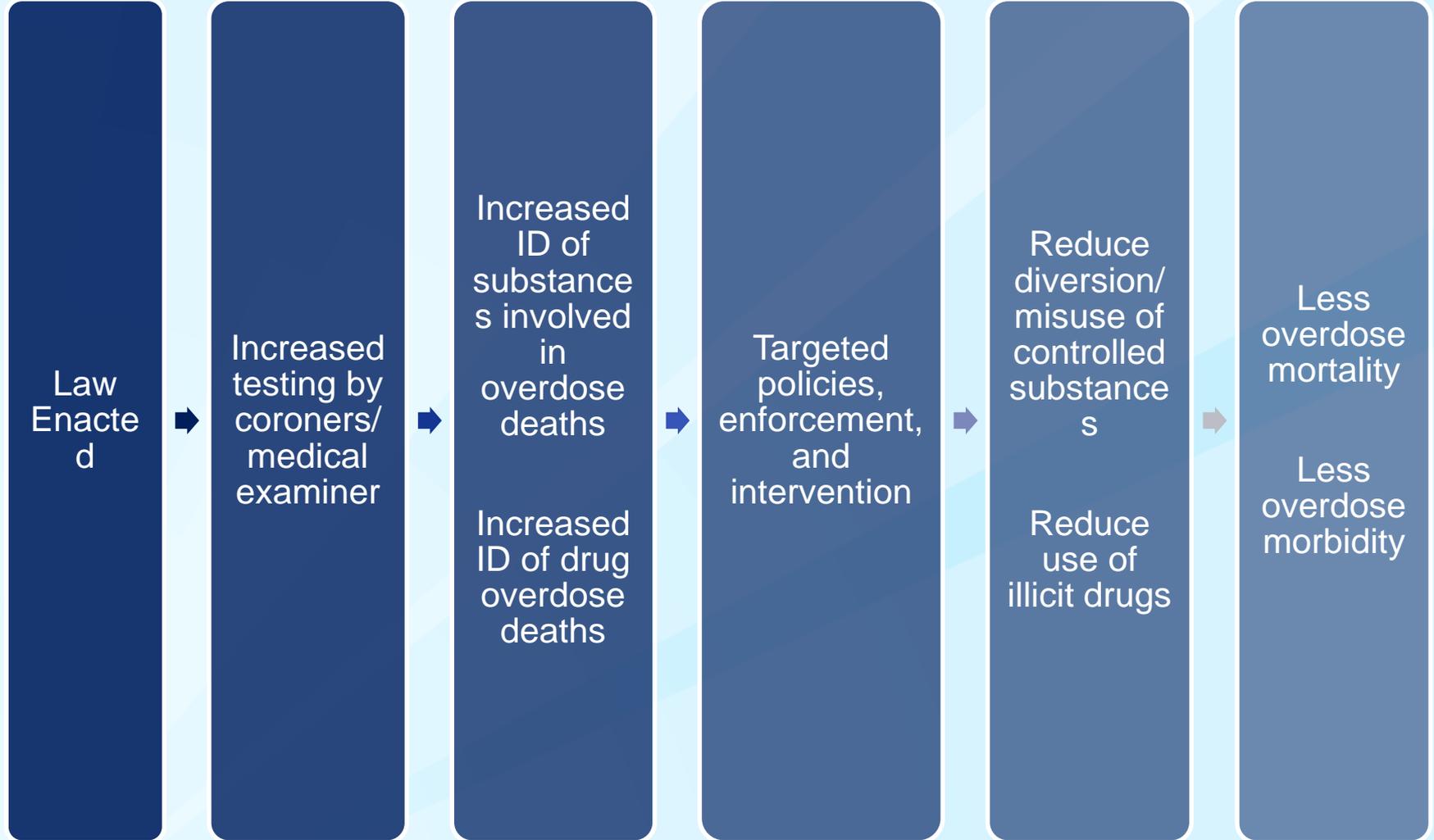
(1) Unless another cause of death is clearly established, in cases requiring a post-mortem examination under KRS 72.025 the coroner or medical examiner shall take a blood sample and have it tested for the presence of any controlled substances which were in the body at the time of death.

(2) If a coroner or medical examiner determines that a drug overdose is the cause of death of a person, he or she shall provide notice of the death to:

- (a) The state registrar of vital statistics and the Department of Kentucky State Police. The notice shall include any information relating to the drug that resulted in the overdose. The state registrar of vital statistics shall not enter the information on the deceased person's death certificate unless the information is already on the death certificate; and
- (b) The licensing board for the individual who prescribed or dispensed the medication, if known. The notice shall include any information relating to the drug that resulted in the overdose, including the individual authorized by law to prescribe or dispense drugs who dispensed or prescribed the drug to the decedent.

This subsection shall not apply to reporting the name of a pharmacist who dispensed a drug based on a prescription.

Logic Model for Law

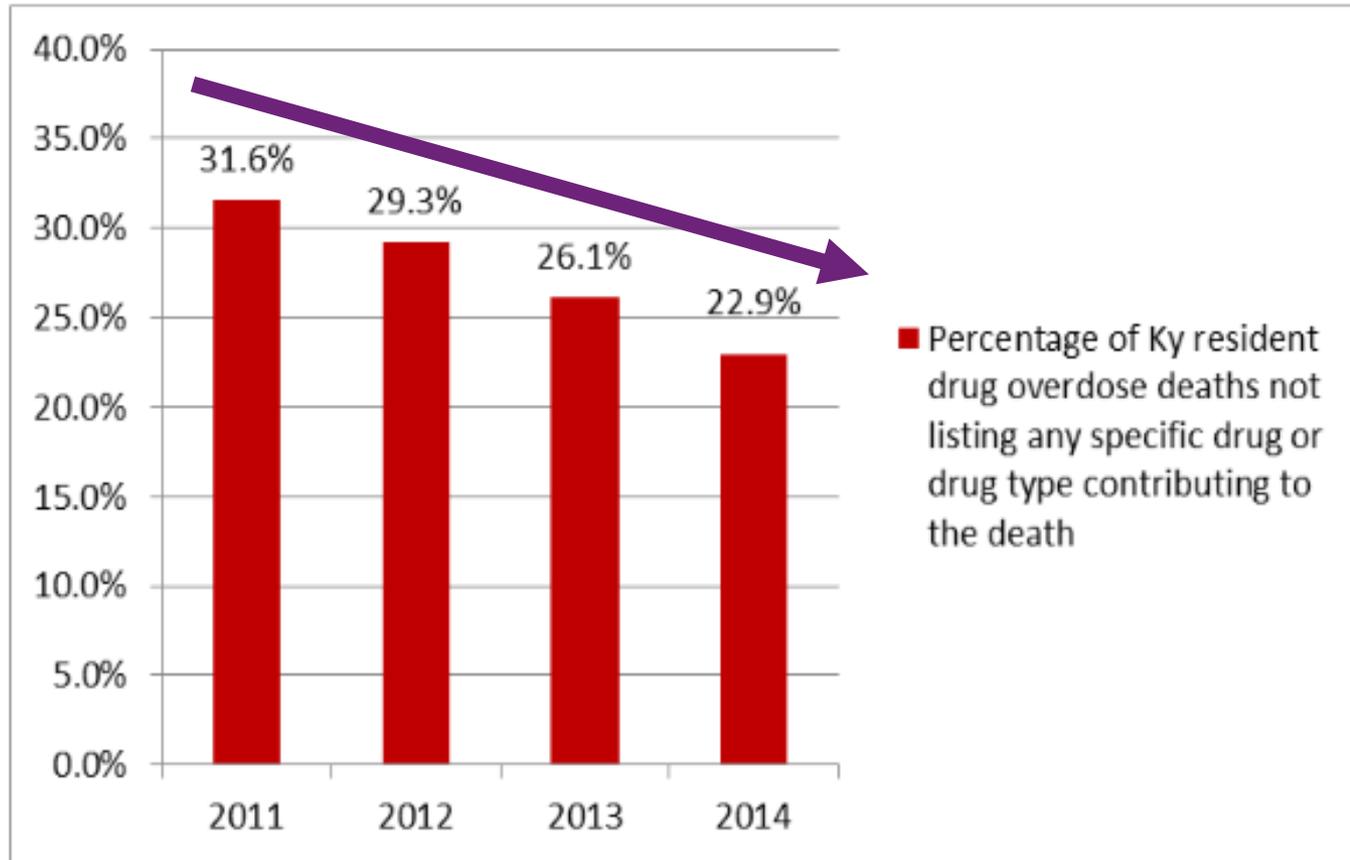


HAS THE LAW BEEN EFFECTIVE?

- ❑ **Increase toxicology testing**
- ❑ **Increase listing of specific drugs on death certificates for overdose fatalities**

Increased Listing of Drugs on Death Certificates

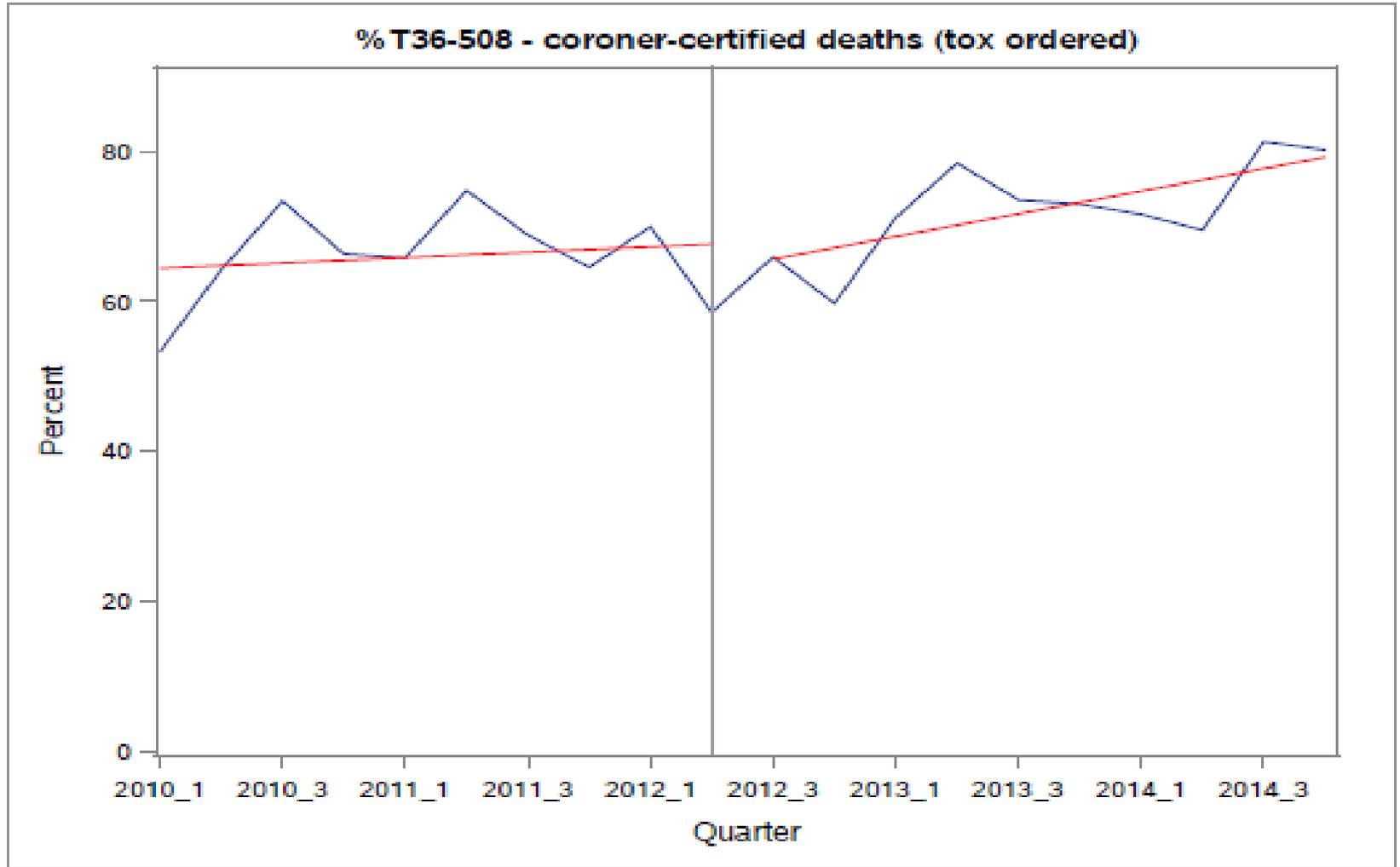
Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths



Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, June 2015. Data source: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics Death Certificate Files. Data for all years are provisional and subject to change.

Increased drug specificity through coroner ordered toxicology

Proportion of coroner certified deaths with toxicology, for which at least one specific drug was coded (T36-T50.8)



Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, March 2016. Kentucky Death Certificates Files, Frankfort, KY [2010-2014]. Kentucky Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Next Step

04/05/2016 8:35am

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How often do you list the specific drugs involved in an overdose death on the death certificate?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

How often do the following circumstances occur when it is not possible to list the specific drugs involved in overdose deaths on the death certificate?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Always
Toxicology results took too long	<input type="radio"/>				
Difficulty in determining the specific drugs involved in poly-substance overdoses.	<input type="radio"/>				
There is not enough room on the death certificate to list all of the drugs involved.	<input type="radio"/>				
Hospital did not take admission blood or admission blood is no	<input type="radio"/>				



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