

Table 1. Poisoning deaths and poisoning with mention of methadone for injury and noninjury causes of death: 1999-2004

Poisoning deaths with mention of methadone	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003-2004	1999-2004
	Number of deaths						Percent change	
All poisoning deaths	19,741	20,230	22,242	26,435	28,700	30,308	5.6	53.5
All poisoning deaths with methadone	786	988	1,456	2,360	2,974	3,849	29.4	389.7
All deaths (injury and noninjury) with mention of methadone*	831	1,060	1,559	2,471	3,117	4,031	29.3	385.1
Unintentional poisoning with mention of methadone	623	778	1,158	1,911	2,452	3,202	30.6	414.0
Suicide by poisoning with mention of methadone	56	72	111	149	146	195	33.6	248.2
Homicide by poisoning with mention of methadone	2	0	1	5	6	11	83.3	450.0
Undetermined intent by poisoning with mention of methadone	105	138	186	295	370	441	19.2	320.0
Nonpoisoning injury deaths with mention of methadone*	4	10	16	16	18	29	61.1	625.0
Noninjury deaths with mention of methadone	41	62	87	95	125	153	22.4	273.2
	Percent distribution of methadone-related deaths by cause of death							
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	...	...
Injury deaths:								
Unintentional poisoning	75.0	73.4	74.3	77.3	78.7	79.4	...	...
Suicide poisoning	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.0	4.7	4.8	...	...
Homicide poisoning	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	...	...
Undetermined intent poisoning	12.6	13.0	11.9	11.9	11.9	10.9	...	...
Nonpoisoning injury deaths with mention of methadone*	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	...	...
Noninjury deaths	4.9	5.8	5.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	...	...

* Includes two deaths classified to legal intervention.

...Not applicable.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, data from the National Vital Statistics System.

Table 2. Number of poisoning deaths in which specific narcotic substances are mentioned, 1999-2004

ICD-10 code	Substance	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1999-2004	2003-2004
								Percent change	
T40	Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics, all	9,955	10,173	11,480	14,247	15,731	16,735	68.1	6.4
T40.0	Opium	4	2	5	3	4	1	-75.0	-75.0
T40.1	Heroin	1,964	1,846	1,782	2,091	2,080	1,881	-4.2	-9.6
T40.2	Other opioids	2,757	2,932	3,484	4,431	4,877	5,242	90.1	7.5
T40.3	Methadone	786	988	1,456	2,360	2,974	3,849	389.7	29.4
T40.4	Other synthetic narcotics	732	784	962	1,301	1,406	1,668	127.9	18.6
T40.5	Cocaine	3,832	3,565	3,840	4,612	5,212	5,461	42.5	4.8
T40.6	Other narcotics	2,902	2,880	2,881	3,143	3,117	2,761	-4.9	-11.4
T40.7	Cannabis	37	41	37	50	61	99	167.6	62.3
T40.8	LSD	3	3	2	0	1	1	-66.7	0.0
T40.9	Other	9	8	7	5	6	5	-44.4	-16.7

NOTE: Substance-specific data are not additive because a death certificate could have multiple drugs listed.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.

Table 3. Methadone-related unintentional poisoning deaths 1999-2004 and ratio of deaths in 2004 to deaths in 1999, by State and DC

State of residence	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Ratio of deaths 2004:1999**
Methadone-related unintentional poisoning deaths*							
United States, all	623	778	1,158	1,911	2,452	3,202	5.1
Ratio greater than 15:1:							
Kentucky	8	28	46	72	122	121	15.1
Louisiana	4	4	19	34	47	64	16.0
New Hampshire	2	7	11	26	32	29	14.5
Ohio	7	14	30	48	62	122	17.4
West Virginia	4	3	25	52	67	99	24.8
Ratio between 10 and 14:1:							
Florida	29	47	117	195	255	400	13.8
Maine	5	20	11	42	35	52	10.4
Massachusetts	1	0	1	4	5	10	10.0
Oregon	5	18	24	60	66	68	13.6
Pennsylvania	7	17	14	36	67	88	12.6
Tennessee	8	10	14	37	58	99	12.4
Wisconsin	6	16	18	34	35	63	10.5
Ratio between 5 and 9:1:							
Arkansas	3	1	2	11	6	23	7.7
Delaware	1	4	2	7	12	6	6.0
Georgia	14	16	35	47	64	90	6.4
Hawaii	2	1	5	12	6	14	7.0
Idaho	3	2	8	5	16	19	6.3
Indiana	4	5	9	11	36	24	6.0
Iowa	2	1	0	7	6	11	5.5
Kansas	4	3	7	18	16	25	6.3
Michigan	10	10	10	38	36	74	7.4
Nevada	9	18	39	38	44	76	8.4
North Carolina	34	77	90	175	230	245	7.2
Oklahoma	18	27	38	38	81	120	6.7
Texas	21	44	81	113	125	138	6.6
Utah	2	5	7	17	5	18	9.0
Vermont	1	1	2	4	10	5	5.0
Virginia	17	27	56	76	100	104	6.1
Washington	45	53	73	120	143	228	5.1
Ratio between 2 and 4:1:							
Alabama	14	9	22	30	23	44	3.1
Arizona	15	10	21	50	63	56	3.7
California	65	43	31	98	123	178	2.7
Colorado	8	12	12	20	24	27	3.4
Connecticut	10	11	12	23	18	39	3.9
Illinois	25	51	49	59	60	63	2.5
Minnesota	9	5	5	12	23	31	3.4
Mississippi	2	1	2	2	11	5	2.5
Missouri	11	11	17	22	56	36	3.3
New Jersey	26	14	25	43	48	47	1.8
South Carolina	13	11	15	9	19	37	2.8
Ratio 1:1:							
New Mexico	30	23	27	28	30	42	1.4
New York	115	84	120	122	136	129	1.1
Rhode Island	1	0	1	1	1	1	1.0
Alaska	3	5	0	2	2	2	0.7
No deaths in 1999:							
Maryland	0	0	0	1	3	2	...
Montana	0	2	2	4	14	13	...
Nebraska	0	2	0	2	0	2	...
North Dakota	0	1	2	1	0	3	...
South Dakota	0	0	1	0	0	4	...
Wyoming	0	3	0	2	1	2	...
District of Columbia	0	1	0	3	10	4	...

* Underlying cause of death was selected as unintentional poisoning; methadone was listed on the death certificate as contributing to the death.

** Interpret as: The number of deaths in the U.S. in 2004 was five times the number in 1999.

... Not applicable.

NOTES: States are ordered by magnitude of ratio and alphabetically within group. Most of the observed increase is "real"; however, some unknown proportion of the increase is due to improvements in data collection and processing particularly between 2001 and 2002.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System.