

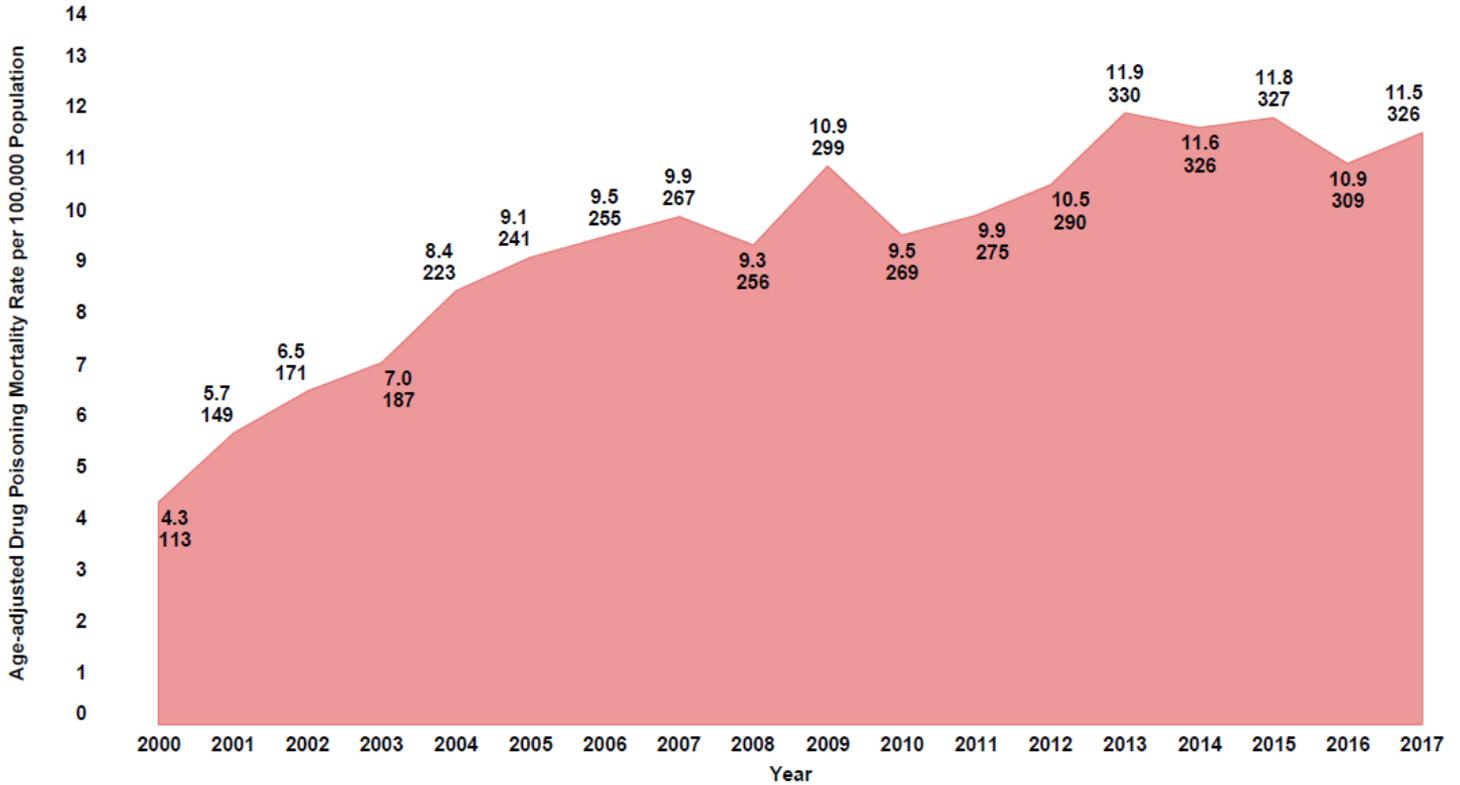
# Kansas Trends in Drug Poisoning Deaths

## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Poisoning Deaths, 2000-2017

### A Public Health Crisis Continues

Drug poisoning remains a significant cause of injury deaths in Kansas, with 326 deaths in 2017 with a drug poisoning underlying cause of death at an age-adjusted mortality rate of 11.5 per 100,000 population (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Age-adjusted Drug Poisoning Mortality Rate per 100,000 Population By Year, Kansas residents, 2000-2017\*

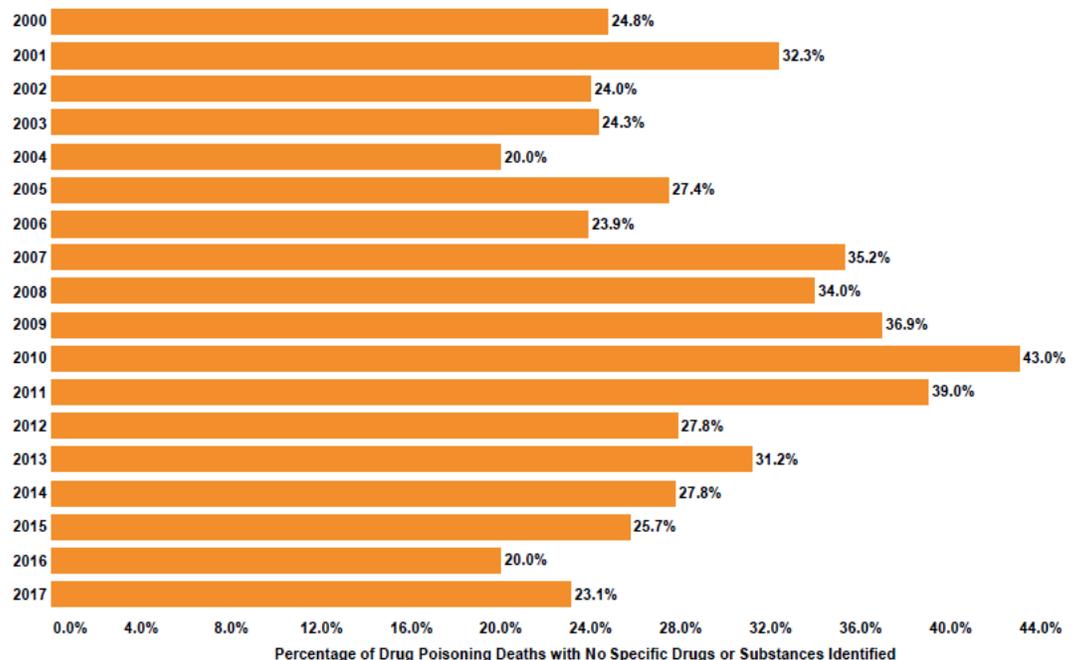


\*Data Sources: 2000-2017 Kansas Vital Statistics Mortality Files, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Deaths were computed based on the underlying cause of death using the 2000-2009 revised intercensal bridged-race population estimates for years 2005-2009 and postcensal estimates for 2010 – 2017 years. Rates were age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population.

### Unspecified Drugs and Substances

In 2017, 23.1% of drug poisoning deaths did not mention any specific drugs or substances. These drug poisoning deaths may involve multiple drugs, including opioids and psychostimulants among other drugs and substances. Identifying specific drugs contributing to drug poisoning deaths is important to identify emerging threats of concern and allocate resources appropriately.

Figure 2. Percentage of Drug Poisoning Deaths with No Specific Drugs Mentioned, Kansas residents, 2000 - 2017

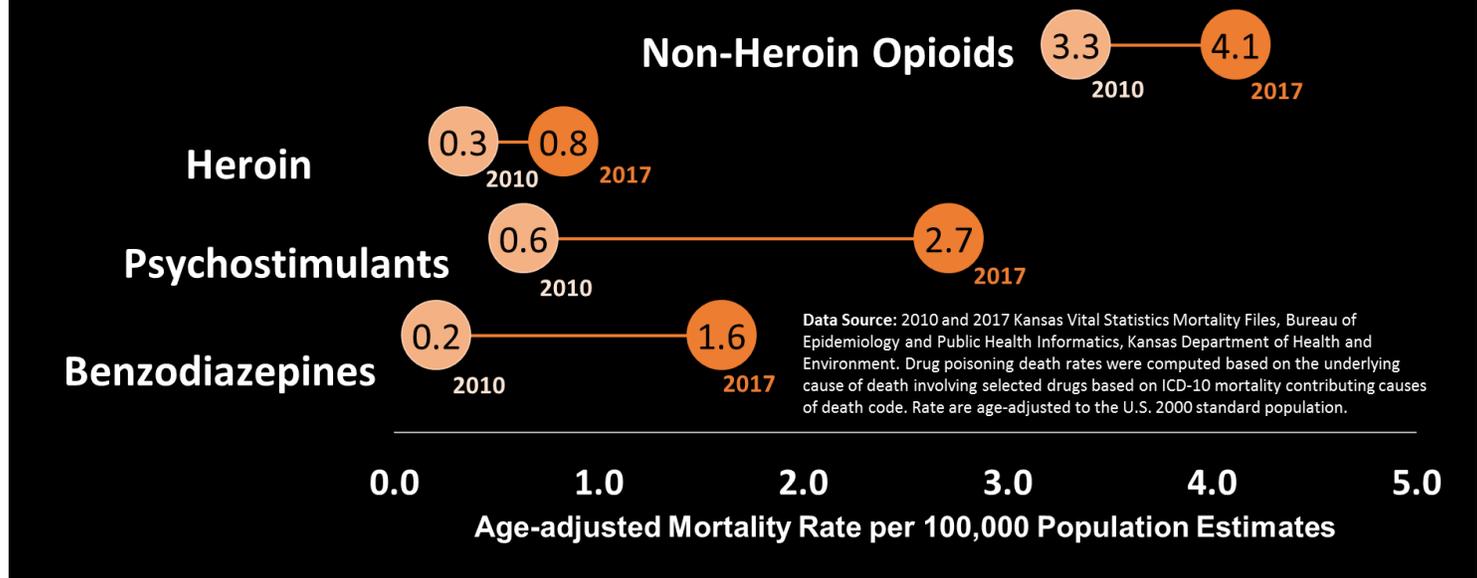


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## Special Emphasis Report: Drug Poisoning Deaths, 2000-2017

In 2017, non-heroin opioid drugs or substances continued to remain a persistent contributing cause of at least 1 out of 3 drug poisoning deaths. Other drugs contributing to drug poisoning deaths include psychostimulants, benzodiazepines, and heroin.

From 2010 to 2017, the age-adjusted drug poisoning mortality rate involving opioids, psychostimulants, and benzodiazepines increased.



### Existing Work in Kansas to Address Drug Poisoning Deaths

- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is funded by CDC's Data-Driven Prevention Initiative (DDPI) to implement prevention initiatives to reduce opioid-related misuse, abuse, dependence, and fatal and non-fatal poisonings. This work includes:
  - Convening the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee.
  - Collaborating with the Kansas Board of Pharmacy to enhance K-TRACS.
  - Collecting epidemiological data to inform and monitor prevention and response efforts.
  - Mini-grants for community-level prevention.
- The KDHE received a supplemental cooperative agreement from the CDC to enhance efforts for primary and secondary prevention of opioid-related harms.
- The Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee published the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Misuse and Overdose Strategic Plan, to guide the implementation of stakeholder efforts.
- The Governor's Task Force to Address Substance Use Disorders developed recommendations around best practices for prevention, treatment, and recovery to inform a collaborative, statewide response to the opioid crisis.
- Opioid Conference – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center.

**KANSAS DATA-DRIVEN PREVENTION INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

<http://www.preventoverdoseks.org/>

Released October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018