

Consortium Prescription Drug Abuse Data Dashboard*

The Consortium Prescription Drug Abuse Data Dashboard displays key indicators for pharmaceutical opioids, benzodiazepines, and heroin. Data selection can be made by age, gender, and region.

The Consortium would like to acknowledge and thank colleagues and members of the Data & Research Work Group for their work in creating the Prescription Drug Abuse Data Dashboard. Special thanks and appreciation to work group co-chairs Barbara Gabella and Dr. Ingrid Binswanger; members Kirk Bol, Adrienne Jones, and Christine Adams; and contractors Jen Shepherd and Chandra Brojde from OMNI Institute for the assistance they provided in bringing this project to fruition.

Why did the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention choose these indicators?

The Consortium chose broad indicators to describe unintended consequences of pharmaceutical opioid use in Colorado both statewide and at sub-state levels. The Consortium used existing data sources available each year to track changes over time.

The Consortium chose three substances for the following reasons:

- 1. Pharmaceutical opioids** (also called opioid analgesics or narcotic pain medications) were involved in 75% of all pharmaceutical overdose deaths in the United States in 2010. [1] In Colorado, pharmaceutical opioids contributed to at least 35% of all drug overdose deaths in 2013. This result might be an undercount because 25% of the drug-related overdose deaths in 2013 did not mention the specific drug involved.
- 2. Heroin** overdoses have a relationship with pharmaceutical opioid overdoses. [2] States, including Colorado, have experienced a doubling of heroin deaths from 2010 to 2012. [3]
- 3. Benzodiazepines** and pharmaceutical opioids occur together as contributory causes of overdose deaths. Nationally, benzodiazepines were involved in 29% of pharmaceutical drug overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2010. [1] Benzodiazepines were involved in 30% of the pharmaceutical opioid related overdose deaths. [1] Conversely, of the pharmaceutical overdose deaths involving benzodiazepines, 77% involved a pharmaceutical opioid. [1]

*Data Dashboard Link:

https://public.tableau.com/views/RXConsortiumdashboard_150527/Readmefirst?:toolbar=no&:display_count=yes&:showVizHome=no

[1] Jones CM, Mack KA, Paulozzi LJ. Pharmaceutical overdose deaths, United States, 2010. JAMA. 2013 Feb 20; 309(7): 657-9. doi: 10.1001/jama.2013.272. PMID: 23423407

[2] Unick GJ, Rosenblum D, Mars S, Ciccarone D. Intertwined epidemics: national demographic trends in hospitalizations for heroin and opioid-related overdoses, 1993-2009. PLoS One. 2013; 8(2): e54496. Doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0054496. PMID: 23405084.

[3] Rudd RA, Paulozzi LJ, Bauer MJ, et al. Increases in heroin overdose deaths – 28 states, 2010 to 2012. MMWR, 2014; 63: 849-54.