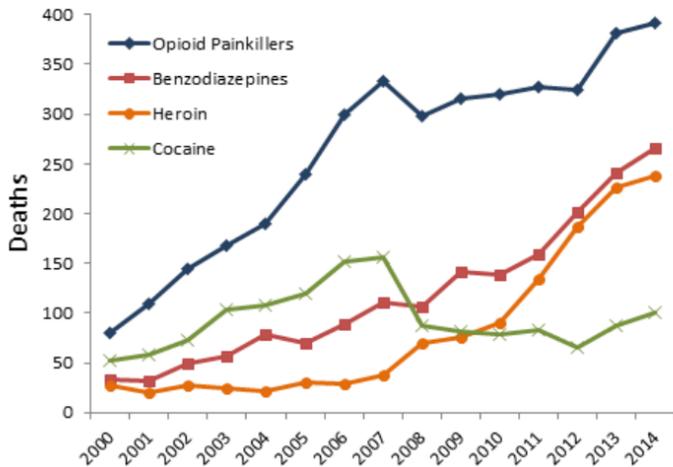


# Opioid Overdose Prevention in Wisconsin

## Overdose Deaths Involving Opioid Painkillers and Other Drugs, Wisconsin, 2000-2014



In Wisconsin, prescription opioids contributed to 392 (47%) of the 843 drug overdose deaths in 2014, while heroin contributed to 238 (28%) of the deaths.

## Signs of an Opioid Overdose

Opioid refers to any drug - natural or synthetic - with morphine-like effects including illegal drugs such as heroin, as well as prescription painkillers (e.g., morphine, oxycodone, hydrocodone).

Face is extremely pale and/or clammy to the touch



Body is limp, cannot be awakened from sleep or is unable to speak

Vomiting or making gurgling noises



Fingernails or lips have a blue or purple cast

Breathing is very slow or stopped



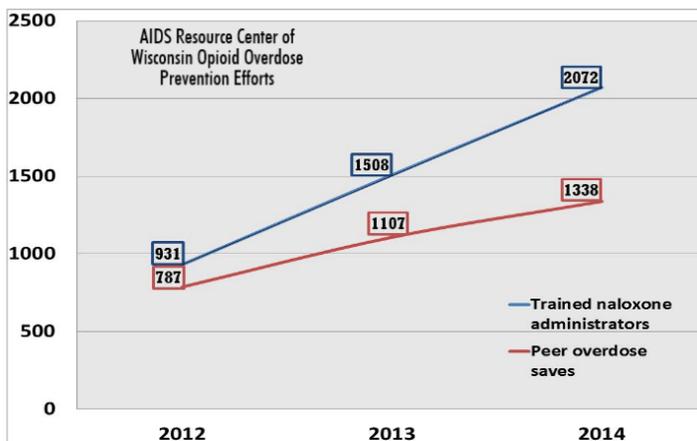
Heartbeat is very slow or stopped

## In Summary

Opioid overdose is a growing public health concern in Wisconsin, as it contributes to a steadily increasing number of unintentional deaths. The growing use of legal and illicit drugs such as heroin and prescription painkillers puts an increased number of Wisconsin residents at risk for an opioid overdose. Experts recommend five key opioid overdose prevention strategies: learn how to prevent and manage opioid overdose; call 911 if witnessing an overdose; seek training on naloxone administration; understand treatment options for individuals who are misusing or addicted to opioids; and support the use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). For further opioid overdose prevention resources, visit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) at [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org).

## Naloxone

Naloxone, branded as Narcan®, is an antidote to opioid overdose.



From 2012 to 2014, the number of community-based individuals trained to administer naloxone in Wisconsin increased by 123%. Peer reported overdose saves also increased in this time period by 70%.

Sources:  
Information Sheet on Opioid Overdose. 2014. World Health Organization (WHO).  
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Drug-related Deaths in Wisconsin. 2015. Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.  
Wisconsin State Crime Lab Heroin Cases. 2015. Wisconsin Department of Justice.  
Wisconsin Substance Use and Mental Health Needs Assessment. 2014. Wisconsin Department of Health Services.  
Wisconsin Special Emphasis Report: Drug Overdose Deaths, 2009-2013. 2015. Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

## Fast Facts



In 2013, more Wisconsin residents died from drug overdose than motor vehicle accidents, suicide, or firearms.



Wisconsin State Crime Lab cases involving heroin increased by 419% from 2008 to 2014.



Of drug overdose deaths in Wisconsin in 2014, 82% were unintentional and 14% were attributed to suicide.



Poisoning is the second leading cause of injury deaths in Wisconsin, with 97% of poisoning cases a result of drug use.



85% of all drug overdoses are witnessed. In April 2014, the Wisconsin Good Samaritan Law was amended to encourage individuals to summon aid in the event of an overdose.