Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center

Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths, 2015 June 3, 2016

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Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths, 2015

In 2015, 1,218 Kentucky residents died from drug overdose according to the death certificates submitted to the Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics as of May 25, 2016 (data are still considered provisional and numbers could change in future reports). This is a 14% increase from the 1,069 Kentucky resident overdose deaths in 2014. The top ten most commonly listed drugs contributing to the 2015 Ky resident overdose deaths were heroin (listed in 24% of all overdose deaths), fentanyl (19%), alprazolam (15%), gabapentin (14%), oxycodone (12%), hydrocodone (10%), morphine (8%), cocaine (8%), clonazepam (6%), and methamphetamine (6%). Many of the deaths involved more than one drug. A death that involved two or more drugs was counted/reported under each relevant drug in Table 1. The three fastest emerging drugs involved in overdose deaths in Kentucky were fentanyl, heroin, and gabapentin. The involvement of fentanyl in Kentucky resident overdose deaths almost doubled from 128 deaths in 2014 to 230 deaths in 2015. Heroin-related deaths increased from 225 in 2014 to 293 in 2015. The number of heroin-related deaths may be undercounted. Morphine is a metabolite of heroin and some of the deaths with listed morphine could be in fact heroin deaths (reference). The increase in the involvement of gabapentin could be due to increased testing for the drug in overdose deaths in 2014-2015.

Over the last five years, Kentucky made significant improvement in capturing the drugs involved in overdose deaths by increasing the number of death certificates that list specific drugs contributing to deaths. In 2011, only 70% of the drug overdose death certificates listed information on the specific drugs, while in 2015 almost 80% of the death certificates provided this information. The improved identification of contributing drugs should be taken into consideration when interpreting the increased number of deaths involving a particular drug. For example, in 2014, oxycodone was involved in 136 overdose deaths out of the 832 deaths with reported drugs involved (i.e. oxycodone was involved in 16% of the overdose deaths with reported contributing drugs). In 2015, oxycodone was reported in 145 deaths, i.e. in 15% (145 out of 968) of the deaths for which specific contributing drugs were reported on the death certificates.

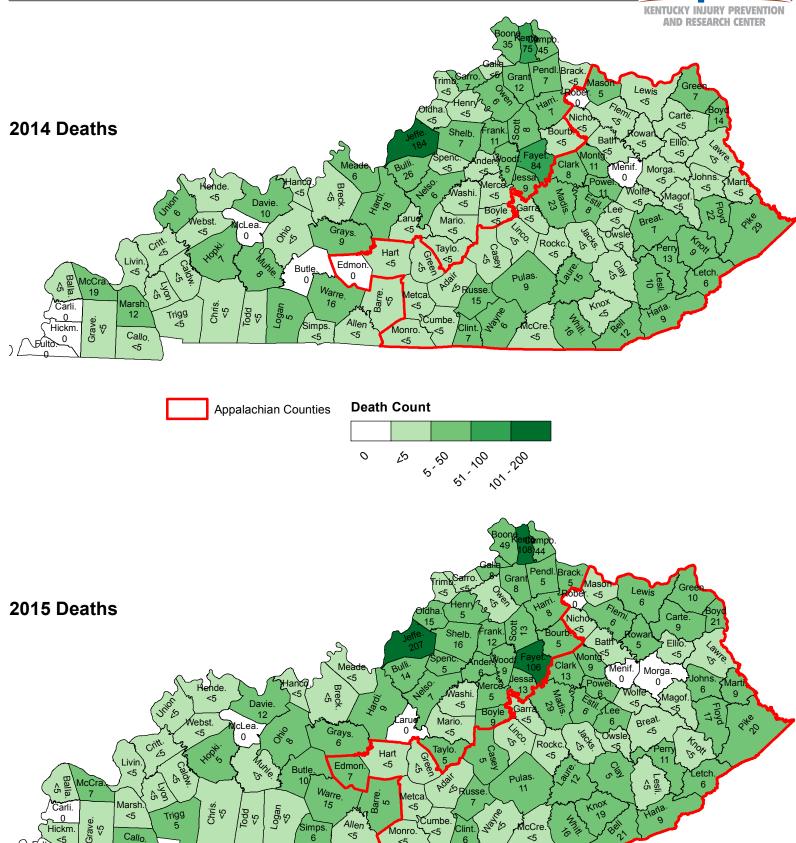
Table 1:

	YEAR of DEATH								
TOP TEN MOST COMMONLY LISTED DRUGS CONTRIBUTING TO KENTUCKY RESIDENT OVERDOSE DEATHS	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015				
(Note: A death that involved two or more drugs was counted/reported under each relevant drug)									
HEROIN	42	131	205	225	293				
FENTANYL	55	36	39	128	230				
ALPRAZOLAM	269	201	182	168	178				
GABAPENTIN	6	9	10	54	173ª				
OXYCODONE	256	188	144	136	145				
HYDROCODONE	195	159	169	157	118				
MORPHINE	46	71	61	74	103 b				
COCAINE	24	55	77	73	93				
CLONAZEPAM	55	48	55	62	71				
METHAMPHETAMINE	16	18	30	41	67				
Total number of Ky resident overdose deaths (any drug, any intent)	1,020	1,032	1,003	1,069	1,218				
Number (percentage) of the drug overdose deaths that listed at least one	717 (70.3%)	732 (70.9%)	752 (75.0%)	832 (77.8%)	968 (79.5%)				
specific drug contributing to the overdose death									

^a The increase in the involvement of gabapentin could be due to increased testing in 2014-2015.

^b Morphine is a metabolite of heroin and some of the deaths with listed morphine could be in fact heroin deaths

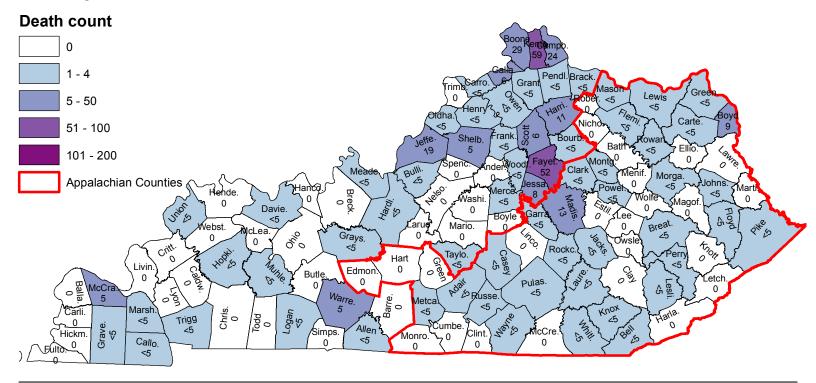




Note: Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/), May 31, 2016. Data are provisional and subject to change. Numbers between 0 and 5 were suppressed according to state data release policy.

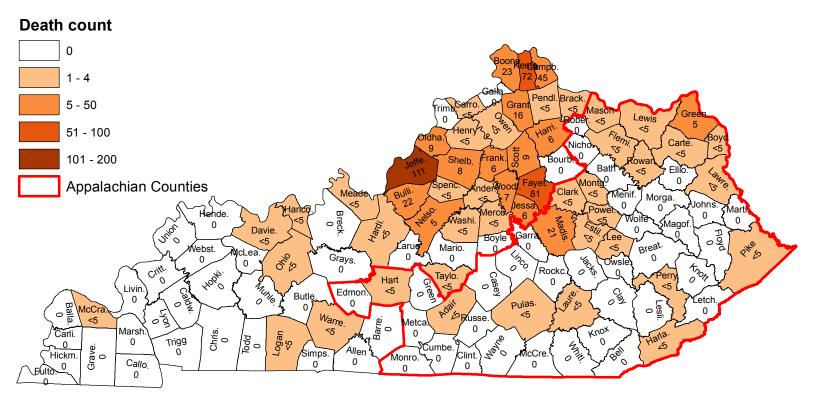


Fentanyl



Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Heroin, by County of Residence, 2014-2015 Combined

Heroin

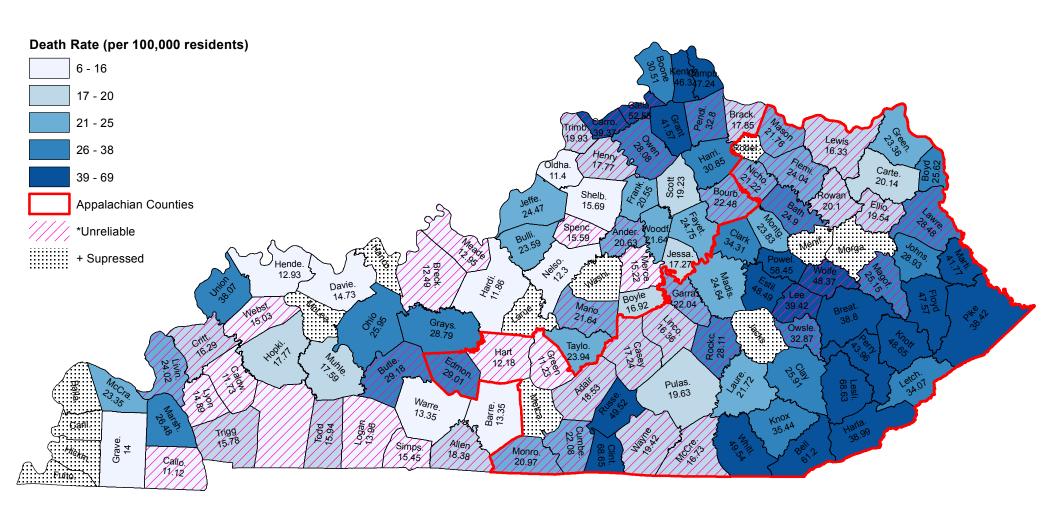


Note: Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/), May 31, 2016. Data are provisional and subject to change. Numbers between 0 and 5 were suppressed according to state data release policy. When a drug overdose episode involves two or more drugs, the case is counted under each relevant drug category.

Created: 6/2/2016
Data Source: Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics
Additional data requests can be submitted to:
KIPRCrequests@ukv.edu

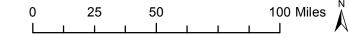
Average Annual Drug Overdose Death Rate Based on Decedent's County of Residence 2012 - 2015





- * Rates based on counts less than 20 are unreliable, and should be interpreted with caution.
- + Rates based on counts less than 5 were suppressed according to the state data release policy.

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Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths						
(These deaths represent overdoses by illicit and/or prescription drugs, regardless of the intent)						
		Ye	ar	Number of		
County of RESIDENCE	2012	2013	2014	2015	Drug Overdose Deaths, 2012-2015 combined	Average Annual Rate (per 100,000 residents)
KENTUCKY (Total)	1,032	1,003	1,069	1,218	4,322	24.53
Adair	<5	5	<5	<5	14	18.53*
Allen	<5	<5	<5	<5	15	18.38*
Anderson	5	5	<5	6	18	20.63*
Ballard	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	+
Barren	<5	10	<5	5	23	13.35
Bath	<5	<5	<5	<5	12	24.90*
Bell	11	24	12	21	68	61.2
Boone	30	39	35	49	153	30.51
Bourbon	<5	7	<5	5	18	22.48*
Boyd	10	5	14	21	50	25.62
Boyle	<5	<5	<5	9	20	16.92
Bracken	0	0	<5	5	6	17.85*
Breathitt	7	5	7	<5	21	38.8
Breckinridge	<5	<5	<5	<5	10	12.49*
Bullitt	22	11	26	14	73	23.59
Butler	<5	<5	0	10	15	29.18*
Caldwell	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	11.73*
Calloway	6	< 5	< 5	5	17	11.12*
Campbell	55	29	45	44	173	47.24
Carlisle	0	<5	0	0	<5	+
Carroll	<5	< 5	7	<5	17	39.37*
Carter	<5	7	<5	9	22	20.14
Casey	<5	<5	<5	5	11	17.24*
Christian	5	9	<5	<5	18	6.06*
Clark	18	10	8	13	49	34.31
Clay	8	7	<5	5	22	25.91
Clinton	10	5	7	6	28	68.65
Crittenden	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	16.29*

Data source: Kentucky Death Certificates Database, Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change.

Average annual rate is calculated as combined number of drug overdose deaths in 2012-2015, divided by the combined population in 2012-2015 and multiplied by 100,000.

Numbers <5 were suppressed according to state data release policy.

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Kentucky Resident Drug Overdose Deaths						
(These deaths represent overdoses by illicit and/or prescription drugs, regardless of the intent)						
		Ye	ar	Number of		
County of RESIDENCE	2012	2013	2014	2015	Drug Overdose Deaths, 2012-2015 combined	Average Annual Rate (per 100,000 residents)
Cumberland	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	22.08*
Daviess	13	23	10	12	58	14.73
Edmonson	<5	<5	0	7	14	29.01*
Elliott	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	19.54*
Estill	11	<5	8	6	28	48.49
Fayette	54	63	84	106	307	24.75
Fleming	0	5	<5	6	14	24.04*
Floyd	16	18	22	17	73	47.57
Franklin	<5	14	11	12	41	20.55
Fulton	<5	0	0	0	<5	+
Gallatin	5	<5	<5	8	18	52.55*
Garrard	5	<5	<5	<5	15	22.04*
Grant	12	9	12	8	41	41.57
Graves	7	6	< 5	<5	21	14
Grayson	9	6	9	6	30	28.79
Green	0	< 5	< 5	<5	5	11.23*
Greenup	<5	14	7	10	34	23.36
Hancock	<5	0	< 5	<5	<5	+
Hardin	12	12	18	9	51	11.86
Harlan	14	12	9	9	44	38.99
Harrison	<5	5	7	8	23	30.85
Hart	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	12.18*
Henderson	8	8	<5	<5	24	12.93
Henry	<5	<5	<5	5	11	17.77*
Hickman	<5	0	0	<5	<5	+
Hopkins	<5	17	7	5	33	17.77
Jackson	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	+
Jefferson	172	179	184	207	742	24.47
Jessamine	9	<5	9	13	35	17.27
Johnson	8	9	<5	6	27	28.93
Kenton	55	65	75	108	303	46.3

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	Year Number of					
County of RESIDENCE	2012	2013	2014	2015	Drug Overdose Deaths, 2012-2015 combined	Average Annual Rate (per 100,000 residents)
Knott	11	7	9	<5	31	48.65
Knox	13	10	<5	19	45	35.44
Larue	0	<5	<5	0	<5	+
Laurel	16	9	15	12	52	21.72
Lawrence	8	<5	<5	<5	18	28.48*
Lee	0	<5	<5	6	11	39.42*
Leslie	11	5	10	<5	30	68.63
Letcher	11	9	6	6	32	34.07
Lewis	<5	0	<5	6	9	16.33*
Lincoln	7	<5	<5	<5	16	16.36*
Livingston	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	24.02*
Logan	<5	<5	5	<5	15	13.96*
Lyon	<5	<5	<5	<5	5	14.89*
Madison	20	13	23	29	85	24.64
Magoffin	5	5	< 5	<5	13	25.15*
Marion	7	<5	<5	<5	17	21.64*
Marshall	6	11	12	<5	33	26.48
Martin	5	<5	<5	9	21	41.77
Mason	<5	<5	5	<5	15	21.76*
McCracken	19	16	19	7	61	23.35
McCreary	<5	<5	<5	<5	12	16.73*
McLean	<5	<5	0	0	<5	+
Meade	<5	<5	6	<5	15	12.95*
Menifee	0	<5	0	0	<5	+
Mercer	<5	<5	<5	5	13	15.22*
Metcalfe	0	0	<5	<5	<5	+
Monroe	<5	<5	<5	<5	9	20.97*
Montgomery	<5	<5	11	9	26	23.83
Morgan	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	+
Muhlenberg	<5	8	8	<5	22	17.59
Nelson	<5	5	6	7	22	12.3

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Nicholas	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	21.22*
Ohio	6	8	<5	8	25	25.95
Oldham	<5	6	<5	15	29	11.4
Owen	<5	<5	6	<5	12	28.08*
Owsley	<5	<5	<5	<5	6	32.87*
Pendleton	<5	<5	7	5	19	32.8*
Perry	16	9	13	11	49	43.96
Pike	29	19	29	20	97	38.42
Powell	7	5	11	6	29	58.45
Pulaski	19	11	9	11	50	19.63
Rockcastle	8	<5	<5	<5	19	28.11*
Rowan	6	<5	<5	5	19	20.10*
Russell	7	6	15	7	35	49.52
Scott	11	7	8	13	39	19.23
Shelby	<5	< 5	7	16	28	15.69
Simpson	<5	<5	<5	6	11	15.45*
Spencer	<5	< 5	< 5	5	11	15.59*
Taylor	10	8	< 5	5	24	23.94
Todd	<5	<5	<5	<5	8	15.94*
Trigg	<5	<5	<5	5	9	15.78*
Trimble	<5	<5	<5	<5	7	19.93*
Union	7	6	6	<5	23	38.07
Warren	17	16	16	15	64	13.35
Washington	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	+
Wayne	<5	<5	6	<5	16	19.42*
Webster	<5	<5	<5	<5	8	15.03*
Whitley	25	14	16	16	71	49.54
Wolfe	<5	<5	<5	<5	14	48.37*
Woodford	<5	5	5	9	22	21.64

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