# COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET



# 2012 Overdose Fatality Report KENTUCKY OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

J. Michael Brown, Secretary
Justice & Public Safety Cabinet

Van Ingram, Executive Director Office of Drug Control Policy

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#### Introduction

Substance abuse, particularly the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, is one of the most critical public health and safety issues facing Kentucky. Over the past decade, the number of Kentuckians who die from drug overdoses has steadily climbed to more than 1,000 each year, exacting a devastating toll on families, communities, social services and economic stability and growth.

In an effort to reverse the trend, the Commonwealth has implemented a number of program and policy initiatives, including but not limited to the statewide use of prescription drug monitoring programs, expanded availability of substance abuse treatment opportunities, and the enactment of laws (House Bill 1 from the 2012 Special Session and House Bil 217 from the 2013 Regular Session) specifically addressing the availability of prescription medications.

HB 1 mandates that the Office of Drug Control Policy, in cooperation with the Kentucky Medical Examiners Office, prepare and publish an annual public report to the Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to include:

- (1) The number of drug-related deaths;
- (2) The decedent's age, race, and gender but not his or her name or address;
- (3) The counties in which those deaths occurred;
- (4) The scientific, trade, or generic names of the drugs involved; and
- (5) The method by which the drugs were obtained, when available.

This report was compiled utilizing data from the Kentucky Medical Examiners Office, the Kentucky Injury Prevention & Research Council, and the Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics.

Highlights of the 2012 findings include:

- For the first time in a decade, Kentucky overdose fatalities declined. There were 19 fewer deaths in 2012 than in 2011.
- There were 1,004 overdose fatalities in 2012. Of those, 888 were found to be unintentional, 59 were suicides and 57 remain undetermined.
- At the same time, autopsied overdose deaths attributed to the use of heroin increased 650% over the previous year, according to data from the state Medical Examiner's Office: to 143 cases in 2012, up from 22 in 2011,

- In 2012, overdose deaths attributed to the use of heroin accounted for 19.56% of all Kentucky Medical Examiner drug overdose cases. In 2011, that percentage was 3.22%.
- Jefferson County had the most overdose deaths of any county, with 167.
- The largest increase in overdose fatalities occurred in Campbell County, with 25 deaths in 2011 compared to 54 in 2012.
- The largest decrease occurred in Floyd County, with 23 fewer fatalities in 2012 than 2011 (14 versus 37, respectively). Other counties with significant declines in 2012 include Clay (17 fewer), Knox (12 fewer), and Johnson (11 fewer).
- Overdose deaths in many Eastern Kentucky counties, when compared by 100,000 population, combined 2011 and 2012 data, showed high rates. The top 10 counties by overdose deaths per 100,000 people for 2011 and 2012 combined are:

Leslie County	85 per 100,000
Clinton County	78 per 100,000
Clay County	76 per 100,000
Estill County	69 per 100,000
Floyd County	65 per 100,000
Nicholas County	64 per 100,000
Perry County	63 per 100,000
Letcher County	62 per 100,000
Knott County	59 per 100,000
Johnson County	58 per 100,000

A review of cases autopsied by the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office indicates that in 2012:

- Alprazolam remained the most detected controlled substance in overdose deaths, present in 41.44% of all autopsied cases.
- Morphine was next at 32.01%, followed by hydrocodone 25.99%, Oxycodone 24.21%, Heroin at 19.56%, and Oxymorphone at 17.51%. It should be noted that many of the cases with morphine detected may in fact involve heroin, as

morphine is the major pharmaceutical substance detected in the blood after injection of heroin.

• The youngest overdose fatality was 16 years old and the oldest was 72 years old.

• Average Age: 40

• Male: 58%

• Female: 42%

### Overdose Deaths by County

The following chart lists the number of drug overdose deaths by county for 2011 and 2012, as well as the rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 persons for both years combined.

Information provided by the Kentucky Injury Prevention & Research Council and the Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics

\*Please note: The Office of Vital Statistics does not report an exact number if county deaths are less than 5 persons.

KY County of residence	Number of deaths due to drug overdose			Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population 2011- 2012
	2011	2012	All	All
Adair	*	*	*	11
Allen	*	*	7	17
Anderson	6	*	10	23
Ballard	*	0	*	6
Barren	*	*	8	9
Bath	6	*	7	30
Bell	17	11	28	49
Boone	19	29	48	20
Bourbon	*	*	5	13
Boyd	10	10	20	20
Boyle	5	*	8	14
Bracken	*	0	*	12
Breathitt	*	7	9	33
Breckinridge	*	*	*	10
Bullitt	14	22	36	24
Butler	*	*	7	27
Caldwell	*	*	*	15
Calloway	5	5	10	13
Campbell	25	54	79	43
Carlisle	0	0	0	0
Carroll	*	*	7	32
Carter	5	*	7	13

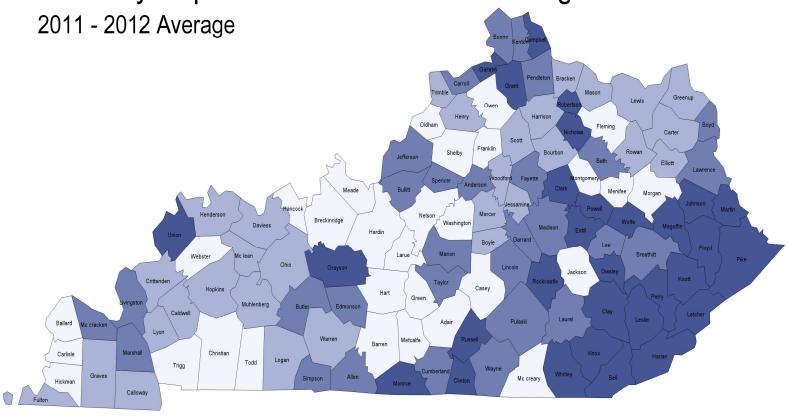
KY County of residence	Number of deaths due to drug overdose			Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population 2011- 2012
	2011	2012	All	All
Casey	*	*	*	9
Christian	5	5	10	7
Clark	13	18	31	43
Clay	25	8	33	76
Clinton	6	10	16	78
Crittenden	*	*	*	16
Cumberland	*	*	*	29
Daviess	10	13	23	12
Edmonson	*	*	6	25
Elliott	*	*	*	13
Estill	9	11	20	69
Fayette	55	53	108	18
Fleming	*	0	*	10
Floyd	37	14	51	65
Franklin	6	*	10	10
Fulton	*	*	*	15
Gallatin	*	*	8	47
Garrard	8	5	13	39
Grant	8	11	19	39
Graves	*	7	10	13
Grayson	12	9	21	40
Green	0	0	0	0
Greenup	8	*	11	15
Hancock	0	*	*	6
Hardin	10	11	21	10
Harlan	10	14	24	42
Harrison	*	*	5	13
Hart	*	*	*	11
Henderson	*	8	11	12
Henry	*	*	*	13
Hickman	0	0	0	0
Hopkins	10	*	14	15

KY County of residence	Number of deaths due to drug overdose			Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population 2011- 2012
	2011	2012	All	All
Jackson	0	*	*	4
Jefferson	144	167	311	21
Jessamine	8	9	17	17
Johnson	19	8	27	58
Kenton	55	54	109	34
Knott	8	11	19	59
Knox	21	9	30	47
Larue	*	0	*	4
Laurel	20	15	35	29
Lawrence	6	6	12	38
Lee	*	0	*	19
Leslie	8	11	19	85
Letcher	19	11	30	62
Lewis	*	*	*	14
Lincoln	6	7	13	26
Livingston	*	*	6	32
Logan	*	*	7	13
Lyon	*	*	*	12
McCracken	14	19	33	25
McCreary	0	*	*	8
McLean	*	*	*	16
Madison	16	20	36	21
Magoffin	9	5	14	53
Marion	5	5	10	25
Marshall	7	6	13	21
Martin	8	5	13	51
Mason	*	*	6	17
Meade	*	*	*	7
Menifee	*	0	*	8
Mercer	*	*	5	12
Metcalfe	0	0	0	0
Monroe	8	*	12	55

KY County of residence	Number of deaths due to drug overdose			Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population 2011- 2012
	2011	2012	All	All
Montgomery	*	*	5	9
Morgan	*	*	*	11
Muhlenberg	5	*	8	13
Nelson	5	*	8	9
Nicholas	6	*	9	64
Ohio	*	6	8	17
Oldham	7	*	11	9
Owen	*	*	*	9
Owsley	*	*	*	42
Pendleton	5	*	8	27
Perry	20	16	36	63
Pike	35	29	64	50
Powell	5	7	12	48
Pulaski	15	19	34	27
Robertson	*	0	*	45
Rockcastle	7	8	15	44
Rowan	*	6	8	17
Russell	8	7	15	43
Scott	5	11	16	16
Shelby	*	*	7	8
Simpson	5	*	7	20
Spencer	*	*	6	17
Taylor	7	10	17	34
Todd	0	*	*	8
Trigg	*	*	*	7
Trimble	0	*	*	11
Union	5	7	12	40
Warren	21	17	38	16
Washington	*	*	*	8
Wayne	6	*	9	22
Webster	*	*	*	7
Whitley	15	25	40	56

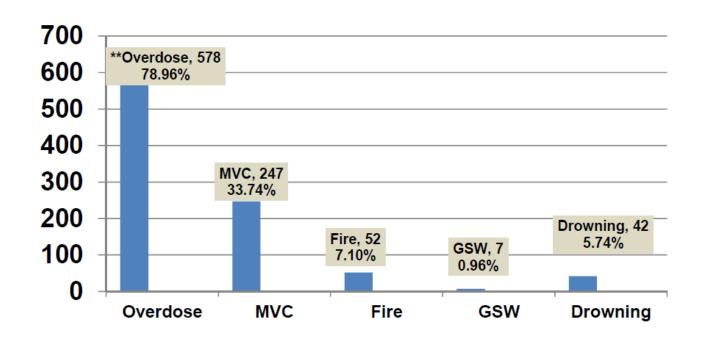
KY County of residence	Number of deaths due to drug overdose			Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population 2011- 2012
	2011	2012	All	All
Wolfe	*	*	6	41
Woodford	*	*	6	12

Kentucky Map of Rate of Deaths Due to Drug Overdose



Rate per 100,000 \_\_\_\_\_ 0.0 - 10.9 \_\_\_\_\_ 11.4 - 17.2 \_\_\_\_\_ 17.3 - 38.5 \_\_\_\_\_ 38.6 - 84.6

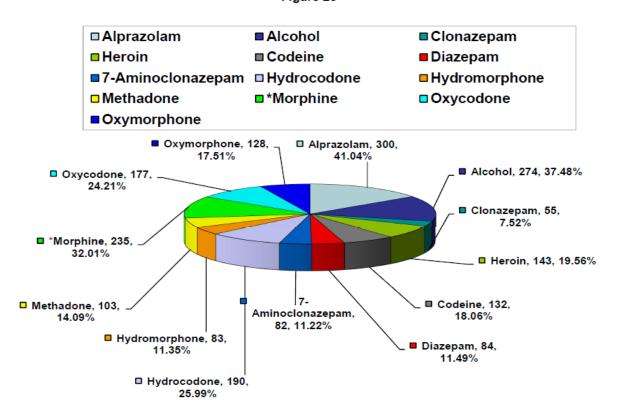
## 2012 Statewide Accidents by Major Causes of Death Figure 14



<sup>\*</sup>Only Major Categories of accidents are illustrated

<sup>\*\*</sup>Overdoses with manner of death other than "accident" are not included in above totals\*

#### 2012 Statewide Drugs Most Frequently Detected in the Blood of Overdose Victims Figure 25



<sup>\*</sup>Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of Heroin

<sup>\*</sup>Total Percentages >100% due to more than 1 drug being present in many decedents

<sup>\*</sup>Total statewide overdose cases = 731