



## Prescription Opiate Poisonings among Arizona Residents, 2015

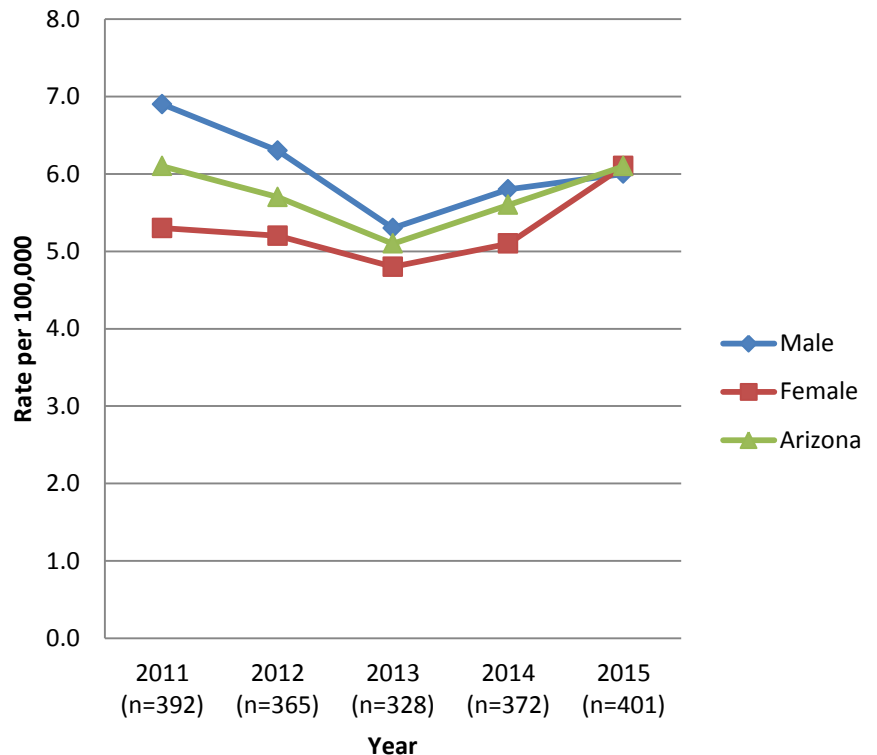
**Poisoning was the leading cause of injury-related mortality among Arizona residents in 2015.**

- 401 (30%) of those deaths were attributable to prescription opiates
- Among these deaths OxyContin (45.8%) was the most common drug found contributing to death, followed by Morphine (25.9%)

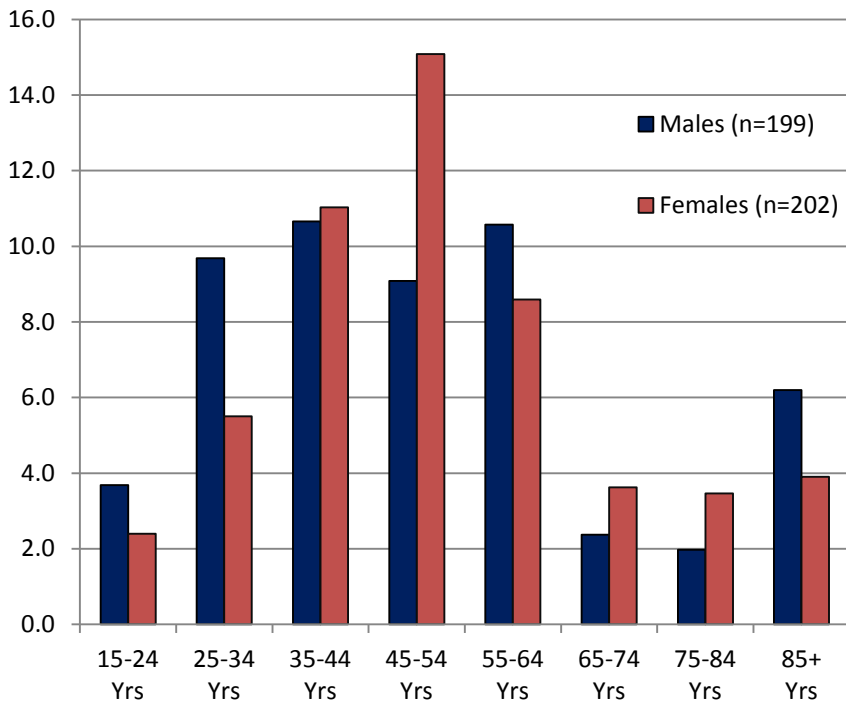
### Prevention Tips

- Never take a prescription medication that is not prescribed to you or take it more often or in higher doses than prescribed.
- Never share your prescription medications with anyone.
- Store prescription medications out of reach with the label attached and with the child-resistant cap secured.
- Keep track of how many prescription pills are in your bottle so you are immediately aware if any are missing.
- Dispose of all unused and expired prescription medications properly. If possible, take your un-used prescriptions to a permanent collection site or drop-off event.

Age-adjusted Pharmaceutical Opiate Overdose Rates per 100,000 Residents by Gender in Arizona, 2011-2015



**Age-specific Pharmaceutical Opioid Death Rates per 100,000 Residents by Sex, Arizona 2015**



## Burden of Opiate Epidemic

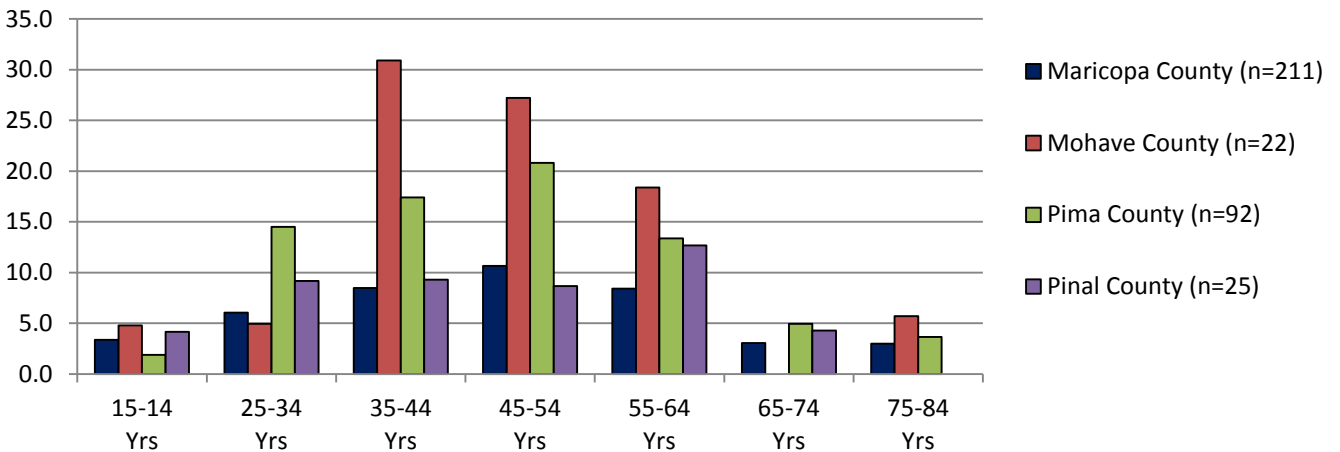
- In 2015, adults 45-54 years old had the highest age-specific mortality rate (12.1 deaths per 100,000 residents) followed by those 35-44 years old (10.8 deaths per 100,000).

- White non-Hispanic residents had the highest age-adjusted mortality rate for Pharmaceutical Opiates at 8.1 deaths per 100,000 residents.

- Unintentional poisoning accounted for 76% of Pharmaceutical Opiates, while Suicide poisoning contributed to 12.1% of deaths.

- The counties with the highest age-adjusted prescription opiate mortality rates in Arizona include Mohave County, Maricopa County, Pima County and Pinal County.

**Age-specific Pharmaceutical Opioid Death Rate per 100,000 Residents by County, Arizona 2015**



Poisoning Deaths presented in this factsheet were analyzed and compiled before final year close out. Lag times for examining, confirming toxicology, and reporting unusual deaths from Medical Examiners to Office of Vital Records may vary from 4-6 months. ADHS anticipates the numbers of drug poisoning deaths will be higher after analysis of close out death data.