



## **A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC**

### ***Drug Overdose Deaths***

*What do we know about drug overdose deaths in the United States?*

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This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.  
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Every day more than 50 people die from unintentional drug overdoses in the United States. A recent CDC study found that the number of deaths has increased dramatically. In 1999, there were about eleven thousand deaths from drug overdoses. By 2004, this number had grown to nearly twenty thousand.

CDC learned that men are twice as likely to die from a drug overdose as women, and that a growing number of victims are between the ages of 15 and 24. They also found that drug overdose deaths have become more common in rural areas, especially in the South and Midwest.

Prescription pain medications like methadone are the most common drugs to result in drug overdoses. Raising awareness among physicians, other healthcare providers, and patients is an important strategy for reducing drug overdose deaths.

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