

Injury Deaths Fueled by

DRUG MISUSE

“Injuries are persistent public health problems. New troubling trends, like the prescription drug overdose epidemic, increasing rates of fall-related deaths and traumatic brain injuries, are serious and **require immediate response.**”

-CORINNE PEEK-ASA

PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Leading Causes of Injury Deaths in the U.S. (2013)



**DRUG
OVERDOSES**

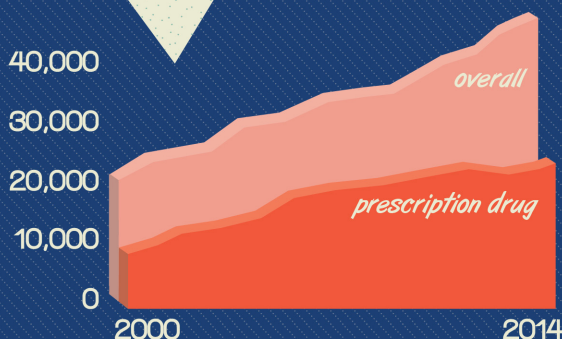
SUICIDES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

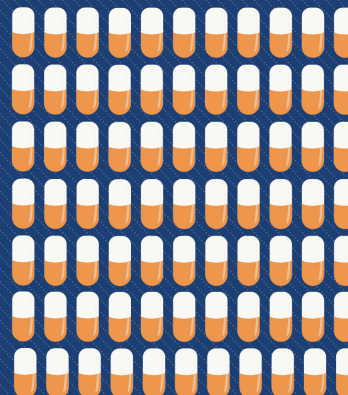
Drug overdoses surpassed suicides as the **#1** leading cause of injury death in the U.S. in 2013.

Over 2 MILLION Americans misuse prescription drugs

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS HAVE MORE THAN
DOUBLED IN THE PAST 14 YEARS & HALF OF
THEM ARE RELATED TO **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**



2000

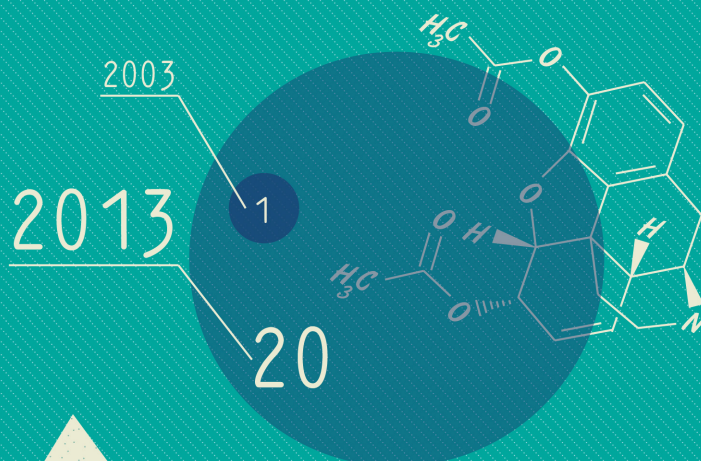
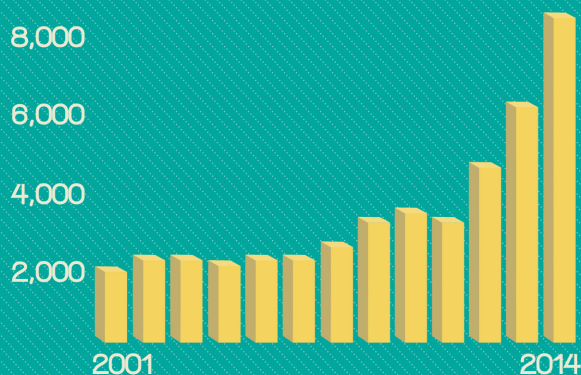


2013

THE NUMBER OF
IOWANS DYING
FROM PRESCRIPTION
PAINKILLER OVER-
DOSES JUMPED
FROM 4 IN 2000 TO
77 IN 2013

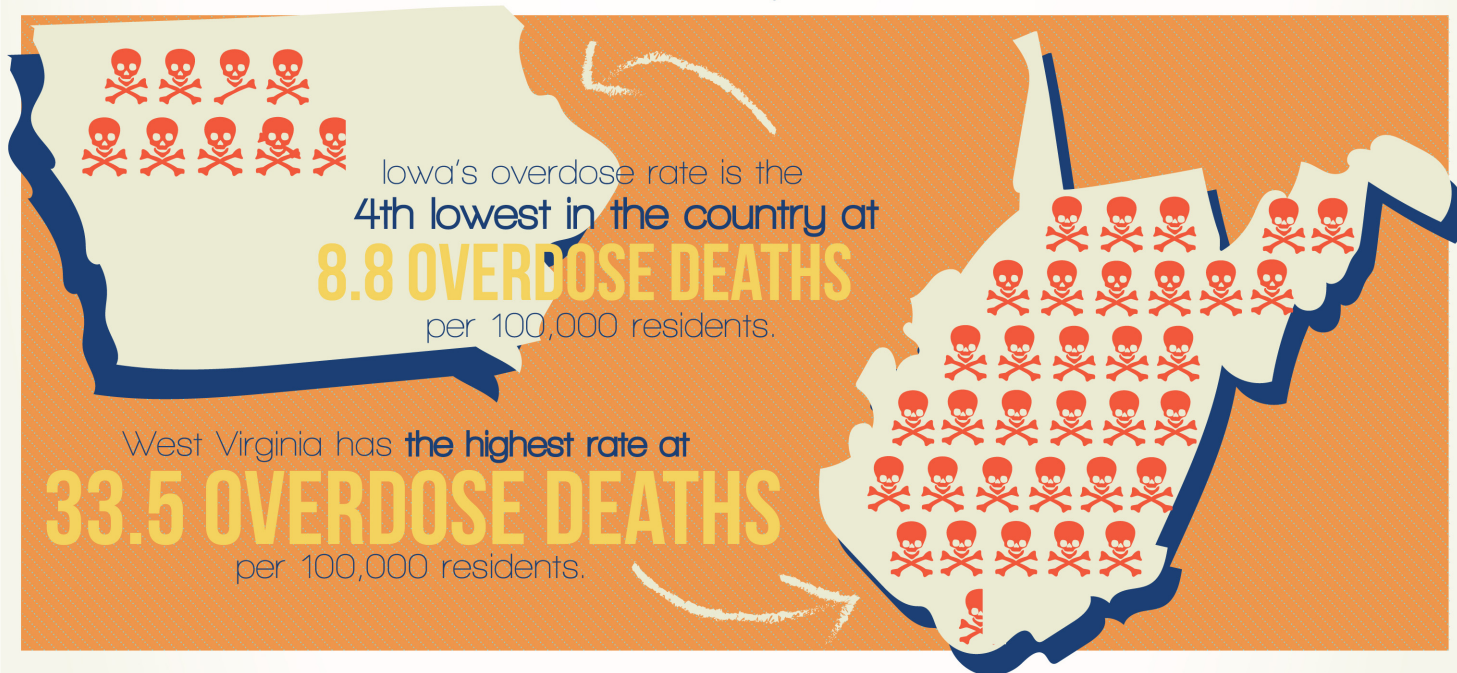
THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EPIDEMIC *is also contributing to an* **INCREASE IN HEROIN USE**

The number of new heroin users has **doubled** in the past 7 years



Iowa heroin overdose deaths increased from **1** in 2003 to **20** in 2013

Overdose Rate by State (2014)



WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

STRENGTHEN PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS

PDMPs are state-run electronic databases used to track the prescribing and dispensing of controlled prescription drugs. Use of PDMPs should be mandated, modernized, and fully funded.

EDUCATION FOR PROVIDERS

Ensure responsible prescribing practices. Health care providers should be able to identify signs of addiction so these patients can be referred for treatment.

ACCESS TO TREATMENT

Increase access to substance abuse treatment programs.

EXPANDED TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS AND PATIENT EDUCATION

Ensure people understand the risks of misusing prescription medications, as well as how to safely store and dispose of drugs.



Sources: Trust for America's Health; Iowa Department of Public Health; University of Iowa College of Public Health
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