



SPF-PFS Newsletter



Red Rock BHS February 2016

Oklahoma Youth Drug Overdose Death Rate Triples in Last 12 Years

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Oklahoma had the 14th-highest rate of youth drug overdose deaths in the nation from 2011 to 2013, according to a report released Thursday.

The state saw a rate of nine deaths per 100,000 youth, ages 12 to 25, during that three-year period. Meanwhile, the national rate was seven deaths per 100,000, according to the report from Trust for America's Health, a Washington, D.C.-based health advocacy group.

Additionally, Oklahoma was one of 12 states that saw its youth drug overdose death rate triple over the past 12 years.

The increase in youth drug overdose deaths is largely tied to increases in prescription drug misuse and the related doubling in heroin use by 18- to 25-year-olds in the past 10 years, according to the report. An estimated 45 percent of people who use heroin also are addicted to prescription painkillers.

“More than 90 percent of adults who develop a substance use disorder began using before they were 18,” Jeffrey Levi, executive director of Trust for America's Health, said in a statement. “Achieving any major reduction in substance misuse will require a reboot in our approach — starting with a greater emphasis on preventing use before it starts, intervening and providing support earlier and viewing treatment and recovery as a long-term commitment.”

In recent years, Oklahoma has seen its overall rate of prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths skyrocket, with the state seeing some of the highest rates of drug abuse in the nation.

Additionally, Oklahoma has seen the number of residents dying from heroin increase, although not at the same magnitude as other states.

As the report points out, Oklahoma could be doing more to curb youth abuse.

Although the state has implemented policies that help combat abuse among young people — such as laws that hold businesses accountable for selling alcohol to underage residents or obviously drunk people — the state lacks other important measures.

For example, Oklahoma does not have a “Good Samaritan” law, which provides some immunity from criminal charges when people, for example, call 911 when a friend is overdosing. The state also lacks a comprehensive bullying law.

“The case for a prevention-first and continuum-of-care approach is supported by more than 40 years of research, but the science hasn't been implemented on a wide scale in the real world,” Alexa Eggleston, senior program officer of domestic programs at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, said in a statement. “It's time to bring innovations to scale and invest in more proactive and sustained approaches that promote positive protective factors, like safe, stable families, homes, schools and communities and intervene early to address youth substance use before addiction develops.”

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Event Calendar

- February 14- Valentine's Day
- February 15- President's Day
- Feb 17- Grady County Interagency Coalition Meeting @12:00 at Canadian Valley Vo-Tech in Chickasha

Helpful Websites:

- * www.RedRockRPC.com
- * www.Drugfree.org
- * www.Ok.gov/odmhas
- * www.ok.gov/obndd
- * <http://takeasprescribed.org/>

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Drop Box Locations

Chickasha Police

Department

2001 W. Iowa Ave.

Chickasha, Oklahoma

73018

405-222-6050

Grady County

Sherriff's Office

302 N. 3rd St.

Chickasha, Oklahoma

405-222-5085



Prescription Medicine is not
candy! Safe guard your
home and children by taking
unused, unwanted and
expired medication and
dropping it in the Disposal
Box!

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