

# Prescription (Rx) Pain Medication Deaths, Utah, 2012

## Rx

In 2012,  
21 adults died from an Rx  
overdose each month.<sup>1</sup>

Rx pain meds have caused  
more deaths than all other  
drug categories, including  
heroin and cocaine combined.<sup>1</sup>

For the age group 45 to 54, more females die of a prescription pain medication overdose than males. For those under age 34, males are significantly more likely to die of a prescription pain medication overdose than females.<sup>3</sup>

### Top 3 Rx pain medications contributing to death<sup>1</sup>

1  
Oxycodone

2  
Methadone

3  
Hydrocodone

The risk of death is significantly higher with  
methadone compared to other pain medications.<sup>1</sup>

The majority of Rx pain medication deaths occur in  
the home.<sup>3</sup>

#### Prevention

- Never share your prescriptions
- Keep track of how many pills you have
- Dispose of unused and expired Rxs properly
- Take your medications to a permanent collection site or a special community take-back event



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1-800-222-1222

Utah Poison Control Center

[uuhsc.utah.edu/posion](http://uuhsc.utah.edu/posion)

#### References

1. Utah Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program, Prescription Pain Medication Program Database
2. Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Controlled Substance Database
3. Utah Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program, Violent Death Reporting System, 2009-2012