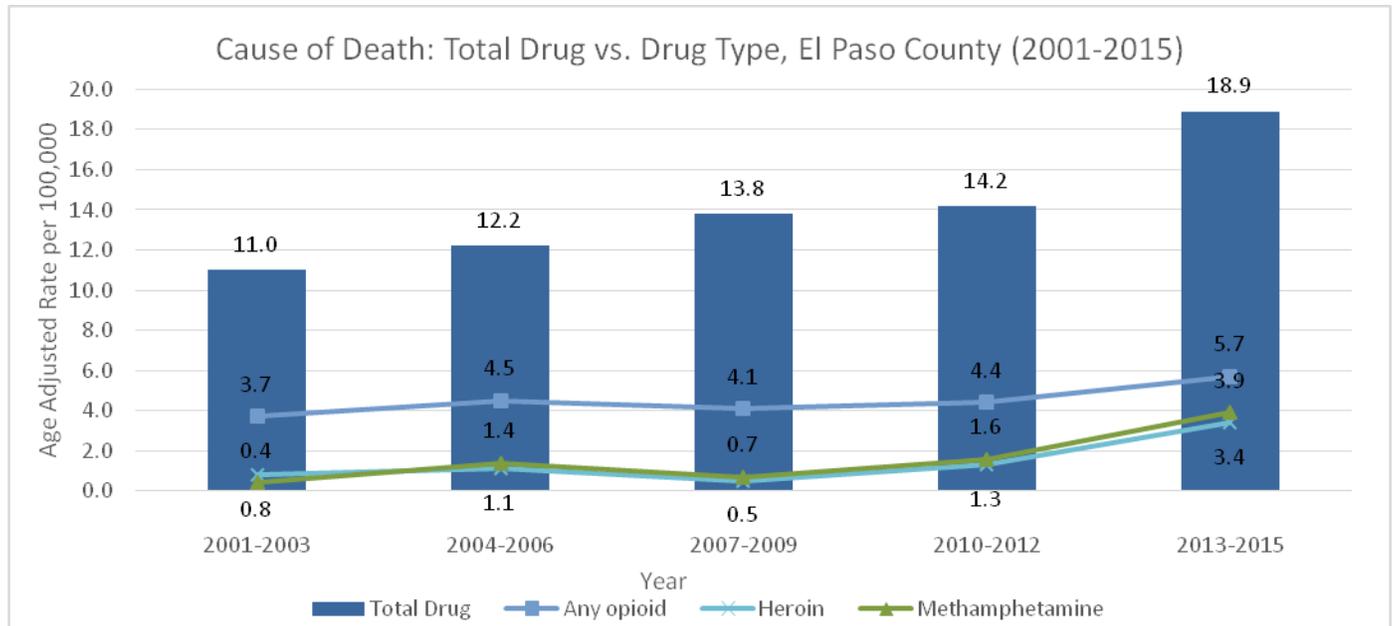


Within El Paso County the cause of death due to opioid overdose has steadily increased from 2010-2015, with the largest increase seen between the 2010-2012 and 2013-2015 time period. This increase in opioid overdoses correlates to the increase in heroin-caused deaths from 2010-2015.



The majority of drug overdose deaths (more than six out of ten) involve an opioid.¹ And since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioid pain relievers and heroin) nearly quadrupled.² From 2000 to 2014 nearly half a million people died from drug overdoses.

We now know that overdoses from prescription opioid pain relievers are a driving factor in the 15-year increase in opioid overdose deaths. Since 1999, the amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. nearly quadrupled,³ yet there has not been an overall change in the amount of pain that Americans report.^{4,5} Deaths from prescription opioids—drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone—have also quadrupled since 1999.⁶

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Increases in Drug and Opioid Overdose Deaths — United States, 2000–2014. MMWR 2015; 64:1-5.

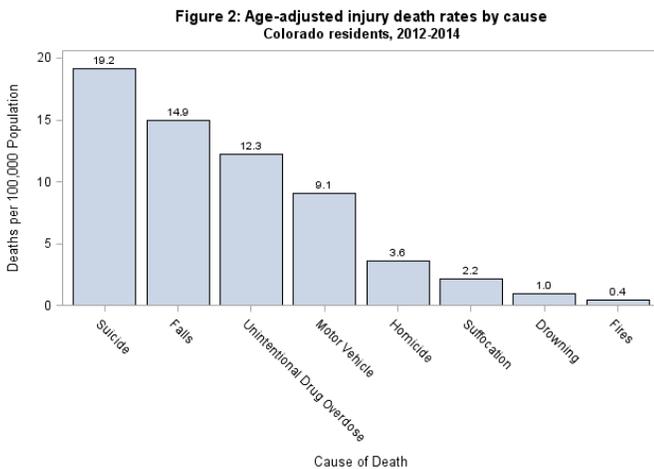
² CDC. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

³ CDC. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

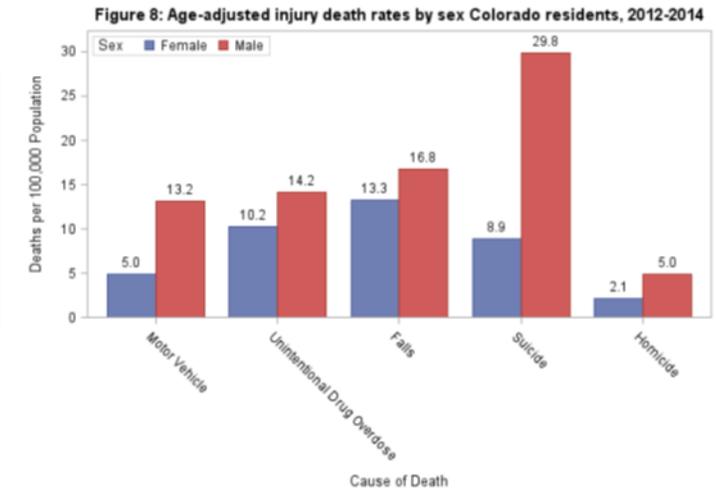
⁴ Chang H, Daubresse M, Kruszewski S, et al. Prevalence and treatment of pain in emergency departments in the United States, 2000 – 2010. *Amer J of Emergency Med* 2014; 32(5): 421-31.

⁵ Daubresse M, Chang H, Yu Y, Viswanathan S, et al. Ambulatory diagnosis and treatment of nonmalignant pain in the United States, 2000 – 2010. *Medical Care* 2013; 51(10): 870-878.

⁶ CDC. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>



*Unintentional drug overdose includes drug overdoses of undetermined intent



7 *Unintentional drug overdose includes drug overdoses of undetermined intent

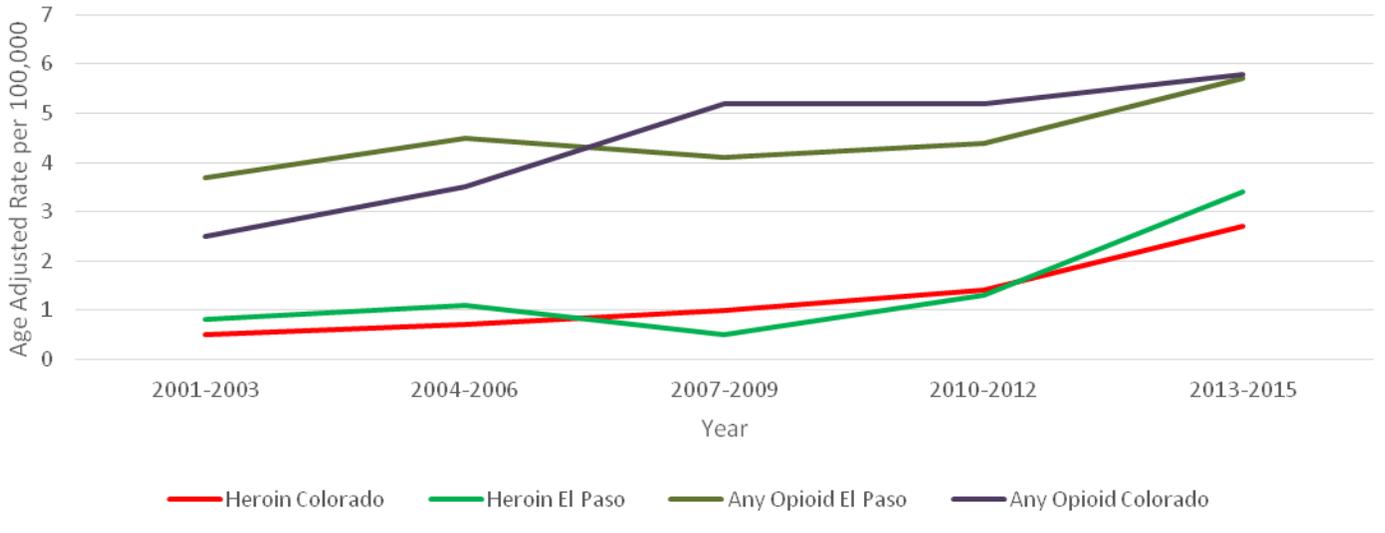
Risk Factors for Heroin Abuse

- Past misuse of prescription opioids is the strongest risk factor for starting heroin use – especially among people who became dependent upon or abused prescription opioids in the past year.⁸ This indicates that the transition from prescription opioid non-medical use to heroin use may be part of the progression to addiction.
- More than nine in 10 people who used heroin also used at least one other drug.
- Among new heroin users, approximately three out of four report having abused prescription opioids prior to using heroin.
- Increased availability, relatively low price (compared to prescription opioids), and high purity of heroin in the U.S. also have been identified as possible factors in the rising rate of heroin use. According to data from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the amounts of heroin confiscated each year at the southwest border of the United States were approximately ≤500 kg during 2000–2008. This amount quadrupled to 2,196 kg in 2013.

⁷ "Injury Data and Epidemiology." Injury Data and Epidemiology | Department of Public Health and Environment. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Nov. 2016.

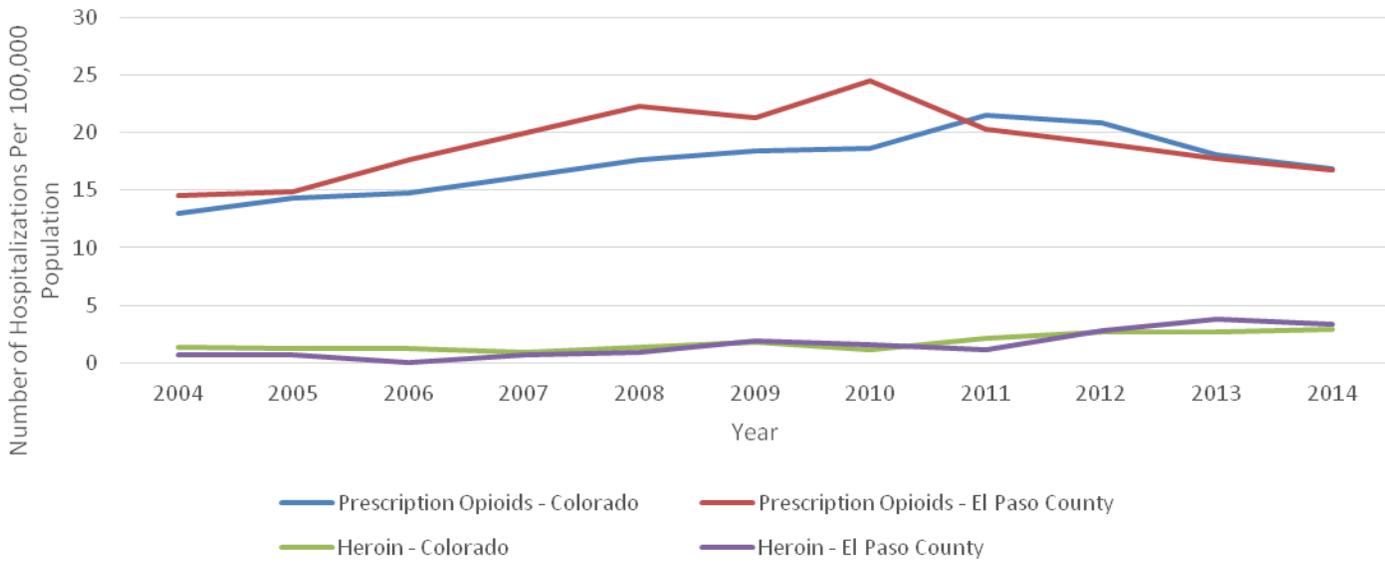
⁸ Compton WM, Jones CM, and Baldwin GT. Understanding the Relationship between Prescription Opioid and Heroin Abuse. NEJM.

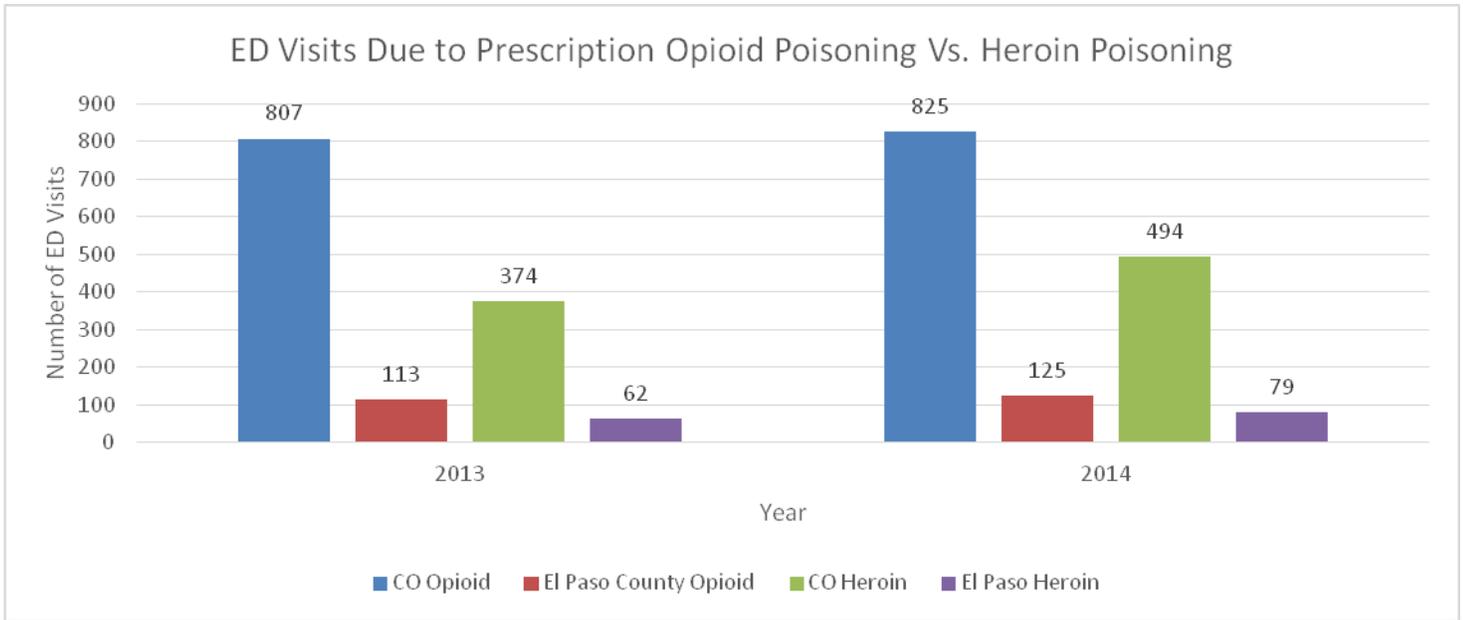
Cause of Death: Heroin vs. Any Opioid by County, 2001-2015



Definitions used based on NCHS Data Brief, No. 81, December 2011, "Drug Poisoning Deaths in the United States, 1980-2008".
 Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

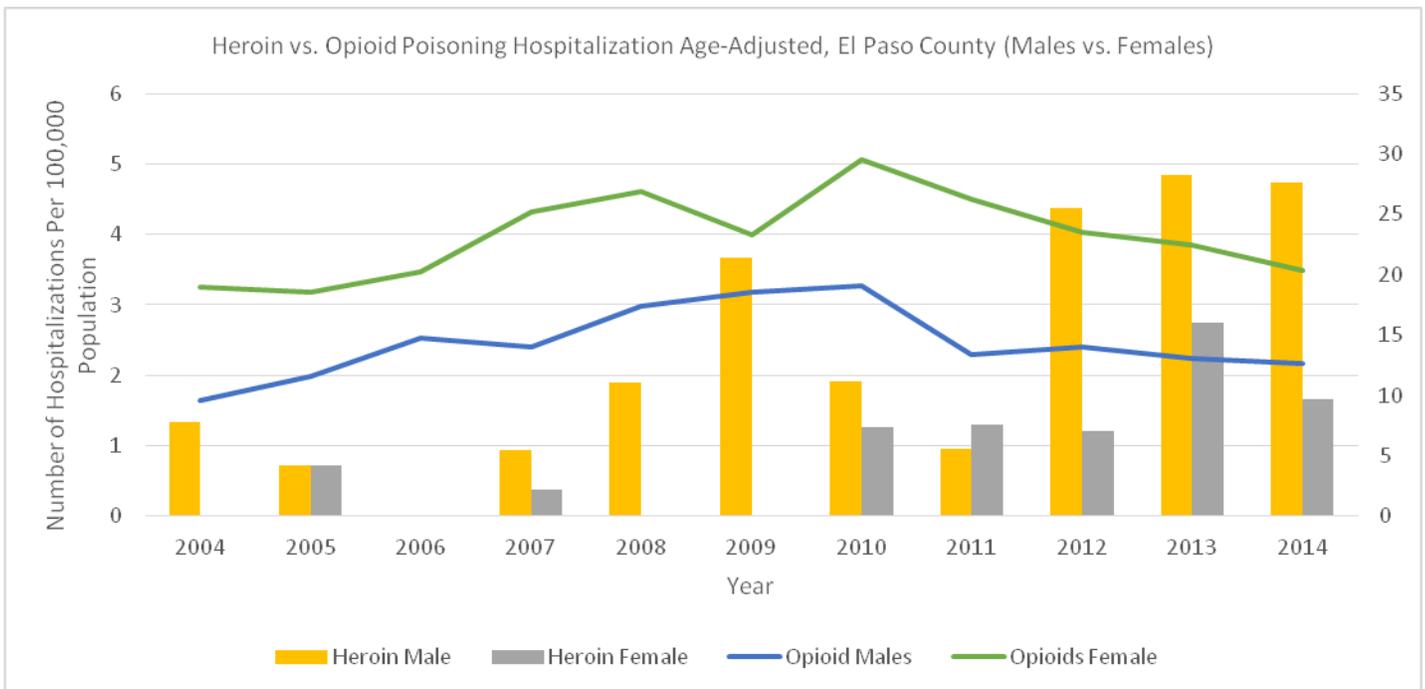
Heroin Poisoning vs. Prescription Opioid Poisoning Hospitalization
 Age-Adjusted (both sexes)





The comparable age-adjusted rates for ED visits due to prescription opioid poisoning and heroin poisoning are generally higher for El Paso County than for the state overall. The greatest increase in ED visits is apparent in the ED visits due to heroin poisoning in the state of Colorado from 2013-2014.

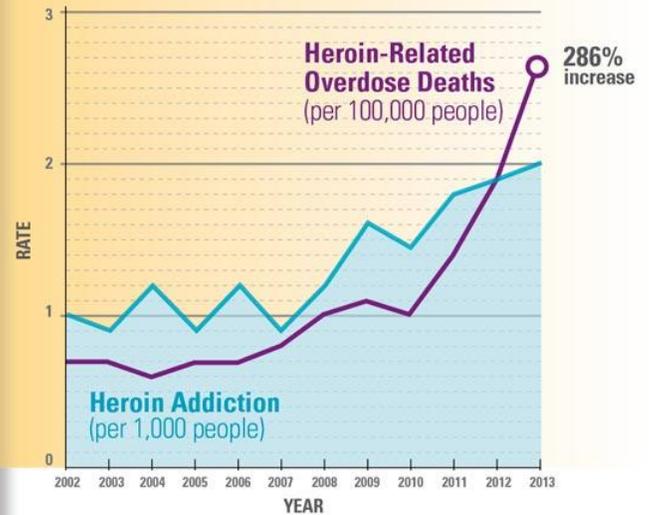
Gender disparities are apparent in hospitalization rates regarding both prescription opioid poisoning and heroin poisoning hospitalizations. Females tend to have a higher rate of hospitalizations within El Paso County due to Prescription Opioid Poisoning, whereas males in El Paso County have a higher rate due to heroin poisoning.



Heroin Use Has INCREASED Among Most Demographic Groups

	2002-2004*	2011-2013*	% CHANGE
SEX			
Male	2.4	3.6	50%
Female	0.8	1.6	100%
AGE, YEARS			
12-17	1.8	1.6	--
18-25	3.5	7.3	109%
26 or older	1.2	1.9	58%
RACE/ETHNICITY			
Non-Hispanic white	1.4	3	114%
Other	2	1.7	--
ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
Less than \$20,000	3.4	5.5	62%
\$20,000-\$49,999	1.3	2.3	77%
\$50,000 or more	1	1.6	60%
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE			
None	4.2	6.7	60%
Medicaid	4.3	4.7	--
Private or other	0.8	1.3	63%

Heroin Addiction and Overdose Deaths are Climbing



SOURCES: National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2002-2013.
National Vital Statistics System, 2002-2013.

Responding to the Heroin Epidemic⁹

- PREVENT People From Starting Heroin
 - Reduce prescription opioid painkiller abuse.
 - Improve opioid painkiller prescribing practices and identify high-risk individuals early.
- REDUCE Heroin Addiction
 - Ensure access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).
 - Treat people addicted to heroin or prescription opioid painkillers with MAT which combines the use of medications (methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone) with counseling and behavioral therapies.
- REVERSE Heroin Overdose
 - Expand the use of naloxone.
 - Use naloxone, a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time.

⁹ CDC Vital signs, July 2015