

From *The Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Public Health Approach to an Epidemic of Addiction* (Annu. Rev. Public Health 2015. 36:559-74)

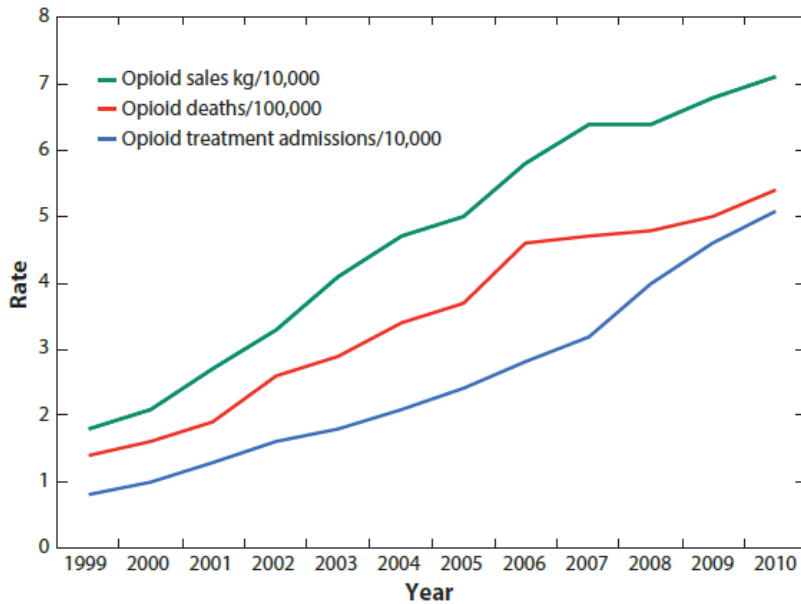
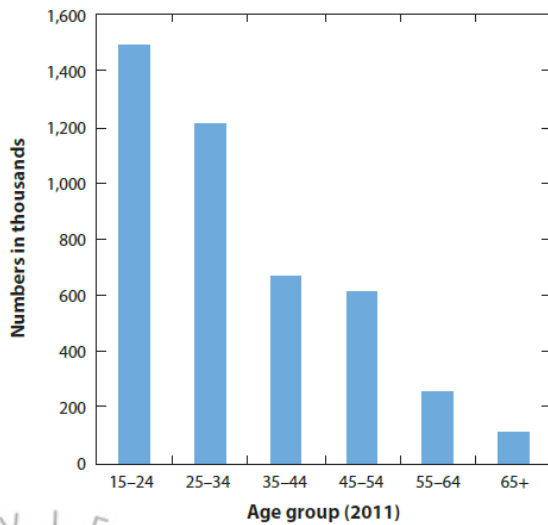


Figure 1

Rates of OPR sales, OPR-related unintentional overdose deaths, and OPR addiction treatment admissions, 1999–2010. Abbreviation: OPR, opioid pain reliever. Source: 10.

a Past month nonmedical OPR use by age



b OPR-related unintentional overdose deaths by age

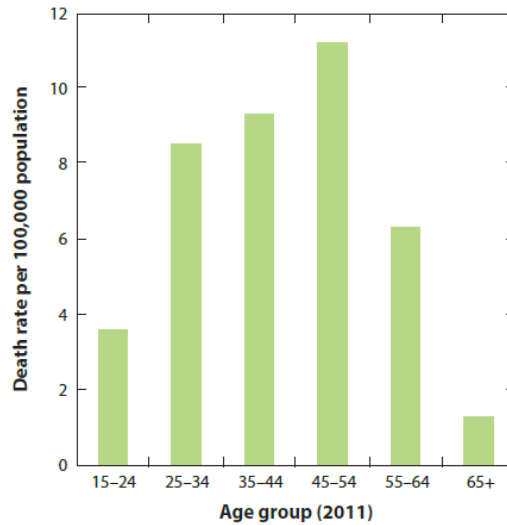


Figure 4

(a) Past month nonmedical OPR use by age versus (b) OPR-related unintentional overdose deaths by age. Abbreviation: OPR, opioid pain reliever. Sources: 58, 68.

“OPR overdose deaths occur most often in adults ages 45–54, and the age group that has experienced the greatest increase in overdose mortality over the past decade is 55–64 (15), an age group in which medical use of OPRs is common. Opioid overdoses appear to occur more frequently in medical OPR users than in young nonmedical users... The sharp increase in the prevalence of opioid addiction is a key driver of opioid-related morbidity and mortality. The misattribution of the opioid crisis to nonmedical use or abuse rather than to addiction has stymied efforts to address this crisis because it has led to a focus on policies to prevent such nonmedical use at the expense of greater resources committed to preventing and treating opioid addiction in both medical and nonmedical users.”