



8 graphics that illustrate the US opioid crisis

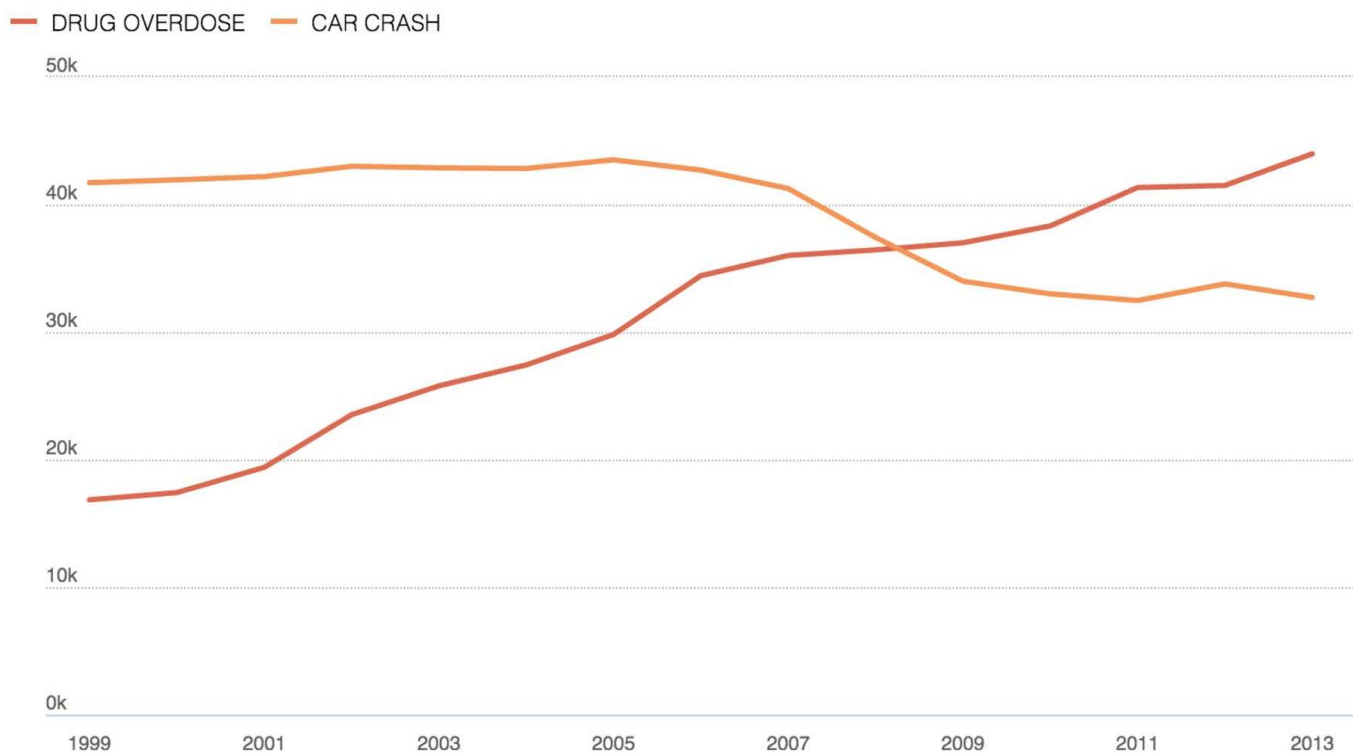
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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 20, 2016

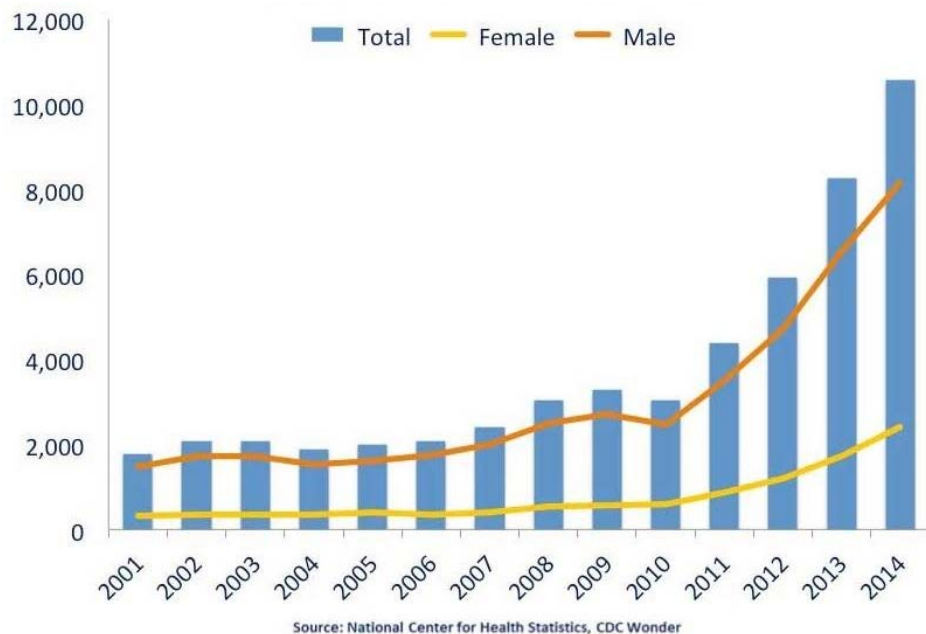
1. Drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death and kills more people than car crashes. In 2013, 43,982 people died from drug overdoses, while 32,719 died in car crashes.



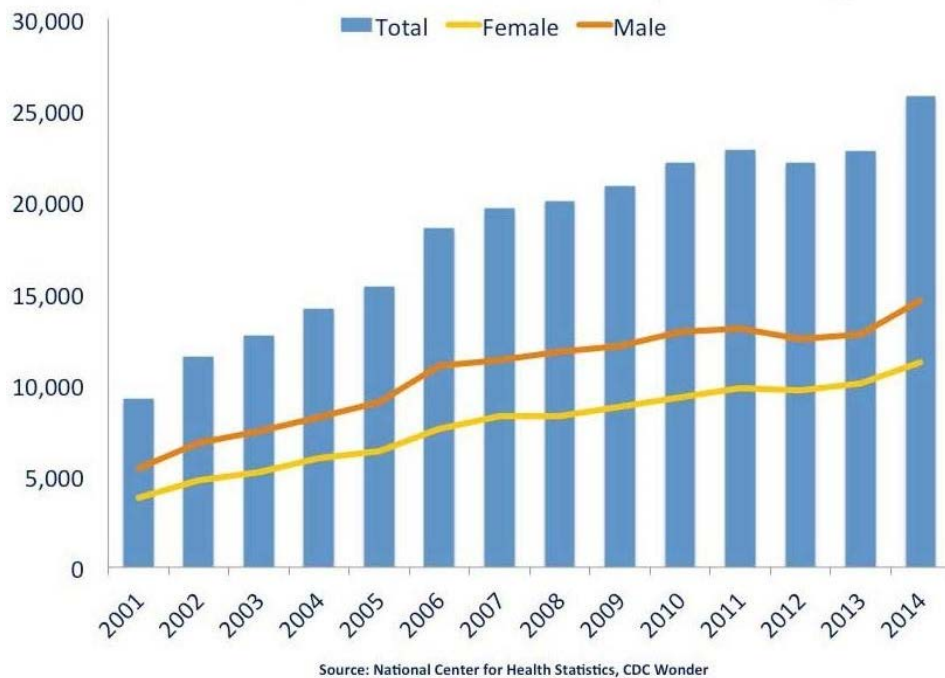
DATA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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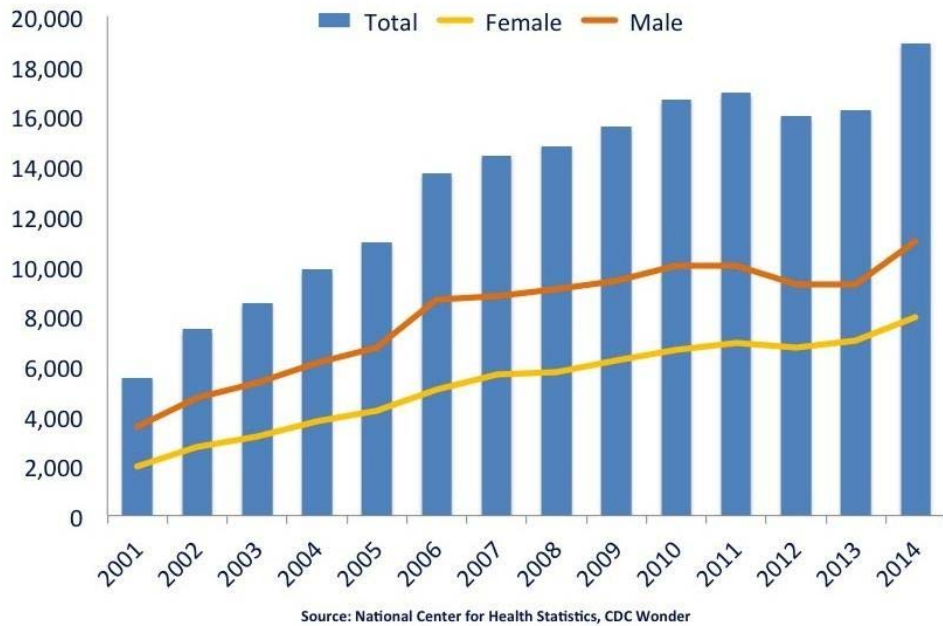
2. About a quarter of drug overdose deaths in 2014 were attributed to heroin. Heroin overdose deaths have risen sharply in the past few years.



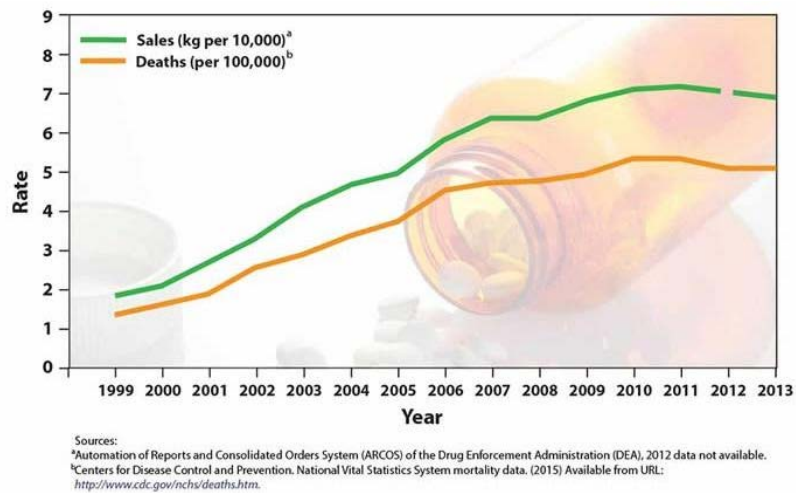
3. Prescription drug overdoses, which accounted for nearly 60 percent of all drug overdose deaths in 2014, are also on the rise.



4. Among prescription drugs, opioid pain relievers have become particularly deadly over the past decade. In 2014, they accounted for 73 percent of prescription drug overdose deaths and 44 percent of all drug overdose deaths.

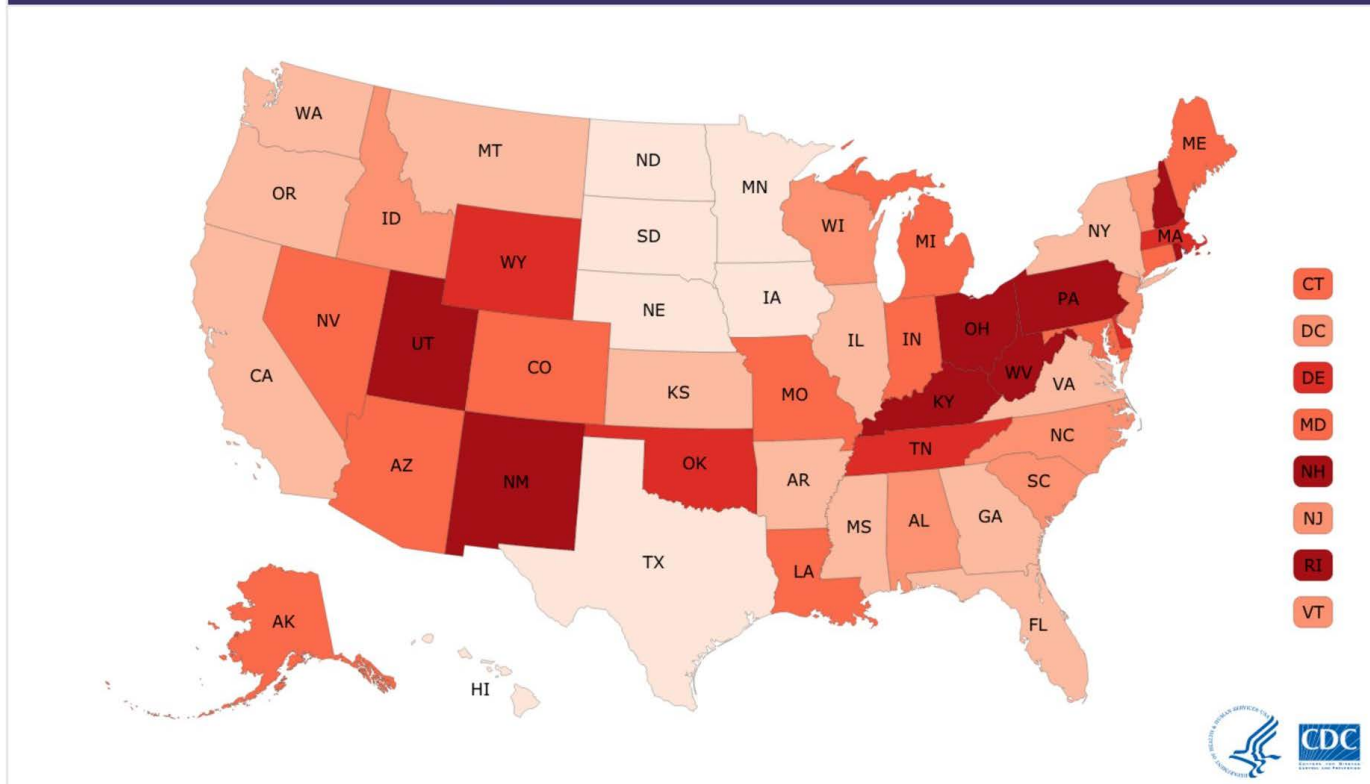


5. As sales of prescription painkillers have quadrupled since 1999, so have deaths from prescription painkillers.

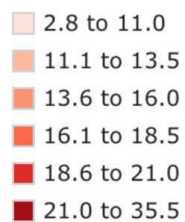


6. The drug overdose epidemic has hit Massachusetts and other New England states particularly hard.

Number and age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths by state, US 2014

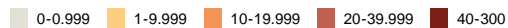


2014 Age-adjusted rate



7. Certain areas of Massachusetts have been hit harder than others.

Opioid deaths per 100,000 people, 2014



SOURCE: Massachusetts Department of Public Health; US Census Bureau

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8. Some deaths have been linked to the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl, which has become increasingly common across the US, including in Massachusetts.

Top 10 states by total fentanyl seizures during 2014. Nationally, there were 4,585 such confiscations in 2014, up from just 618 in 2012.

Rank	State	Number of Fentanyl seizures
1	Ohio	1245
2	Massachusetts	630
3	Pennsylvania	419
4	Maryland	311
5	New Jersey	238
6	Kentucky	232
7	Virginia	222
8	Florida	183
9	New Hampshire	177
10	Indiana	133

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention / National Forensic Laboratory Information System

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @mrochele

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