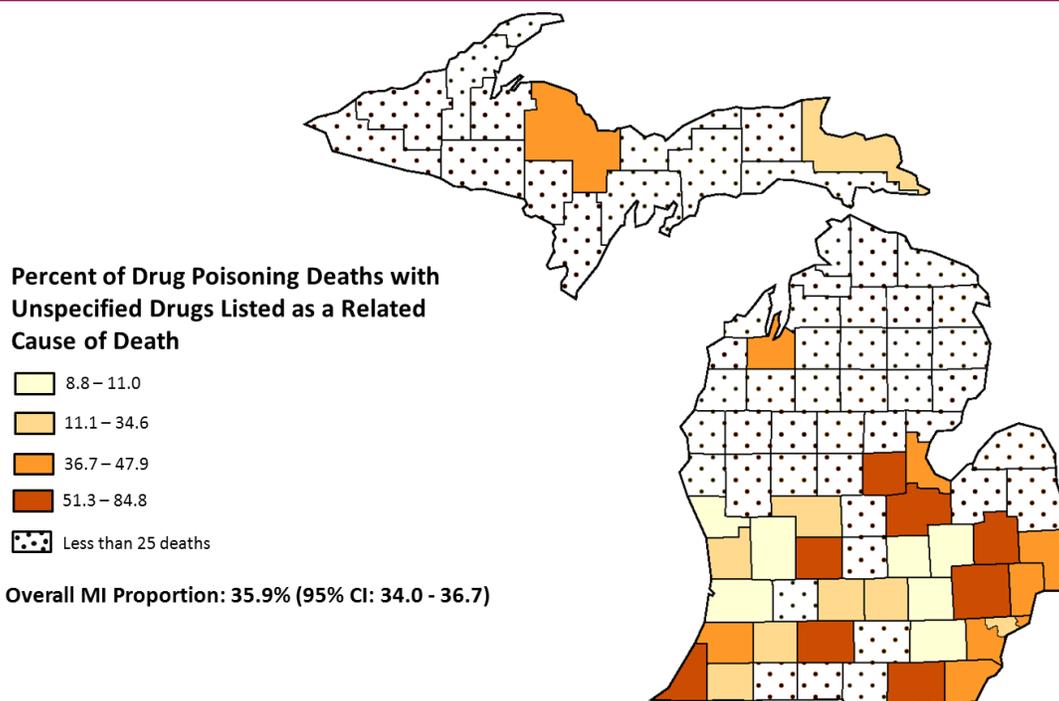


Poisoning Deaths due to Unspecified Drugs in Michigan, 2009-2012

Between 2009-2012, 4,772 Michigan residents died of unintentional or undetermined intent drug poisoning. For 35% (1,687) of these deaths, the type of drugs involved was not specified on the death certificate (i.e., ICD-10 code T50.9).

Percent of Drug Poisoning Deaths due to Unspecified Drugs, by County: MI Residents, 2009-2012



Note: Counties with fewer than 25 drug poisoning deaths from 2009-2012 did not have individual rates calculated as they may have been statistically unstable and therefore unreliable.

Of the 31 regions with statistically stable proportions, 8 had unspecified proportions that were significantly higher than the state average: Saginaw, Calhoun, Lenawee, Lapeer, Oakland, Midland, Berrien, and St. Clair.

An examination of decedent prescription histories within 30 days of death may indicate the substance involved:

- Eighty-three percent (83%) had at least one prescription for an opioid filled (e.g.— Vicodin®, OxyContin®).
- More than three-quarters (77%) had at least one benzodiazepine filled (e.g.— Valium®, Xanax®).
- Almost one-fifth (19%) filled a prescription for a sedative that was not classified as an opioid or benzodiazepine (e.g.—Ambien®, Lyrica®).
- Nine percent (9%) filled a prescription for a psychostimulant (e.g.—Adderall®, Ritalin®).

Specific language on death certificates is critical for accurately reporting the influence particular drugs pose in an individual's death. Better death investigation is recommended to reduce the use of nonspecific ICD-10 coding, thus improving mortality surveillance¹.

1. Injury Surveillance Workgroup 7. Consensus recommendations for national and state poisoning surveillance. The Safe States Alliance. Atlanta, GA. 2012. April 2012.