In 2009, there were 1,000 deaths due to unintentional drug poisonings in Michigan. Of these deaths, 23% involved opioid analgesics.

Opioid analgesics are narcotic drugs that are usually prescribed to relieve pain (ex. oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone)\(^1\).

Unintentional Drug Poisoning Deaths in Michigan

From 1999-2009:

- The total number of unintentional poisoning deaths rose from 238 to 1,000.
- Poisoning deaths involving opioid analgesics increased by 8.4 fold, more rapidly than those from any other drug.
- The number of prescriptions filled in Michigan for opioid analgesics also increased substantially over this time period\(^2\).

References: