Unintentional Drug Poisoning Deaths in Michigan

In 2010, there were 973 deaths due to unintentional drug poisonings in Michigan. Of these deaths, 22.7% involved opioid analgesics. Opioid analgesics are narcotic drugs that are usually prescribed to relieve pain (ex. oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone)\(^1\).

Unintentional Drug Poisoning Deaths by Major Drug Type, Michigan Residents, 1999-2010

From 1999-2010:

- The total number of unintentional poisoning deaths rose from 235 to 973.
- Poisoning deaths involving opioid analgesics increased by 8.3 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\(^2\).