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

From 1999-2010:

- The total number of unintentional poisoning deaths rose from 235 in 1999 to 990 in 2009, then decreased to 973 in 2010.

- 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 period2.