Over the past decade, the number of drug poisoning deaths* have increased dramatically in Michigan. Opioid analgesics (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone) are narcotic drugs that are prescribed to relieve pain and were involved in a large number of Michigan’s prescription drug overdose deaths.

In summary:

- Prescription drug-related mortality has increased significantly for 21-34 year-olds, 35-54 year-olds, and 55+ year-olds.
- 21-34 year-olds showed the highest increase from 2003 to 2012, of 287% (2.3; 95%CI: 1.6-3.0, vs. 8.9; 95%CI:7.5-10.3).
- Overall, young adults (21-34 year-olds) and middle-aged adults (35-54 year-olds) had higher rates of mortality from 2003-2012 compared to youth (16-20 year-olds) and older adults (55+ year-olds).

*Drug poisoning deaths included are those with ICD-10 underlying cause code X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, and Y10-Y14. Prescription drug-related deaths are those with ICD-10 related cause code T36.0-T39.9, T402-T404, T41.0-T41.5, T42.0-T43.5. T43.8, T43.9, and T44.0-T50.8.