



DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS AT WORK



The number of **drug overdose deaths at work is rising.**

The top 3 industries with the **highest numbers of drug overdose deaths at work** from 2011-2016*



Transportation & Warehousing
116 deaths



Construction
114 deaths



Healthcare & Social Assistance
96 deaths

What do we know about drug overdose deaths at work?



Most overdose deaths at work were from *opioids*

Opioids are drugs commonly used to reduce pain and can be prescribed or used without a medical reason



Workplace factors can influence the use of prescriptions and other substances

Examples: opioids prescribed for work-related back pain, and workers using substances to deal with work-related stress

What don't we know about drug overdose deaths at work?

- The circumstances for substance use
- If the drug use was associated with work injury and pain

Employers: You can take steps to prevent worker drug overdose

- Identify and remove workplace dangers
- Protect workers who do physically demanding jobs from getting injured
- Educate yourself on how you can support a worker with a substance use disorder
- Educate employees on risks for substance use and overdose prevention
- Consider implementing a program to make **naloxone** available in the workplace in the event of an opioid overdose
Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose



Large Employers:

Provide training and encourage use of an employee assistance program, health plan, and other resources for treatment of substance use disorders



Small Employers:

Work with your local health department for resources in your community

Employer Resources

National Safety Council Employer Toolkit
nsc.org/work-safety/tools-resources/prescription-drug-employer-toolkit

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
uschamber.com/Americas-opioid-crisis

Learn More

cdc.gov/niosh/topics/opioids

cdc.gov/opioids

* Tiesman H, Konda S, Ciminieri L, Castillo D [2019]. Drug overdose deaths at work, 2011-2016. Inj Prev. <https://doi.org/10.1136/injuryprev-2018-043104>

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