

# Poisoning from Unintentional Overdoses



The misuse and abuse of prescription drugs is contributing significantly to a dramatic rise in the number accidental deaths due to overdoses. When taking a prescription drug, know your risks.

- People ages 45-64 account for the fastest growing accidental overdose death rate.
- Deaths from unintentional overdoses tripled from 1992 to 2003, while poisoning deaths due to other substances remained constant.
- The largest numerical increase in drug overdoses today is among non-Hispanic white men (4,839 fatalities among men 45-64 in 2004).
- The largest rate increase is among non-Hispanic white women (up 300% since 1992).
- There is a strong tie between the rise in overdose fatalities and the rise in consumption of prescription drugs.

See poisoning from unintentional overdose data and prevention tips from the National Safety Council at [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org).



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