

US national trends in pediatric deaths from prescription and illicit opioids, 1999–2016.

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Despite widespread efforts to curb [opioid prescribing](#), [opioid misuse](#) remains a patient safety crisis. This observational study used mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to estimate opioid-related mortality among [children](#) between 1999 and 2016. During this period, opioid-related [mortality](#) increased significantly, with an overall rate of nearly 1 per 100,000. Opioid-related mortality was highest for adolescents ages 15 to 19 and was significantly higher for males compared with females. These results underscore the importance of [addressing](#) the opioid epidemic in order to improve pediatric patient safety. A previous [PSNet interview](#) discussed the opioid epidemic and strategies to address this growing patient safety concern.