Toxicology and Prescription Drug Registry Information

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MONTANA DPHHS

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

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DESCRIPTION OF LEGISLATION

In the 2023 legislative session, the Montana legislature passed SB 284, an act revising laws related to the reporting of drugs taken by or prescribed to individuals whose deaths were ruled to be a suicide. This bill requires a report on toxicology and controlled substance information in deaths ruled to be a suicide.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The following data was based on the 2025 suicides that occurred in Montana. The suicides were cross-referenced with the Prescription Drug Registry. Eighty-seven of the suicides were also identified on the Prescription Drug Registry. Thirty-two controlled substances were identified.

The chart below depicts which controlled substances were prescribed to the 87 people who died by suicide. These medications were prescribed within 90 days of the death date. On the last page is a graph showing the primary use of the identified controlled substances.

MEDICATIONS FOUND IN THE SYSTEM

- 57% (50/87) were prescribed an opioid.
    - Of that, 40% (20/40) were Hydrocodone
    - Of that, 20% (10/50) were Oxycodone
- 28% (24/87) were prescribed a benzodiazepine.
    - Of that, 38% (9/24) were Lorazepam
    - Of that, 29% (7/24) were Clonazepam
- 23% (20/87) were prescribed a sedative/hypnotic
    - Of that, 65% (13/20) were Daridorexant
- 17% (15/87) were prescribed an anticonvulsant
    - Of that, 53% (8/15) were Pregabalin
    - Of that, 40% (6/15) were Gabapentin

- 11% (10/87) were prescribed a stimulant.
    - Of that, 40% (4/10) were Vyvanse.

NUMBER OF MEDICATIONS FOUND IN THE SYSTEM

- 22% (19/88) of the suicides were prescribed two or more medications.

DRUG CLASSIFICATION OF MEDICATIONS FOUND AND NUMBER OF ASSOCIATED DEATHS

- Opioid - 50 Deaths
    - ACETAMINOPHEN-COD #3 TABLET
    - FENTANYL
    - GUAIFENESIN-CODEINE
    - HYDROCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN
    - HYDROMORPHONE
    - METHADONE
    - MORPHINE
    - OXYCODONE HCL
    - OXYCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN
    - SUBOXONE
    - TRAMADOL
- Stimulant - 10 Deaths
    - ADDERALL XR
    - DEXTROAMPHETAMINE
    - METHYLPHENIDATE
    - MODAFINIL
    - PHENTERMINE

    - VYVANSE
- Benzodiazepine - 24 Deaths
    - ALPRAZOLAM
    - CLONAZEPAM
    - DIAZEPAM
    - LORAZEPAM
    - TEMAZEPAM
- Sedative/Hypnotic - 20 Deaths
    - ESZOPICLONE
    - DARIDOREXANT
    - ZALEPLON
    - ZOLPDEM TARTRATE
- Anticonvulsant - 15 Deaths
    - GABAPENTIN
    - LACOSAMIDE
    - PREGABALIN
- Other - 4 Deaths
    - CARISOPRODOL
    - SOLRIAMFETOL

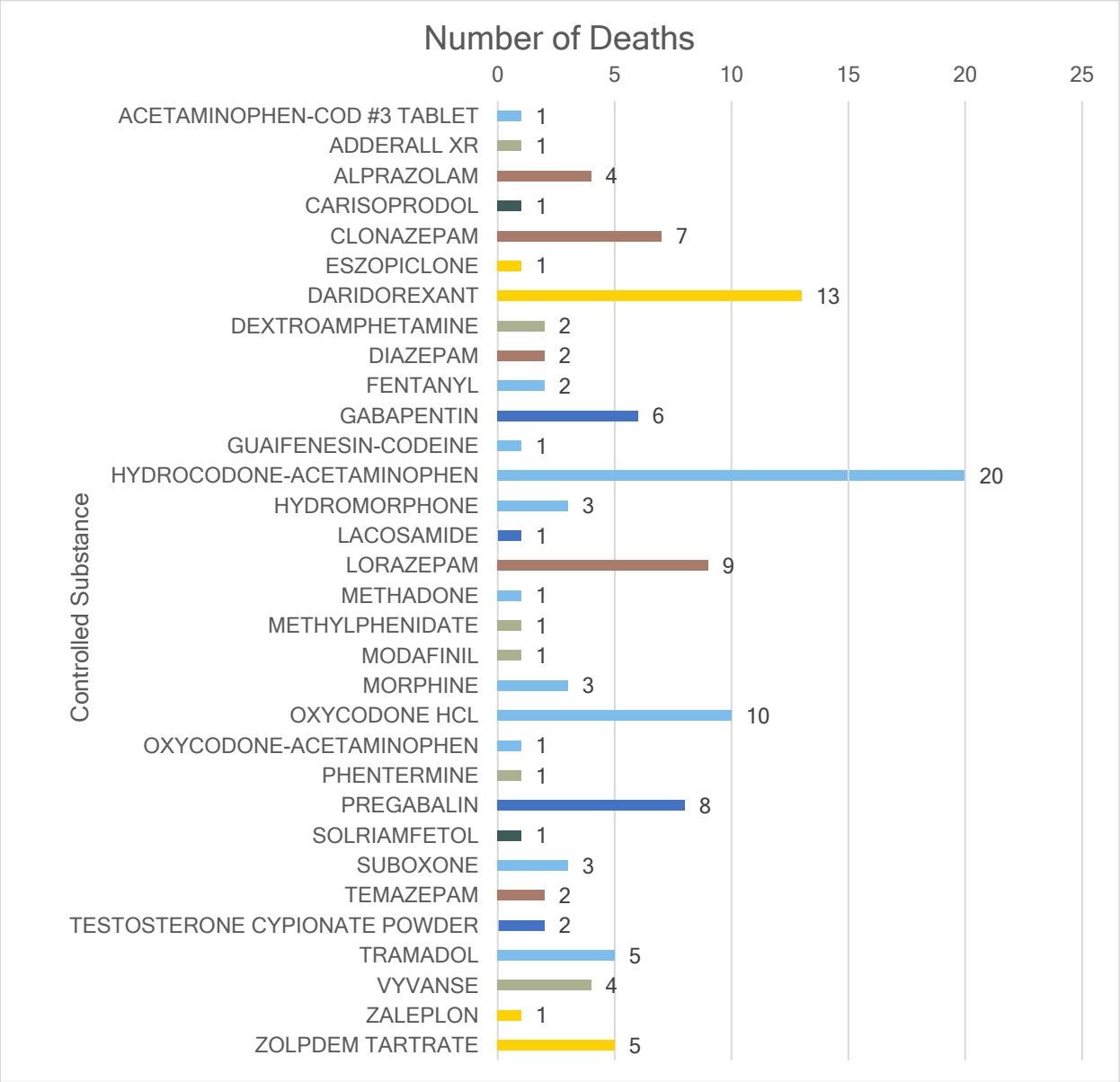
TESTOSTERONE CYPIONATE POWDER

FORMS OF PAYMENT

- 26% (23/87) used two or more forms of payment to pay for one or multiple medications.

- *23% (20/87) of the prescriptions were paid partially or completely by Medicare/Medicaid.*
- 97% (85/87) of the prescriptions were paid partially or completely by commercial insurance.
  - Only 10% used exclusively commercial insurance.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOUND IN PEOPLE WHO DIED BY SUICIDE WHO WERE ALSO ON THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG REGISTRY (N=87)



Benzodiazepine	Stimulant	Anticonvulsant	Opioid	Sedative/Hypnotic	Other

PRIMARY USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Controlled Substance	# of Deaths	Primary Use of Controlled Substance
ACETAMINOPHEN-COD #3 TABLET	1	An opioid used to help relieve mild to moderate pain
ADDERALL XR	1	A stimulant used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ALPRAZOLAM	4	The most prescribed psychotropic medication in the United States. Alprazolam is frequently prescribed to manage panic and anxiety disorders.
CARISOPRODOL	1	Used to relax certain muscles in your body and relieve discomfort caused by acute (short-term), painful muscle or bone conditions.
CLONAZEPAM	7	A benzodiazepine drug used for acute treatment of panic disorder, epilepsy, and nonconvulsive status epilepticus.
ESZOPICLONE	1	A prescription medicine for adults with insomnia
DARIDOREXANT	13	A prescription medicine for adults with insomnia
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE	2	Used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy (sleep disorder).
DIAZEPAM	2	Used to treat anxiety, muscle spasms and seizures or fit
FENTANYL	2	A potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic.
GABAPENTIN	6	an anticonvulsant used to treat neuropathic pain and as an adjunctive therapy for partial-onset seizures

GUAIFENESIN-CODEINE	1	Guaifenesin-codeine is classified as an opioid-containing antitussive/expectorant combination used to relieve cough and chest congestion.
HYDROCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN	20	This combination medication is used to relieve moderate to severe pain. It contains an opioid pain reliever (hydrocodone) and a non-opioid pain reliever (acetaminophen).
HYDROMORPHONE	3	This medication belongs to the opioid class of medications and is utilized to effectively manage and treat moderate-to-severe acute pain and severe chronic pain in patients.
LACOSAMIDE	1	An anticonvulsant used to treat partial-onset and primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in adults and children
LORAZEPAM	9	This medication is used to treat anxiety. Lorazepam belongs to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines
METHADONE	1	A long-acting synthetic opioid agonist used to treat severe chronic pain and manage opioid use disorder
METHYLPHENIDATE	1	Methylphenidate is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
MODAFINIL	1	Modafinil is a non-amphetamine central nervous system (CNS) stimulant with wakefulness-promoting properties. It is used in the treatment of conditions that cause excessive daytime sleepiness.
MORPHINE	3	Morphine is a non-synthetic narcotic with a high potential for abuse and is derived from opium.
OXYCODONE HCL	10	Oxycodone immediate-release tablets, capsules, and oral solutions are used to relieve severe, acute pain. It is an opioid.
OXYCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN	1	Oxycodone and acetaminophen combination is used to relieve pain severe enough to require opioid treatment and when other pain medicines did not work well enough or cannot be tolerated.
PHENTERMINE	1	A stimulant medication used short-term to treat obesity

PREGABALIN	8	Pregabalin is an anticonvulsant medication that treats nerve pain and seizures.
SOLRIAMFETOL	1	A prescription medicine for adults that improves wakefulness in patients with excessive daytime sleepiness
SUBOXONE	3	A prescription medication used to treat opioid addiction by reducing cravings and withdrawal symptoms.
TEMAZEPAM	2	Temazepam is used to treat insomnia (trouble with sleeping). This medicine is for short-term (usually 7 to 10 days) use only. Temazepam is a benzodiazepine.
TESTOSTERONE CYPIONATE POWDER	2	Testosterone cypionate injection is indicated for replacement therapy in the male in conditions associated with symptoms of deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone.
TRAMADOL	5	Tramadol belongs to the group of medicines called opioid analgesics. It acts in the central nervous system (CNS) to relieve pain.
VYVANSE	4	A stimulant used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ZALEPLON	1	A prescription sedative-hypnotic used for short-term treatment of insomnia
ZOLPDEM TARTRATE	5	A non-benzodiazepine receptor modulator primarily used in the FDA-approved short-term treatment of insomnia