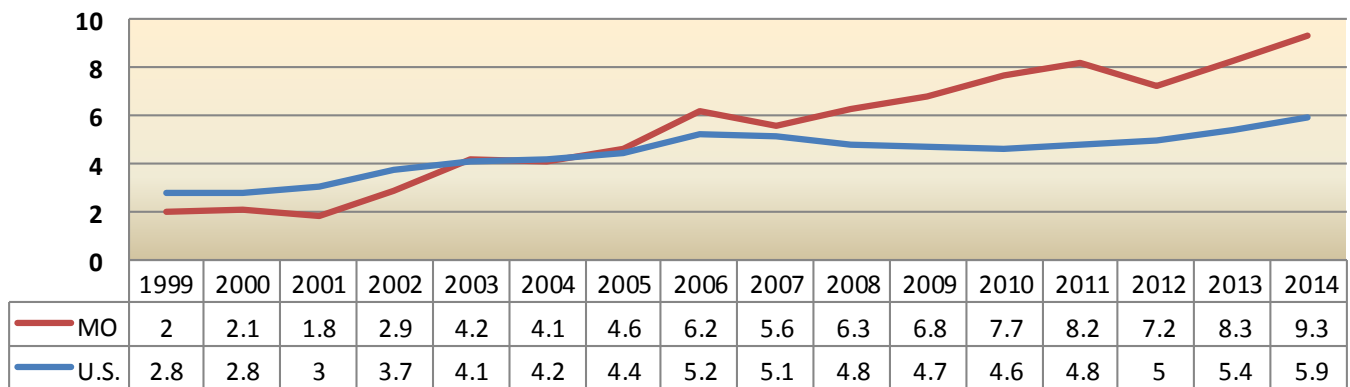


# The Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths in Missouri

- ◆ Opioids are a group of drugs that effect pain receptors in the brain and other parts of the body. Opioids include some prescription drugs like oxycodone (e.g. OxyContin, Percocet) and illicit drugs like heroin.
- ◆ People who misuse opioids often alternate between prescription drugs and heroin depending upon availability.
- ◆ Because opioids depress respiration, high doses can result in overdose death.
- ◆ The CDC estimates that at least half of opioid overdose deaths involve prescription opioid painkillers.

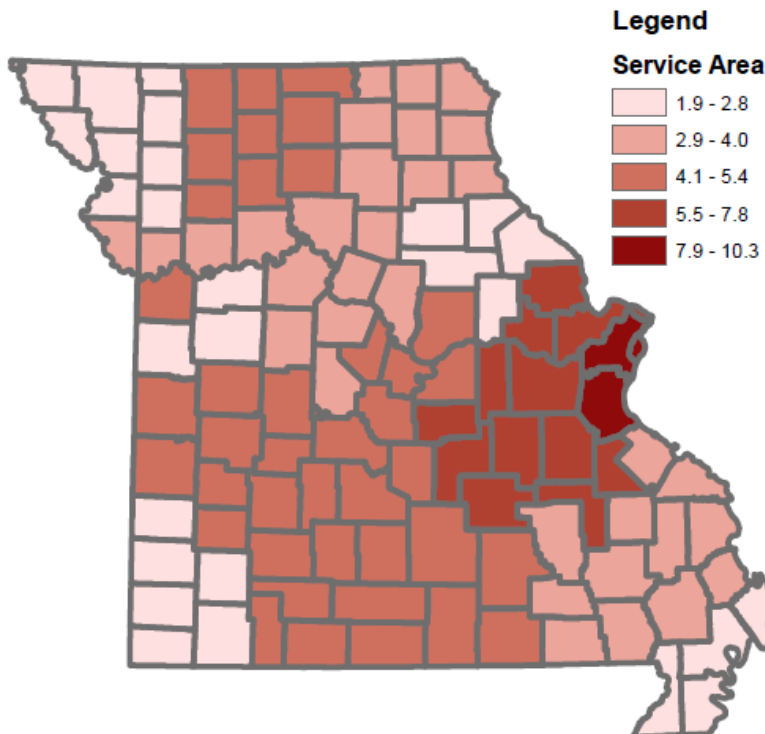
## Opioid-Related Deaths, per 100,000 Population



\*Includes both prescription opioid drugs and heroin

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER Online Database, 1999-2014.

## Opioid-Related Deaths per 100,000 (1999-2014) by Service Area



- ◆ In Missouri, opioid-related deaths are highest in the eastern part of the state—including urban St. Louis as well as suburban and rural areas surrounding the city.
- ◆ From 1999 to 2014, opioid-related death rates have increased:
  - ⇒ 7.6 times for females and 3.8 times for males.
  - ⇒ 5.9 times for Caucasians and 2.6 times for African-Americans.
  - ⇒ 7.2 times for young adults age 25 to 34, 3.0 times for adults age 35 to 44, and 6.0 times for adults age 45 to 54.

Missouri Division of Behavioral Health  
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