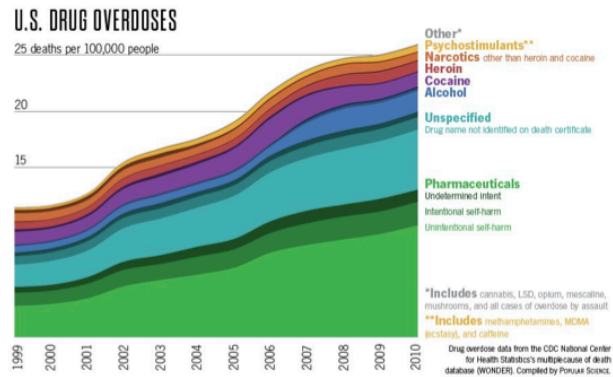


Project Proposal: Prescription Drug Tracker

PROBLEM

The leading cause of injury death in the United States is caused by prescription drug overdose—41,502 people were killed in 2012¹. Among these deaths, 79.9% of them were unintentional¹. In the graph, notice the extreme difference between the light green (unintentional pharmaceutical overdose) with the dark green (intentional), and the green category compared to the other drug related deaths. Tracking the amount of



prescription drugs one takes and how multiple drugs interact with each other is often overlooked. Awareness of prescription drug intake is a small action that could lead to a greater cause in preventing lives from being lost.

ANALYSIS

When drug overdose occurs, it can happen for a number of reasons. Insufficient spacing of time in-between taking a drug can lead to overdose, resulting in symptoms that cause problems with vital signs such as temperature, respiratory rate, and blood pressure². There is also the threat of interactions when consuming more than one type of drug. Food and alcohol consumption could also increase or decrease the rate at which drugs are absorbed into the body³. Currently, prescription labels and doctors' verbal instructions are standard ways people receive instructions on how to take drugs. Drugs.com is a website that cross-examines drugs, but the information provided is not personalized to monitor one's drug schedule. A mobile application called MediSafe allows a user to set reminders for taking pills, but does not provide the interaction and instruction found on Drugs.com.

1. Prescription Drug Overdose in the United States: Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 10, 2015, from <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/overdose/facts.html>
2. Drug Overdose. Retrieved January 10, 2015, from <http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/drug-overdose?page=2>
3. Avoiding Drug Interactions. Retrieved January 10, 2015, from <http://www.webmd.com/fda/avoiding-drug-interactions>
4. Peak, K. (2013). U.S. Drug Overdoses [online image]. Retrieved January 10th, 2015, from <http://libguides.gwumc.edu/c.php?g=27779&p=170351>