

# Participation summary and trends

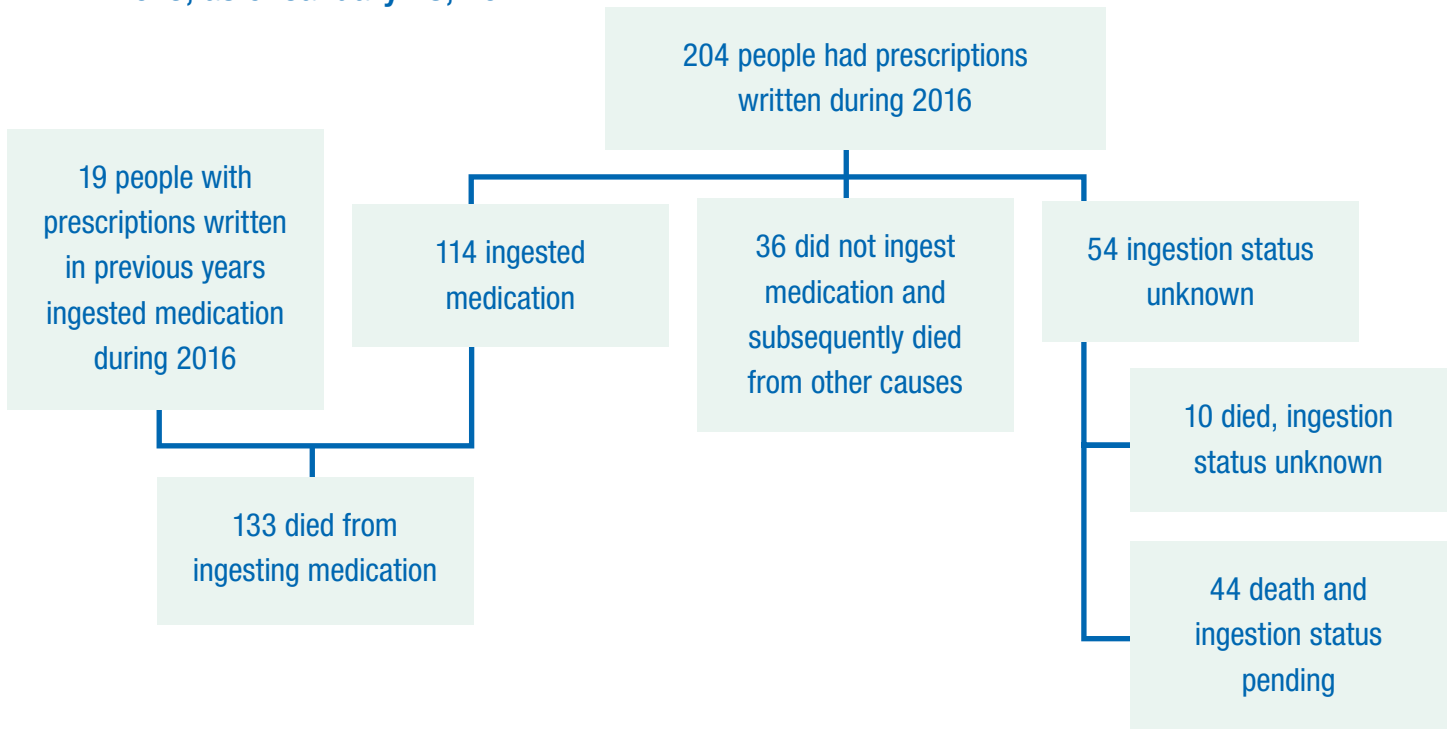
During 2016, 204 people received prescriptions for lethal medications under the provisions of the Oregon DWDA, compared to 218 during 2015 (see Figure 1). As of January 23, 2017, the Oregon Public Health Division had received reports of 133 people who had died during 2016 from ingesting the medications prescribed under DWDA, compared to 135 during 2015.

Since the law was passed in 1997, a total of 1,749 people have had prescriptions written under the DWDA, and 1,127 patients have died from ingesting the medications. During 2016, the rate of DWDA deaths was 37.2 per 10,000 total deaths.<sup>1</sup>

A summary of DWDA prescriptions written and medications ingested is shown in Figure 2. Of the 204 patients for whom prescriptions were written during 2016, 114 (55.9%) ingested the medication and died without regaining consciousness while 36 (17.6%) did not take the medications and subsequently died of other causes.

Ingestion status is unknown for 54 patients prescribed DWDA medications in 2016. Ten of these patients died, but follow up information is not available. For the remaining 44 patients, both death and ingestion status are pending (Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Summary of DWDA prescriptions written and medications ingested in 2016, as of January 23, 2017**



<sup>1</sup> Rate per 10,000 deaths calculated using the total number of Oregon resident deaths in 2015 (35,709), the most recent year for which final death data are available.