“ Characterizing the opioid overdose epidemic using electronic medical records.”

**Abstract:**

Overdoses have become a public health emergency in the United States. The Appalachian region, in particular West Virginia, has been the center of this epidemic. A majority of overdoses across the nation are attributed to opioids. This highlights the need to enhance the understanding of opioid overdoses using various databases.  Data from WVCTSI Integrated Data Repository (IDR) captures healthcare accessed at any WVU Medicine facility located throughout the state. In order to characterize the surge in opioid overdoses that resulting in hospitalization, data from WVCTSI IDR was used to identify patients who were seen in a WVU Medicine facility between 2008-2016 for an opioid overdose. Joinpoint regression analysis was used to determine hospitalization rate and average percentage change (APC) for opioids among selected factors. Findings from this project show the epidemiologic trend in opioid overdoses seen by WVU Medicine which could inform public health and clinical interventions.