

GRAND ROUNDS

Sponsored by: The Division of Health Services

David Nordstrom, PhD, MPH

Thursday, September 18, 2014

12:00PM-1:00PM

Campus Services Building Room 679

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Using Multiple Cause-of-Death Data to Improve Surveillance of Drug-related Mortality

ABSTRACT

Many state and local areas are affected by the national epidemic of drug-related mortality, which shows signs of a rising licit-to-illicit drug death ratio. Using information from ten years of one state's death records, we describe the main changes in drug death rates, causes, and circumstances. Our approach includes both drug-induced and drug-related deaths and both demographic and socio-economic decedent characteristics. Information was obtained from state death certificates with any of 270 underlying, immediate, or contributing cause-of-death codes from the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Changes in death rates involving specific drugs, including heroin, methadone, prescription opioids, cocaine, benzodiazepines, and others—are identified. This presentation reports the study methods and findings and the implications for control of the epidemic.

Lunch will be provided. Please contact Anne Rudwick at stemwede@ohsu.edu if you have a dietary restrictions.