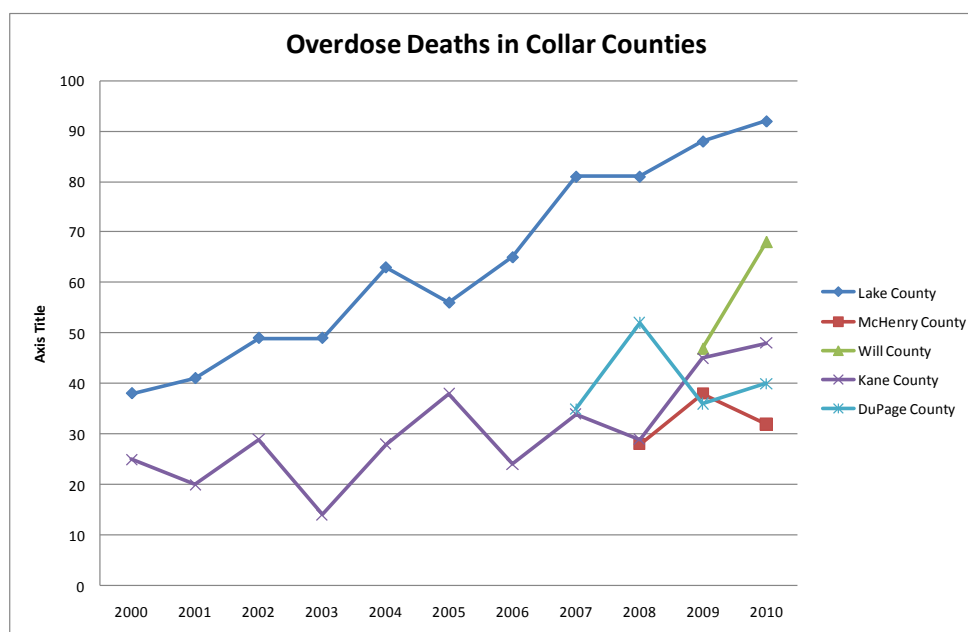


## Overdose Deaths in Collar Counties

### Information on S.B. 1701: The EMS Access Act

Illinois is one of the sixteen states that has a higher fatality rate from drug overdoses than car accidents. From 2006 to 2008, Will and McHenry counties alone experienced a 100% increase in heroin related deaths. Most drug overdoses occur in the home and those who witness an overdose hesitate to call emergency services due to fear of police arrest or criminal prosecution for drug possession.



Studies of drug overdose experiences have shown that death rarely occurs immediately from an overdose; most deaths occur one to three hours after the overdose. In 2009, Illinois enacted the Overdose Prevention Law, which allows trained individuals to administer life-saving drugs in the event of an overdose. S.B. 1701 would further save lives by protecting friends and family who seek medical help for those who overdose from arrest or prosecution for possession of a small amount of drugs.

Information for Lake County overdose death statistics obtained from <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Coroner/Pages/DeathStatistics.aspx>

Information for McHenry County overdose death statistics obtained from <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/departments/coroner/Documents/CoronerWebStats.pdf>

Information for Will County overdose death statistics obtained from <http://www.willcountyillinois.com/ElectedOfficials/Coroner/Statistics/tabid/472/Default.aspx>

Information for Kane County overdose death statistics obtained directly from the Kane County coroner on 15 August 2011.

Information for DuPage County coroner overdose death statistics obtained from <http://www.co.dupage.il.us/Coroner/Stats.aspx>