

Anna Nicole Smith

On February 8, 2007, Smith was found unresponsive in room 607 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida. Tasma Brighthaupt, a friend of Smith who was a trained emergency nurse performed CPR for 15 minutes until her husband, Maurice "Big Moe" Brighthaupt, Smith's friend and bodyguard took over CPR. According to Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger, at 1:38 p.m. (18:38 UTC) Maurice Brighthaupt, who was also a trained paramedic, called the hotel front desk from her sixth floor room. The front desk in turn called security, who then called 911. At 1:45 p.m. the bodyguard administered CPR until paramedics arrived and she was rushed to Memorial Regional Hospital at 2:10 p.m. and pronounced dead on arrival at 2:49 p.m.

After a seven-week investigation led by Broward County Medical Examiner and Forensic Pathologist Dr. Joshua Perper in combination with the Seminole police and several independent forensic pathologists and toxicologists, Dr. Perper announced that Smith died of "combined drug intoxication" with the sleeping medication chloral hydrate as the "major component." No illegal drugs were found in her system. The official report states that her death was not considered to be due to homicide, suicide, or natural causes.

Anna Nicole Smith had died from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs, rather than as the result of foul play or illegal drug use. Specific forensic analyses by toxicologists helped determine the drugs Smith used and how they caused her death. The Broward County Medical Examiner in Florida reported that nine drugs and a few drug metabolites were found in Smith's blood. The drugs included anti-anxiety and antidepressant prescriptions, such as Valium, pain and allergy medications, such as Benadryl, the antibiotic Ciprofloxacin, as well as human growth hormones. All drugs were found at therapeutic levels. Tests also found the presence of chloral hydrate, a sedative and sleeping medication. Specialists determined that when this sedative combined with the other drugs in her system, it led to Smith's accidental death. The combined drug effect acted on her respiratory and circulatory systems, causing them to stop working. The medical examiner ruled out that this was a suicide, as some suggested, because of the large amounts of chloral hydrate remaining in the bottle and the normal levels of the other medications in her system.

Drug interactions can cause death in even small doses. Anna Nicole Smith's 20-year-old son Daniel also appears to have died from a lethal combination of drugs. In Daniel's case, a lethal combination of antidepressants Lexapro and Zoloft, and the drug methadone. This drug cocktail appears to have affected his central nervous system and heart, leading to his sudden death.

It was reported that 8 of the 11 drugs in Smith's system, including the chloral hydrate, were prescribed to Howard K. Stern, not Smith. Additionally, two of the medicines were written for Alex Katz and one was written for Smith's friend and psychiatrist, Dr. Kristine Eroshevitz. Dr. Perper acknowledged that all 11 prescriptions were written by Dr. Eroshevitz herself.

Before Smith's body was buried, it began decomposing at a faster-than-normal pace. The drugs found in Anna Nicole's body in the autopsy, the fact that the legal battles delayed her embalming until over a week after her death, and the nearly month-long wait for her burial in the warm Bahama weather, were cited as possible factors in her more rapid decomposition. The family ended up having a closed-casket funeral.

Smith's will, drawn up in April 2001, named her son Daniel as the sole beneficiary of her estate, specifically excluded other children, and named Howard K. Stern as the executor. It indicated personal property valued at \$10,000 and real property valued at \$1.8 million (with a \$1.1 million mortgage) at the time of death. A petition to probate Smith's will was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The petition to probate lists Larry Birkhead as a party with interest to Anna's estate.

Heath Ledger

At about 2:45 p.m. (EST), on 22 January 2008, Ledger was found unconscious in his bed by his housekeeper, Teresa Solomon, and his masseuse, Diana Wolozin, in his fourth-floor loft apartment at 421 Broome Street in the SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan.

According to the police, Wolozin, who had arrived early for a 3:00 p.m. appointment with Ledger, called Ledger's friend, actress Mary-Kate Olsen, for help. Olsen, who was in California, directed a New York City private security guard to go to the scene. At 3:26 p.m., "[fewer] than 15 minutes after Wolozin first saw him in bed and only a few moments" after first calling Olsen and then calling her a second time to express her fears that Ledger was dead, Wolozin telephoned 9-1-1 "to say that Mr. Ledger was not breathing." At the urging of the 9-1-1 operator, Wolozin administered CPR, which was unsuccessful in reviving him. Emergency medical technicians (EMT) arrived seven minutes later, at 3:33 p.m. ("at almost exactly the same moment as a private security guard summoned by Ms. Olsen"), but were also unable to revive him. At 3:36 p.m., Ledger was pronounced dead and his body removed from the apartment.

After two weeks of intense media speculation about possible causes of Ledger's death, on 6 February 2008, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York released its conclusions, based on an initial autopsy of 23 January 2008, and a subsequent complete toxicological analysis. The report concludes, in part, "Mr. Heath Ledger died as the result of acute intoxication by the combined effects of oxycodone, hydrocodone, diazepam, temazepam, alprazolam and doxylamine." It states definitively: "We have concluded that the manner of death is accident, resulting from the abuse of prescription medications." The medications found in the toxicological analysis are commonly prescribed in the United States for insomnia, anxiety, depression, pain, and/or cold symptoms. Although the Associated Press and other media reported that "police estimate Ledger's time of death between 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m." (on 22 January 2008), the Medical Examiner's Office announced that it would not be publicly disclosing the official estimated time of death. The official announcement of the cause and manner of Ledger's death heightened concerns about the growing problems of prescription drug abuse or misuse and Combined Drug Intoxication (CDI).

Marilyn Monroe (Norma Jeane Mortenson)

On August 5, 1962, [Marilyn Monroe](#) died of a [barbiturate overdose](#) in [Los Angeles](#). She was a major sex symbol and one of the most popular Hollywood stars during the 1950s. She was a [top-billed](#) actress for a decade, and her films grossed \$200 million by 1962.^[1]

At the time of her death, Monroe had suffered from mental illness and substance abuse for several years, and had not completed a film since [The Misfits](#), released in 1961. She had spent 1961 preoccupied with her various health problems, and in April 1962 had begun filming [Something's Got to Give](#) for [20th Century Fox](#), but was fired in early June. The studio publicly blamed her for the production's problems, and in the weeks preceding her death, Monroe attempted to repair her public image by giving several interviews to high-profile publications. She also began negotiations with Fox on being re-hired for [Something's Got to Give](#) and for starring roles in other productions.

Monroe spent her last day, Saturday, August 4, at her home in [Brentwood](#), accompanied by publicist Patricia Newcomb, housekeeper Eunice Murray, photographer [Lawrence Schiller](#) and psychiatrist Dr. [Ralph Greenson](#) at various times. At Greenson's request, Murray stayed overnight to keep Monroe company. At approximately 3 a.m. the next day, she noticed that Monroe had locked herself in her bedroom and was unresponsive. Murray alerted Greenson, who arrived soon after and broke into the room, finding Monroe deceased. Her death was officially ruled a probable suicide by the [Los Angeles County coroner's office](#), based on precedents of her overdosing and being prone to mood swings and suicidal ideation. No evidence of crime was found, and accidental overdose was ruled out due to the large amount of barbiturates she had ingested. Her funeral was held on August 8 at the [Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery](#), where she was interred at the Corridor of Memories.

Despite the coroner's verdict, several conspiracy theories suggesting murder or accidental overdose have been proposed since the mid-1960s. Many of these involve [President John F. Kennedy](#) and his brother, [Robert](#), as well as union leader [Jimmy Hoffa](#) and mob boss [Sam Giancana](#). Due to prevalence of these theories in the media, the office of the [Los Angeles County District Attorney](#) reviewed the case in 1982, but found no evidence to support them and did not disagree with the findings of the original investigation.

Mary Ansell (1899) In Victorian times attitudes to mental illness were very different to those of today, the policy being to confine patients diagnosed with such illnesses to large asylums which were being built all over the country.

One such facility was Leavesden Mental Asylum which had been built at Abbots Langley in Buckinghamshire by the Metropolitan Asylums Board to serve north London. It was opened in 1870 to house "quiet and harmless imbeciles" and soon had over 1500 patients, of which some 900 were women. One of these was nineteen year old Caroline Ansell, who had come from a family with a background of mental health problems.

Caroline's older sister, Mary Ann, aged eighteen or twenty two depending upon which report you read, worked as a maid to a wealthy household in Coram Street in the then fashionable Bloomsbury area of London and was engaged to a young man. Neither Mary Ann nor her fiancée had any money and had had to postpone their wedding because they could not afford the cost of a marriage licence which was seven shillings and sixpence (37.5p).

This situation did not suit Mary Ann who devised a plot to insure her sister's life and then kill her to obtain the pay out. For a premium of three old pence (1.5p) a week she would get £22 on the death of her sister. This was to be accomplished using a phosphorous based rat poison which she bought from a local shop near where she worked. She stirred the poison into a cake mix, baked the cake and sent it through the post to her sister on Ward 7 at Leavesden on the 9th of March 1899. Caroline decided to share the cake with some of her friends and all became ill. However Caroline ate considerably more of the cake than the rest had and therefore had far more severe symptoms. The staff were at full stretch at the time dealing with an outbreak of typhoid amongst the inmates and it was some time before Caroline was seen by a doctor. He immediately admitted her to the infirmary but it was too late to save the poor girl.

An autopsy was carried out by Dr. Blair who declared the cause of death to be phosphorous poisoning. This was traced back to the remains of the cake and via the postmark on the wrapping paper it came in, back to Mary Ann. She was arrested and charged with the murder by Supt. Wood. She vehemently denied it telling Supt. Wood "I know nothing whatever about it. I am as innocent a girl as ever was born" and saying that she had purchased the rat poison to kill rats in her employer's home. Her mistress, Mrs. Maloney, told the police that the house was not infested with vermin and that she had not asked for any rat poison to be purchased.

Mary Ann came to trial at Hertford Assizes in St. Albans on the 30th of June 1899 before Mr. Justice Mathew, the proceedings lasting two days. The prosecution made much of Mary Ann's motive for the crime and brought forward various witnesses to bolster their case. A shop assistant from Bloomsbury gave evidence of Mary Ann buying the poison for the purpose of killing rats, which at the time did not seem in any way unusual. Evidence was presented as to the cause of Caroline's death and the origins of the cake.

Mary Ann continued to plead her innocence but had no convincing defence. The jury took two hours to find her guilty and did not make a recommendation to mercy, despite her age. She was sentenced to death and returned to St. Albans Prison. This prison had facilities for female prisoners but had not had an execution since 1880, when Thomas Wheeler was hanged there. (The father of Mary Eleanor Wheeler). It did not have a gallows and had to borrow one from neighbouring Bedford prison. Even though it seemed like a clear case of premeditated murder there was considerable public agitation for a reprieve, perhaps due to Mary's youth and family background. We have seen this before in other cases of the period. There was a resolution passed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board urging for clemency for Mary Ann. Some newspapers, such as the Daily Mail, also asked for a reprieve and tried to paint Mary Ann as the victim of society, being a poor maidservant. It ran the headline "A one-sided investigation" and complained that the Home Office had not made any effort to assess Mary Ann's mental state. Her mother had told the press that she "had been silly since the time she was at school" and that she sometimes talked to herself. A hundred Members of Parliament had signed a petition on the day before she was due to die, calling for a week's postponement in carrying out the sentence while her mental state was determined. The Home Secretary, Sir Mathew White Ridley was not moved by all this and determined, as usual in the case of deliberate poisoning, that the law must take its course.

In a letter from the Home Office, dated July 15th 1889 to Mr. Jobson who had organised the public petition to save Mary Ann, it was stated that "The Secretary of State having carefully considered all circumstances of the case and having caused special medical enquiry to be made as to the convict's mental condition by Dr. D. Nicholson, Visitor in Lunacy and Dr. R. Brayn, Superintendent of the Broadmoor Asylum under Section 2 of the Criminal Lunatics Act of 1884 has been unable to find sufficient grounds to justify him in advising Her Majesty to interfere with the course of law." In other words she was legally sane under the terms of the M'Naughten Rules. She was therefore hanged by James Billington within the walls of St. Albans prison at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, the 19th of July, 1899. The press were excluded and thus we have no actual details of her execution. A crowd estimated at around 2,000 had gathered at the main gate to see the black flag hoisted over the prison and the notice of execution posted. Some knelt silently in prayer at the appointed hour. Mary Ann's body was examined by the prison surgeon, Eustace Henry Lipscombe who, as was required by law signed the death certificate. An inquest was held at 10am and the Chief Warder told the jury that Mary's death had been "instantaneous" and that her neck had been broken. She was buried in an unmarked grave within the prison later in the day. In 1931, her remains were re-interred in the St. Albans City cemetery. Mary Ann secured her place in history as the youngest woman to be hanged in private and the last woman to be hanged in the nineteenth century. She was the fourth of five women to be executed by James Billington. Of the 23 women executed in private between 1868 and 1899, 12 or just over half, had been convicted of murder by poisoning.

A Home Office file made public in 2000 revealed that she had admitted sending Caroline the poisoned cake, mistakenly thinking that the death would not be investigated because her sister was in an asylum

River Phoenix

On October 31, 1993, Phoenix collapsed from a drug overdose of heroin and cocaine (known as a speedball) outside the Viper Room, a Hollywood night club partially owned by actor Johnny Depp until 2004. Phoenix had returned to Los Angeles the previous day from Utah to complete the three weeks of interior shots left on his last (and, uncompleted) project *Dark Blood*. His younger sister Rain and brother Joaquin had flown out from Florida to join him at his hotel, Phoenix's girlfriend Samantha Mathis had also come to meet him and all would be present at the scene of Phoenix's death. On the evening of October 30th, River was to perform onstage with his close friend Flea from the Red Hot Chili Peppers. At some point in the evening Phoenix went to the bathroom to take drugs with various friends and dealers. It is reported that an acquaintance offered him some Persian Brown (a powerful form of methamphetamine mixed with opiates, which is then snorted) and soon after consuming the drug he became ill. Upon leaving The Viper Room, he collapsed onto the sidewalk and began convulsing for eight minutes. Joaquin dialed 911; during the call Joaquin was unable to determine whether River was breathing. River had, in fact, already stopped breathing. Rain proceeded to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. During the episode Johnny Depp and his band P (featuring Flea and Phoenix's friend Gibby Haynes of the Butthole Surfers) had taken to the stage. According to Haynes the band were in the middle of their song, "Michael Stipe" (which includes the line "but we didnt have a part, not a piece of our heart, not Michael, River Phoenix or Flea or me."), while Phoenix was outside the venue having seizures on the sidewalk. When the news filtered through the club, Flea left the stage and rushed outside. Paramedics had arrived on the scene and found Phoenix in asystole (flatline), when they administered drugs in an attempt to restart his heart. He was rushed to the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, accompanied by Flea, via an ambulance. Further attempts to resuscitate Phoenix (including the insertion of a pacemaker) were unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead at 1:51 a.m. PST on the morning of October 31, 1993.

Eva Rablen (1929)

Marrying the wrong person could mean death or at the very least 20 years in prison. Hearts West II will be released Christmas 2012. When Carroll B. Rablen, a thirty-four year old veteran of World War II from Tuttletown, California, advertised for a bride he imagined hearing from a woman who longed to spend their life with him hiking and enjoying the historic, scenic beauty of the Gold Country in Northern California. The ad he placed in a San Francisco matrimonial paper in June 1928 was answered by Eva Brandon. The thirty-three year-old Eva was living in Quanah, Texas when she received a copy of the matrimonial publication.

If Carroll had been less eager to marry he might have noticed the immature tone Eva's letters possessed. If he'd taken the time to scrutinize her words he might have been able to recognize a flaw in her thinking. According to the July 14, 1929 edition of the Ogden, Utah newspaper the Ogden Standard-Examiner, one of Eva's first correspondences demonstrated that not only did she seem much younger than thirty-three years old, but she also had a dark side. "Mr. Rablen, Dear Friend," the letter began. "You wrote about a son I have. He has had no father since he was a month old. The father left me. I haven't seen him. If a man leaves me I don't want to see them. And I'll make sure I can't." Eva left Texas for California in late April 1929. She and Carroll were married the evening of April 29, 1929. The dance that followed the nuptials at the Tuttletown school house was well attended by Carroll's friends and neighbors. They were happy he had found someone to share his life. Eva twirled around the room dancing with anyone who wanted to join her. She was elated with her situation. Carroll on the other hand chose to wait outside for his new bride in the car. According to the Ogden Standard Examiner, Carroll was slightly deaf and despondent over the other physical ailments that kept him from fully enjoying the festivities.

When Carroll's father, Stephen Rablen began regaling guests with his rendition of the song "Turkey in the Straw" on his fiddle, Eva excused herself and went outside to visit with her husband. She took a tray of sandwiches and coffee to him. He smiled proudly at her and commented on how thoughtful it was for her to bring him some refreshments. Carroll helped himself to a cup of coffee, blew across the top of it to cool it down then took a sip. He made a bit of a face as if the coffee lacked something. He took another drink to determine what it needed. Shortly after Carroll swallowed the brew a third time, he dropped the cup and began to scream. Eva watched him slump over in the front seat of the car. Carroll continued to scream. Wedding guests poured out of the building to see what was wrong. Carroll's father pushed past the people to get to his son. "Papa. Papa," Carroll repeated, reaching out for Stephen's hand. "The coffee was bitter...so bitter."

Emergency services were called to the scene but by the time they arrived Carroll had slipped into an unconscious state. Attendees at the reception told reporters for the local newspaper that Eva simply stood back and watched the action play out around her. She wore no expression at all; no worry, concern, anxiety, nothing. An ambulance transported Carroll to the hospital and Eva rode along in the vehicle with her husband. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Doctors suspected foul-play because his illness came on so suddenly. An autopsy was performed and the contents in Carroll's stomach revealed the presence of poison. The cup he drank coffee out of was also analyzed and traces of poison were found there as well. On May 1, 1929, the day of Carroll's funeral, the Sheriff of Tuolumne County returned to the spot where the groom died. In a patch of grass only a few spots where Rablen's automobile was parked, a bottle of strychnine was found. The bottle was traced to a drugstore in near Tuttletown. The register showing the purchase of the item had been signed for by Mrs. Joe Williams. The description of Mrs. Williams given by the clerk at the drugstore suggested Eva Brandon Rablen bought the item. The sheriff asked Carroll's widow to accompany him to the drugstore where without hesitation the clerk identified her as the purchaser of the poison.

Authorities escorted Eva to the police station and she immediately claimed her husband had poisoned himself because he was brokenhearted over his health problems. Stephen arrived at the station soon afterwards and told police that he suspected his daughter-in-law killed his son over a \$3,500 insurance policy. He accused Eva of finding her victims through mail-order bride advertisements and suggested she killed her last husband, a mail-order groom named Hubert Brandon. Stephen demanded Eva be arrested for murder. Eva was arrested for the crime, but not on her father-in-law's orders. A handwriting expert had compared the signature on a drugstore's registry with one Eva provided authorities with at the station. The two were a match. Eva was charged with premeditated murder. Newspaper articles about the homicide referred to Eva as "Borgia of the Sierras." The public was ravenous for specifics about the killing. "Quarrels, quarrels, I was sick of and tired of them," Eva told a judge about her marriage. "We talked things over. It was decided we should both commit suicide. But I couldn't bring myself to do it. Finally I decided to poison him. It was the best way out, I thought. Now they want to hang me? I could only put him out of the way because I felt it was the only way to get my freedom." Eva was sentenced to life in prison at San Quentin for murder. The day the authorities escorted her to the ferry that would take her to the penitentiary she was all smiles. Reporters and inquisitive spectators on hand at the dock asked Eva why she killed Carroll. She politely told them she couldn't give them the information they wanted. "I can't tell you why I confessed to putting strychnine in my husband's coffee. I told the court all and I want to tell all."

Eva was helped onto the ferry that would transport her to San Quentin. Sheriff Jack Dambacher of Sonora County and his wife decided to travel with Eva to prison. "I feel fine," she told her traveling companions, "not a bit tired. I'm not at all downhearted or discouraged." Eva's eleven year-old son, Albert Lee waiting at the dock with his aunt and uncle to say goodbye to his mother. Eva showed little emotion as she held her child close to her. "I will be all right," she told him. "I'm going to study Spanish. I've always been crazy to learn Spanish. Then if I get along well with that I can take on other subjects." Eva's sister assured her that she would take very good care of her boy and promised her that those who lived in the Sonora area would help with Albert as well. "He will not suffer for what wasn't his fault. We will see he wants for nothing."

According to the Examiner the 1929 murder of Carroll Rablen by his mail-order bride Eva Brandon is the most notorious case of its type.

Kurt Cobain

Following a tour stop at Terminal Eins in Munich, Germany, on March 1, 1994, Cobain was diagnosed with bronchitis and severe laryngitis. He flew to Rome the next day for medical treatment, and was joined there by his wife on March 3. The next morning, Love awoke to find that Cobain had overdosed on a combination of champagne and Rohypnol (Love had a prescription for Rohypnol filled after arriving in Rome). Cobain was immediately rushed to the hospital, and spent the rest of the day unconscious. After five days in the hospital, Cobain was released and returned to Seattle. Love later stated that the incident was Cobain's first suicide attempt.

On March 18, Love phoned police to inform them that Cobain was suicidal and had locked himself in a room with a gun. Police arrived and confiscated several guns and a bottle of pills from Cobain, who insisted that he was not suicidal and had locked himself in the room to hide from Love. When questioned by police, Love said that Cobain had never mentioned that he was suicidal and that she had not seen him with a gun.

Love arranged an intervention concerning Cobain's drug use that took place on March 25. The ten people involved included musician friends, record company executives, and one of Cobain's closest friends, Dylan Carlson. But bassist Krist Novoselic tipped him off as he considered the idea to be "stupid". However, by the end of the day, Cobain had agreed to undergo a detox program.[30] Cobain arrived at the Exodus Recovery Center in Los Angeles, California on March 30. The following night, Cobain walked outside to have a cigarette, then climbed over a six-foot-high fence to leave the facility. He took a taxi to Los Angeles Airport and flew back to Seattle. Over the course of April 2 and April 3, Cobain was spotted in various locations around Seattle, but most of his friends and family were unaware of his whereabouts. On April 3, Love contacted a private investigator, Tom Grant, and hired him to find Cobain. On April 7, amid rumors Nirvana was going to break up, the band pulled out of the Lollapalooza that year.

On April 8, 1994, Cobain's body was discovered at his Lake Washington home by an electrician who had arrived to install a security system. Apart from a minor amount of blood coming out of Cobain's ear, the electrician reported seeing no visible signs of trauma, and initially believed that Cobain was asleep until he saw the shotgun pointing at his chin. A suicide note was found that said, "I haven't felt the excitement of listening to as well as creating music, along with really writing . . . for too many years now". A high concentration of heroin and traces of Valium were also found in his body. Cobain's body had been lying there for days; the coroner's report estimated Cobain to have died on April 5, 1994.

Tylenol Tampering (1982)

Extra Strength Tylenol tablets dosed with cyanide claimed seven lives. The person(s) responsible have never been caught. It is believed that cyanide was added to the Tylenol and that the tainted bottles were placed on the shelves of several supermarkets and pharmacies in Chicago area. In addition to the five bottles responsible for the seven deaths, three poisoned bottles were found on the shelves. Because they were from different production locations, investigators believed the tampering occurred after the product was shipped, rather than in the factory. This was the first documented example of random drug poisoning. The \$100,000 reward posted by the drug manufacturer, Johnson and Johnson, has never been claimed. This incident led to the development of tamper-resistant packaging and caplets designed to protect the public.

In 1986, Stella Nickell, a Seattle woman, laced some Excedrin with cyanide and killed her husband for his life insurance. She placed three other poisoned bottles of Excedrin in the store to make it look like a random killing and killed another woman, Susan Snow, in the process. In 1988, Stella was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Agent Orange

Agent Orange is the code name for a powerful herbicide and defoliant used by the U.S. military in its Herbicidal Warfare program during the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, an estimated 21,136,000 gal. (80 000 m³) of Agent Orange was sprayed across South Vietnam.

From 1961 to 1971, Agent Orange was by far the most widely used of the so-called "Rainbow Herbicides" employed in the Herbicidal Warfare program. During the production of Agent Orange (as well as Agents Purple, Pink, and Green) dioxins were produced as a contaminant, which have caused health problems for those exposed during the Vietnam War. Agents Blue and White were part of the same program but did not contain dioxins.

Studies of populations exposed to dioxin, though not necessarily Agent Orange, indicate increased risk of various types of cancer and genetic defects; the effect of long-term low-level exposure has not been established.

Since the 1980s, several lawsuits have been filed against the companies which produced Agent Orange, among them; Dow Chemical, Monsanto, and Diamond Shamrock (which produced 5%[2]). U.S. veterans obtained a \$180 million settlement in 1984, with most affected veterans receiving a one-time lump sum payment of \$1,200. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, shortly after the Vietnam War veterans reported various health complications which can be traced to exposure to the chemical Agent Orange. In 1991, the US Congress enacted the Agent Orange Act giving the Department of Veterans Affairs the authority to declare certain conditions 'presumptive' to exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin enabling these veterans who served in Vietnam eligible to receive treatment and compensation for these conditions. The same law required the National Academy of Sciences to periodically review the science on dioxin and herbicides used in Vietnam to inform the Secretary of Veterans Affairs about the strength of the scientific evidence showing association between exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin and certain conditions. Through this process, the list of 'presumptive' conditions has grown since 1991 and currently the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has listed prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, multiple myeloma, type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, peripheral neuropathy, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and spina bifida in children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange as conditions associated with exposure to the herbicide.

American veterans of the Vietnam war were seeking recognition of Agent Orange syndrome, compensation and treatment for diseases that they and their children suffered from; many exposed to Agent Orange have not been able to receive promised medical care through the Veterans Administration medical system, and only in exceptional cases have their affected children received health care assistance from the government.

Vietnam veterans and their families who brought the original Agent Orange lawsuit 25 years ago alleged that the government "is just waiting for us all to die" They alleged that most of those still alive would succumb to the effects of toxic exposure before the age of 65.

In Australia, Canada and New Zealand, veterans obtained compensation in settlements that same year. In 1999, South Korean veterans filed a lawsuit in the Korean courts. In January 2006, the Korean Appeal Court ordered Monsanto and Dow to pay US\$62 million in compensation. However, no Vietnamese have received compensation, and on March 10, 2005, Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York dismissed the lawsuit filed by the Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange against the chemical companies which produced the defoliants and herbicides. The case was appealed and heard by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on June 18, 2007. The Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of the case stating that the herbicides used during the war were not intended to be used to poison humans and therefore did not violate international law. The lawyers for the Vietnamese have petitioned the US Supreme Court to consider the case.

Steroid Use and Major League Baseball

In July 2007, former outfielder and steroid-user José Canseco said that he was planning to publish another book about Major League Baseball, to follow his 2005 bestseller *Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big*. Canseco said his new book would have "other stuff" on Rodriguez, and called him a hypocrite. At the time, Rodriguez denied accusations of steroid use. In a 2007 interview with Katie Couric, Rodriguez flatly denied ever having used performance-enhancing drugs.

In February 2009, Selena Roberts and David Epstein of *Sports Illustrated* reported that Rodriguez had tested positive for two anabolic steroids, testosterone and Primobolan, during his 2003 season playing for the Texas Rangers, the same season in which he captured his first American League Most Valuable Player award, broke 300 career home runs (hitting 47 runs that year), and earned one of his ten Silver Slugger Awards. The information had been part of a government-sealed report detailing 104 major league players (out of 1200 players tested) who tested positive for performance enhancers during a 2003 drug survey. Approved by the players themselves with the promise of anonymity, the survey was conducted by Major League Baseball to see whether a mandatory drug testing program might be necessary.

Although testosterone is available by prescription for some uses, Primobolan has no approved prescription use. Also known as methenolone or metenolone enanthate, it is the same steroid that Barry Bonds is alleged to have tested positive for in 2000 and 2001. A fairly weak steroid on its own, it is generally used in conjunction with other steroids. The drug is generally preferred in injected rather than oral form due to its cost. An official statement by Major League Baseball made shortly after Rodriguez's test results became public expressed "grave concern" without naming Rodriguez, noting that "because the survey testing that took place in 2003 was intended to be non-disciplinary and anonymous, we cannot make any comment on the accuracy of this report as it pertains to the player named."

Anthrax and Bioterrorism

"Anthrax was first tested as a biological warfare agent by Unit 731 of the Japanese Kwantung Army in Manchuria during the 1930s; some of this testing involved intentional infection of prisoners of war, thousands of whom died. Anthrax, designated at the time as Agent N, was also investigated by the allies in the 1940's. The British army tested experimental anthrax weapons on Gruinard Island, off the northwest coast of Scotland, in 1943. Gruinard was burned over at least once, yet as of the late 1980's, it was still too heavily contaminated with spores to allow unprotected human access, indicating the hardiness of anthrax spores. Weaponized anthrax was part of the U.S. stockpile prior to its destruction in 1972."

Weaponized stocks of anthrax in the US were destroyed in 1971–72 after President Nixon ordered the dismantling of US biowarfare programs in 1969 and the destruction of all existing stockpiles of bioweapons. Research is known to continue in the United States on ways to counteract bioweapons attacks.

The Soviet Union created and stored 100 to 200 tons of anthrax spores on Vozrozhdeniya Island. They were abandoned in 1992 and destroyed in 2002.

Despite signing the 1972 agreement to end bioweapon production the government of the Soviet Union had an active bioweapons program that included the production of hundreds of tons of weapons-grade anthrax after this period. On April 2, 1979 some of the over one million people living in Sverdlovsk (now called Ekaterinburg, Russia), about 850 miles east of Moscow, were exposed to an accidental release of anthrax from a biological weapons complex located near there. At least 94 people were infected, of whom at least 68 died. One victim died four days after the release, ten over an eight-day period at the peak of the deaths, and the last six weeks later. Extensive cleanup, vaccinations and medical interventions managed to save about 30 of the victims. Extensive cover-ups and destruction of records by the KGB continued from 1979 until Russian President Boris Yeltsin admitted this anthrax accident in 1992. Jeanne Guillemin reported in 1999 that a combined Russian and United States team investigated the accident in 1992.

Theoretically anthrax spores can be cultivated with minimal special equipment and a first-year collegiate microbiological education, but in practice the procedure is difficult and dangerous. To make large amounts of an aerosol form of anthrax suitable for biological warfare, extensive practical knowledge, training and highly advanced equipment are required.

Concentrated anthrax spores were used for bioterrorism in the 2001 anthrax attacks in the United States, delivered by mailing postal letters containing the spores. Only a few grams of material were used in these attacks and in August 2008 the US Department of Justice announced they believed that Dr. Bruce Ivins, a senior biodefense researcher, was responsible. These events also spawned many anthrax hoaxes.

In response to the postal anthrax attacks and hoaxes the US Postal Service sterilized some mail using a process of gamma irradiation and treatment with a proprietary enzyme formula supplied by Sipco Industries Ltd.

A scientific experiment performed by a high school student, later published in The Journal of Medical Toxicology, suggested that a domestic electric iron at its hottest setting (at least 400 °F (204 °C)) used for at least 5 minutes should destroy all anthrax spores in a common postal envelope.

N.J. freshman dies from suspected alcohol poisoning at University of Delaware**by Katie Wang/The Star-Ledger****Sunday November 09, 2008, 9:15 AM**

University of Delaware freshman from South Brunswick died Saturday of apparent alcohol poisoning after a fraternity party, police said.

Brett Griffin, 18, was discovered in cardiac arrest about 3 a.m. at an off-campus house where members of Sigma Alpha Mu were hosting a party, said Newark, Del., Police Lt. Brian Henry. The student, who had been in the process of joining the fraternity, was taken to nearby Christiana Hospital and pronounced dead, Henry said.

"It's just a nightmare," said Louis Braschi, 19, one of Griffin's fellow fraternity pledges. "Everyone is just beside themselves."

Griffin grew up in Kendall Park and graduated in June from South Brunswick High School, where -- like his two older brothers -- he had competed on the wrestling team.

"He was one of those kids who never missed a practice," said Joseph Dougherty, the team's coach. "He wanted to be the best wrestler he could be. He was very inspirational to the other kids on his team."

The pale-yellow clapboard house where Griffin was found unconscious stands several blocks north of campus and is home to several members of Sigma Alpha Mu, school officials said.

Griffin lived on campus and was among about 40 people who attended the party that night, police said.

At 2:52 a.m., authorities received a 911 call and arrived at the house to find Griffin on the second floor, police said.

The preliminary cause of death was an alcohol overdose, and an autopsy was scheduled for today, Henry said. No one has been charged in the death, he said.

Police have had no previous problems with the fraternity, he said.

Griffin's friends recalled him as shy, fiercely loyal and charismatic. He liked staying up late, listening to Red Hot Chili Peppers music and playing acoustic guitar with his band back home in New Jersey, they said.

He was studying nutrition but had not picked a major, friends said. His quiet confidence, athletic build and shaggy blond hair -- uncut since August -- made him popular with girls, they said.

"He was a kid people wanted to be around," said Braschi, a sophomore who grew up in Verona.

He declined to talk about the specifics of Griffin's death.