

OPIOID FACT SHEET



Know the Facts About Opioids

Opioid misuse in the United States is a big problem. The number of deaths from pain medicine overdoses has gone up over the past 20 years. One way to help reduce overdose deaths is by learning more about opioids.



The Facts About Opioids

- Prescription opioids are a type of pain medicine. They work the same as illegal drugs, such as heroin and opium. Opioids include hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (OxyContin), morphine and codeine.
- Risk of death is higher when opioids are taken with alcohol or other medications.
- Opioids block pain signals that travel from the nerves to the brain.
- Because opioids may cause changes to the brain, they can be addictive.
- Opioid misuse can develop quickly.
- Anyone can develop a problem with opioids.
- Opioid misuse can cause overdose and death.

THE OPIOID CRISIS BY THE NUMBERS

107,543 people died from a drug overdose in the United States in 2023



9.5 MILLION people aged 12 or older misused pain medicine in the last year

 **50%** got the pain medicine from family or a friend

AGES 18 - 25 misuse opioids more than any other age group

 Children **AGE 12** misused opioids for the first time more than any other age group



Opioids are **NOT** the best medicine for tooth pain

7,000 people are treated each day in emergency departments for opioid misuse



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Drug Substance Statistics, National Institutes of Health and National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

We offer this information in different formats and languages at no cost. For help, please call us at 855-225-1729, TTY: 711. Our offices are open Monday to Friday, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm MST.

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