

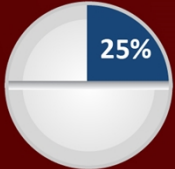
EFFECTS OF OPIOID ADDICTION

Opioid addiction is a growing epidemic in the United States. Overdose **DEATHS** from prescription opioids are **FOUR TIMES HIGHER** now than they were in 1999. From 1999 to 2015, **MORE THAN 183,000 PEOPLE DIED** from prescription **OPIOID OVERDOSES**. Opioid overdoses killed **MORE THAN 33,000 PEOPLE** in 2015 alone, more than any year on record.

- Most commonly abused opioids:
 - Oxycodone (e.g., OxyContin)
 - Methadone
 - Hydrocodone (e.g., Vicodin)
 - Heroin

91 AMERICANS DIE every day from an opioid overdose.

- These deaths often involve prescription sedatives, like Valium or Xanax.
- Avoid taking sleep, anti-anxiety or sedative medications while using prescription opioids.



If you struggle with addiction, you are not alone—**25% OF PATIENTS** receiving long-term opioid therapy struggle with opioid addiction. Doctors write enough prescriptions each year to supply every American adult with their own bottle of pills—nearly **250 MILLION PRESCRIPTIONS** in total.



Don't be afraid to ask for help. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers resources to help with addiction and treatment. **VISIT SAMHSA.GOV** for more information on its services, or call the **NATIONAL HELPLINE AT 1-800-622-4357**. Additionally, talk with your doctor about addiction treatment using other methods, like non-addictive drugs, to ween off opioids.



Did you know? **"GOOD SAMARITAN" LAWS EXIST** in many states and can protect victims and those reporting incidents from drug possession charges. **VISIT PDAPS.ORG** to see if your state has a Good Samaritan law.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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