

OPIOID FACT SHEET



Know the Facts About Opioids

Opioid misuse in the United States is a big problem. Deaths from pain medicine overdoses have increased greatly over the past 20 years. One way to help reduce overdose deaths is learning facts about opioids.



The Facts About Opioids and Heroin

- Prescription opioids are a type of pain medicine. They work like the illegal drugs 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 the nerves to the brain.
- Because opioids create 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

93,331 people died from drug overdose in the United States in 2020

74%
(69,710) of the drug deaths involved an opioid

9.7 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

1,000 people are treated each day in emergency departments for opioid misuse



DentaQuest; sources: ¹ 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. ² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vital statistics rapid release. Provisional drug overdose death counts, 2021.



Oklahoma Mental Health And
Substance Abuse Services

[Click here](#)

DentaQuest
a Sun Life company