CDC’s Efforts to End the Opioid Epidemic

The Epidemic in America
The Opioid Epidemic

Looking Behind Opioid Overdose Deaths

In 2016, more than 42,000 Americans died from overdoses involving prescription or illicit opioids.

- For every person who died there were 15 people reported having a substance use disorder involving heroin.
- 41 people reported having a substance use disorder involving prescription opioids.
- 273 people reported misusing prescription opioids in the past year.
- 2,174 people reported using prescription opioids in the past year.

Overdose deaths rose in lockstep with opioid prescribing.
2000 Rapid Increase in Drug Overdose Death Rates by County

SOURCE: NCHS Data Visualization Gallery

2005 Rapid Increase in Drug Overdose Death Rates by County

SOURCE: NCHS Data Visualization Gallery
2010 Rapid Increase in Drug Overdose Death Rates by County

SOURCE: NCHS Data Visualization Gallery

2015 Rapid Increase in Drug Overdose Death Rates by County

SOURCE: NCHS Data Visualization Gallery
Rise in opioid deaths:
Overlapping, entangled, but distinct epidemics

Three Waves

1. Natural and semi-synthetic opioids like oxycodone or hydrocodone
2. Heroin
3. Synthetic opioids like fentanyl

Rise in Prescription Opioid Deaths in United States

1st Wave

Nearly 200,000 people died from prescription opioids in the last 17 years.

Natural and semi-synthetic opioid death rate increased 5-fold from 2000 to 2011

Methadone death rate increased 4-fold from 2000 to 2007

https://wonder.cdc.gov/
Rise in Heroin Deaths in United States

2nd Wave
Over 60,000 people have died from heroin since 2010

Heroin death rate has increased over 5 fold since 2010

https://wonder.cdc.gov/

Rise in Synthetic Opioid Deaths in United States – Likely Illicit Fentanyl

3rd Wave
Deaths from synthetic opioids excluding methadone increased from approximately 3,100 in 2013 to over 19,000 in 2016

Synthetic opioid death rate (excluding methadone) has increased 6-fold from 2013 to 2016

Who’s at risk for overdose?

- **Demographics**
  - Men
  - 35-54 year olds
  - Whites
  - American Indians / Alaska Natives

- **Socioeconomics & Geography**
  - Medicaid
  - Rural

- **Risk Factors**
  - Patients receiving opioids from multiple prescribers and/or pharmacies
  - Patients taking high daily doses of opioids
  - Depression, substance use disorder, and prior overdose

The Epidemic Impacts Our Families

- Increase in overdose deaths

- Increase in individuals living with opioid use disorder

- Increase in babies exposed to opioids during pregnancy (born with neonatal abstinence syndrome)

- Increase in children entering foster care

- Greater risk for outbreaks of HIV and Hepatitis C among injection drug users
...And Our Economy

$78.5 billion
Cost of prescription opioid dependence, abuse, and overdose in the United States in 2013

25%
Percentage of worker’s compensation prescription drug claims that were for opioids in 2011

HHS Opioid Strategy
HHS Opioid Strategy

Advancing the practice of pain management

Improving access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services

Targeting availability and distribution of overdose-reversing drugs

Supporting cutting-edge research

Strengthening timely public health data and reporting

CDC’s Framework for Prevention
Preventing Opioid Overdoses and Opioid-Related Harms

- Conduct surveillance and research
- Empower consumers to make safe choices
- Build state, local, and tribal capacity
- Support providers, health systems, and payers
- Partner with public safety

Rx Awareness Campaign Clip