

**Key Statistics About the Opioid Epidemic\***

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| *Opioids are a class of drugs that include heroin, fentanyl, and pain relievers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and morphine.* * More than 130 people die in the U.S. **each day** after overdosing on opioids.
* Approximately 80% of people who use heroin abused prescription drugs first.
* From July 2016 to Sept. 2017, the most recent data available, opioid overdoses increased 30% in 52 areas and 45 states – with the Midwest hit especially hard and seeing a 70% increase in overdoses over the same time period.
* In 2017, an estimated 1.7 million Americans suffered from substance abuse disorders related to prescription opioids.
* Approximately 21-29% of patients who are prescribed prescription opioids misuse them, and between 8-12% develop an opioid use disorder.
* [According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/substance-use/drugs/opioids/index.html#ftn2), 3.6% of children ages 12-17 reported misusing prescription opioids in 2016. That percentage doubled for young adults ages 18-25.
* Of the more than 70,000 drug overdose deaths in 2017, the most recent data available, approximately 68% of those deaths involved opioids, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html).
* The CDC estimates that prescription opioid misuse in the U.S. costs taxpayers $78.5 billion a year which includes lost productivity, addiction treatment, and healthcare.
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*\*Unless otherwise noted, all statistics provided by the* [*National Institute on Drug Abuse*](https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis)*.*