

## PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS

Opioid medications are typically used to relieve moderate to severe pain. When taken as prescribed they can manage pain safely. However, opioids pose a high risk for abuse and addiction. The risk is higher when the drugs are misused.

4.3 million people in the U.S. report prescription opioid abuse, that's 2% of the population. Ninety-one Americans die every day from opioid overdose.

### DRUG\_I.D.

**Looks:** Pills, powder

**Street Names:** Vicodin, Oxycodone, OxyContin, Percocet, Norco, Vike, Watson-387, Tuss, Big Boys, Cotton, OC, Cotton, Percs, Morph, Kicker

**Methods of Use:** Swallowed

**Actions:** Euphoria, relaxation, pain relief

**Warning Signs:** Opioid addicts and users may have constricted pupils, complain of nausea or constipation, not feel pain at normal levels, or often seem drowsy and confused. They withdraw from family, friends, and things they used to enjoy. Their sleep patterns are abnormal and they become irritable and moody.

### TRAGEDIES

Prescription drug abuse has become an epidemic. Almost 2 million Americans abuse or are dependent on prescription opioids. Over 15,000 people die a year due to prescription opioid abuse and the numbers are rising. Nearly half of all opioid deaths involves a prescription drug.

## OPIOIDS: A DEADLY EPIDEMIC



## EFFECTS\_OF\_USE

- Euphoria
- Relaxation
- Pain relief
- Withdrawal
- Overdose
- Addiction
- Death



## WAY\_TO\_GO

As many as 1 in 4 long term opioid users struggle with addiction. Taking too much can lead to respiratory depression - you stop breathing - which leads to death.

Due to the decreased availability and the high cost of prescription drugs, users are turning to heroin or street dealers to feed their addiction. 86% of heroin users abused opioid painkillers before injecting heroin. Street drugs are often counterfeit and laced with synthetic drugs like fentanyl, which makes them stronger and deadlier. There is no way to tell what pill you are buying until it's too late.

PREVIEW ONLY