

## Opioid Overdose Statistics

### **Overdose deaths:**

- According to the CDC, in 2016, there were more than 63,600 drug overdose deaths in the US. That is a 21% increase over 2015. That's 174 people dying every day or an overdose death every 8.5 minutes.
- In 2016, there were 42,249 opioid related overdose deaths in the US. That is a 28% increase over 2015. That's 115 people dying every day from an opioid overdose.
- And early numbers from the CDC indicate that more people than ever are dying all across this country: opioids – including prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl – killed more than 49,000 people in 2017, more than any year on record. **That's an average of 134 people dying of an opioid overdose every day.**
- Overall, last year alone, we lost more than 72,000 people to a drug overdose – that's more than the number of people that we lost during the entire Vietnam war: 58,200.
- The number of drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone (fentanyl, etc.) doubled from 9,580 in 2015 to 19,413 in 2016.
- Deaths due to heroin rose nearly 20%.
- Deaths due to other opioid pain killers, including hydrocodone and oxycodone, rose 14%.

### **Opioid use and lack of treatment:**

- 2.1 million Americans abuse or are dependent on opioids.
- According to the CDC, 3 out of 4 new heroin users abused prescription opioids before moving to heroin.
- Heroin use has more than doubled among young adults ages 18–25 in the past decade. 45% of people who used heroin were also addicted to prescription opioid painkillers.
- Between 2009 and 2013, only 22% of Americans suffering from opioid addiction participated in any form of addiction treatment.

### **Too many opioids:**

- The United States makes up only 4.6 percent of the world's population, but consumes 80 percent of its opioids.
- In 2012, health care providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for painkillers, enough for every American to have a bottle of pills.
- The amount of prescription opioids sold in the US has nearly quadrupled since 1999 without a reported increase in pain. At the same time overdose deaths involving opioids have also quadrupled since 1999. Opioid prescribing is *clearly* driving opioid overdose deaths.

## **Economic costs:**

- This epidemic doesn't just destroy families and communities. It is harming our economy – according to the White House Council of Economic Advisers, misuse and abuse of prescription drugs cost the country about \$540 billion in 2015. This includes lost productivity, medical costs, criminal justice costs, and the loss of human lives.

## **Opioids in West Virginia**

- West Virginia has highest drug overdose death rate in the nation. West Virginia has reported 1,011 drug overdose deaths in 2017 with 870 – about 86 percent – involving an opioid. This is a 15% increase from 2016. This increase was driven by an increase in fatal overdoses related to fentanyl, which rose from 366 people in 2016 to 591 people in 2017.
- Preliminary counts for 2018 show that in the first six months of the year 498 West Virginians suffered overdoses.
- West Virginia had the highest overdose death rate in the country: 52 per 100,000 people. The national rate is 19.8 per 100,000 and the next two highest states – New Hampshire & Ohio saw 39 deaths per 100,000.
- 61,000 West Virginians used prescription pain medications for non-medical purposes in 2014. This includes 6,000 teenagers.
- 42,000 people in West Virginia – including 4000 youth – sought treatment for illegal drug use but failed to receive it.
- Drug wholesalers shipped 780 million hydrocodone and oxycodone painkillers into West Virginia between 2007 and 2012. That's 433 pain pills for every person in West Virginia – including children.
- In that same time period, 1728 West Virginians died due to an overdose on those two drugs.