

SEARCH AND RESCUE

TOOLS & RESOURCES TO HELP NAVIGATE THE OPIOID CRISIS

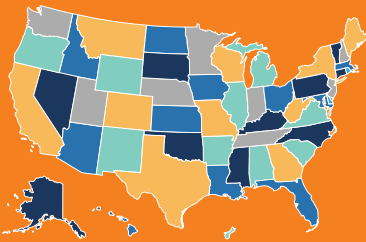
THE OPIOID CRISIS: ESSENTIAL STATISTICS



**IN 2015,
2 MILLION
AMERICANS HAD
A SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER
INVOLVING
PRESCRIPTION
PAIN RELIEVERS¹**



**OF THE 64,000
DRUG OVERDOSE
DEATHS IN 2016,
40% INVOLVED
A PRESCRIPTION
OPIOID^{2,3}**



**EVERY DAY
IN THE
UNITED STATES,
THERE ARE
115 DEATHS
RELATED TO
OPIOIDS⁴**



**4 OUT OF 5
HEROIN USERS
ABUSED A
PRESCRIPTION
OPIOID FIRST⁵**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?⁶

1. Start by prescribing non-opioid pain relief whenever possible
2. If opioids appear to be necessary, begin with the lowest effective dosage and a short-term prescription
3. Check your state's PDMP to monitor your patient's prescribing activity
4. To avoid greater risk of patient death, don't prescribe benzodiazepines along with opioids
5. Use the other resources available through Search and Rescue

References

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3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Opioid Overdose. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/index.html>. Accessed March 22, 2018.
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5. Jones CM. Heroin use and heroin use risk behaviors among nonmedical users of prescription opioid pain relievers—United States, 2002-2004 and 2008-2010. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2013;132(1-2):95-100.
6. Why guidelines for primary care providers? Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guideline_infographic-a.pdf. Accessed March 22, 2018.