

# SEARCH AND RESCUE

TOOLS & RESOURCES TO HELP NAVIGATE THE OPIOID CRISIS

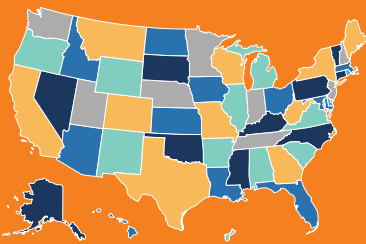
## THE OPIOID CRISIS: ESSENTIAL STATISTICS



**IN 2018,  
1.7 MILLION  
AMERICANS HAD  
A SUBSTANCE USE  
DISORDER  
INVOLVING  
PRESCRIPTION  
PAIN RELIEVERS<sup>1</sup>**



**OF THE 67,367  
DRUG OVERDOSE  
DEATHS IN 2018,  
22% INVOLVED  
A PRESCRIPTION  
OPIOID<sup>2</sup>**



**IN 2018,  
128 PEOPLE  
DIED EACH DAY  
FROM AN  
OPIOID-RELATED  
OVERDOSE<sup>3</sup>**



**4 OUT OF 5  
PEOPLE WHO  
USE HEROIN  
MISUSED A  
PRESCRIPTION  
OPIOID FIRST<sup>4</sup>**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?<sup>5</sup>

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

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Results From the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. Published August 2019. Accessed May 8, 2020. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2018-nsduh-detailed-tables>.
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3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drug overdose deaths. Updated March 19, 2021. Accessed September 10, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>.
4. 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.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why guidelines for primary care providers? Accessed March 22, 2018. [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guideline\\_infographic-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guideline_infographic-a.pdf).