



## PRESCRIPTION OPIOID EPIDEMIC: KNOW THE FACTS

One of the fastest growing epidemics in the United States today is prescription pain medication misuse.

Opioids, a class of narcotic pain medications prescribed by doctors and filled at pharmacies, are a large contributor to this epidemic. Some examples of opioids are oxycodone, hydrocodone, and fentanyl.

While opioids are medically necessary, misuse and addiction are becoming widespread.



### HOW TO TALK TO A LOVED ONE ABOUT PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS:

- Talk to children and family members about taking only medicine that is prescribed to them and to never share medications with others.
- Explain that prescription medications are not safer than street drugs and misusing them can lead to addiction and can be life threatening.

EXPLAIN HOW ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE CAN OCCUR:

- Taking more pills or more frequently than prescribed or mixing pills with alcohol or other medications.

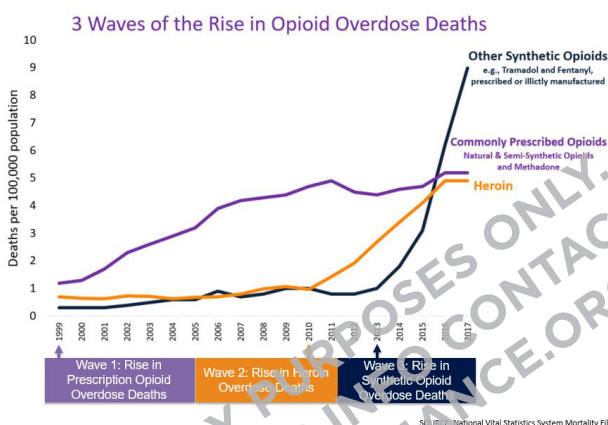
#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

<http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>

For questions regarding research included  
in this brochure and to view our video, please visit:

[www.amaalliance.org](http://www.amaalliance.org)

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### SAFE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF PAIN MEDICATIONS:

Keep medications hidden safely out of sight. Lock up prescription pain medication in the home.

Keep a count of all pills to notice if any are missing.

Dispose of all prescription pain medications when they are no longer needed.

Use safe local disposal sites and information found at:

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback)



**AT SIGNS OF OVERDOSE, IMMEDIATELY CALL 911  
and administer Narcan if available.  
Perform rescue breathing until help arrives.**

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