

OPIOID FACTS

There are 250 million prescriptions for opioids written each year—enough for every adult in America to have a bottle of pills (Surgeon General)



The US makes up less than 5% of the world's population, yet uses 81% of the opioid supply. (CDC)

Over 2 million people in America have a prescription opioid use disorder, contributing to increased heroin use and the spread of HIV and hepatitis. (CDC)

According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 435,000 respondents ages 12 or older reported current use of heroin. (NSDUH)

80% of recent heroin users started with prescription opioids. (NIDA)

91 people die every day from an opioid overdose. (CDC)

The hospitalization rate due to opioid abuse has quintupled for those 65+ in the past two decades. (AARP Bulletin June 2017)

In the 1960s, more than 80% of opioid abusers got hooked on heroin first. In the 2000s, 75% of opioid abusers started with prescription opioids. (JAMA)

Nearly 14,000 people age 45+ died from an opioid overdose in 2015—42% of all such deaths in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (CDC)

Nearly 80% of individuals with an opioid use disorder do not receive treatment. (NSDUH)

Approximately **1 in 5** high school seniors report misusing prescription drugs at least once in their lifetime. (monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-vol1_2014.pdf)

Most first-time abusers of painkillers obtain them from a friend or relative. (SAMHSA)

Almost 1/3 of all Medicare patients—nearly 12 million people—were prescribed opioid painkillers by their physicians in 2015. That same year, 2.7 million Americans over age 50 abused painkillers, meaning they took them for reasons or in amounts beyond what the doctor prescribed. (AARP Bulletin June 2017)



FLORIDA 2016 MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION DRUG REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Unless otherwise noted, comparison stats were made to 2015 data.

Drugs that caused **the most deaths** were:

Cocaine	1,769
Benzodiazepines	1,421
Fentanyl	1,390
Morphine	1,338
Fentanyl analogs	965
Heroin	952
Ethyl alcohol	948
Oxycodone	723
Methadone	330
Methamphetamine	327

Occurrences of:

Heroin increased by 31% and deaths caused by heroin increased by 30%.

Fentanyl increased by 80% and deaths caused by fentanyl increased by 97%.

Oxycodone increased by 28% and deaths caused by oxycodone also increased by 28%.

Recommendations:

- Take Back Programs
- Policy Changes
- Prescriptions Drug Monitoring Program
- Improve Data Collections
- Collaboration across all sectors to address issue

Total drug-related deaths increased by 22% (2,126 more).

5,725 opioid-related deaths were reported, which is a 35% increase (1,483 more).

6,658 (24% more) individuals died with one or more prescription drugs in their system. The drugs were identified as either the cause of death or merely present in the decedent. These drugs may have also been mixed with illicit drugs and/or alcohol.

3,550 (40% more) individuals died with at least one prescription drug in their system that was identified as the cause of death. These drugs may have been mixed with other prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and/or alcohol.



Drugs that caused **more than 50% of the deaths** were:

Fentanyl analogs	94%
Heroin	93%
Fentanyl	85%
Methadone	66%
Morphine	66%
Cocaine	61%
Methamphetamine	53%
Oxycodone	52%