





The Opioid Epidemic in America: A Multi-Modal Approach



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VADM Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H.
 Surgeon General of the United States



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U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS



“the Commissioned Corps...
 a mobile, duty-bound group of
 health officers willing to go
 anywhere, at any time, to meet
 the nation’s most urgent public
 health needs.”

Craig Collins
*The PHS Commissioned Corps
 Two Centuries and Counting*



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OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL: PRIORITIES

- Substance Misuse: Opioids, Tobacco, Marijuana
- Community Health & Economic Prosperity
- Health & National Security

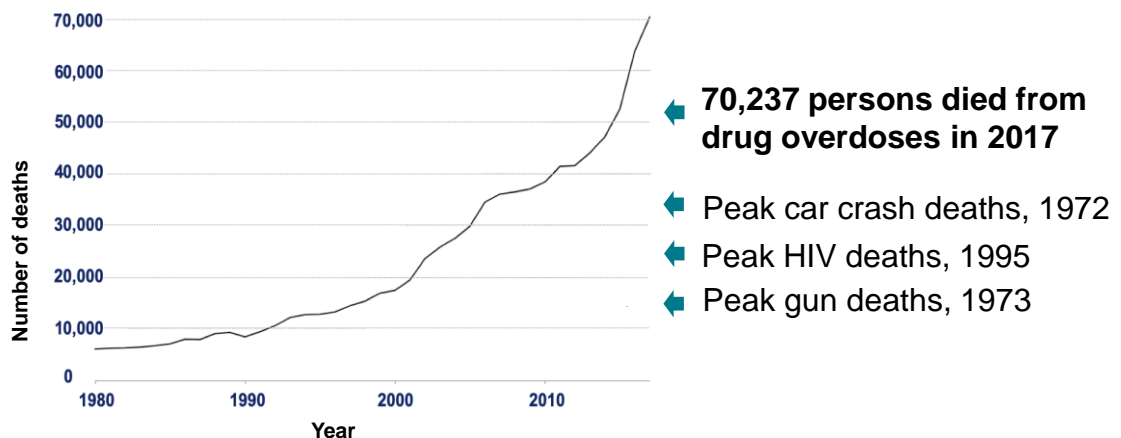


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THE U.S. OPIOID CRISIS IS FUELING INCREASED NON-STERILE DRUG INJECTION AND FATAL OVERDOSES



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SOURCE: Katz and Sanger Katz. "The Numbers Are So Staggering, Overdose Deaths Set a Record Last Year." The New York Times. November 29, 2018.



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STAND UP TO STIGMA



- ✓ **Talk openly** about stigma
- ✓ Choose **supportive language** that is not stigmatizing
- ✓ Speak out to **correct myths** and **stereotypes**
- ✓ **Educate** yourself and others



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SURGEON GENERAL'S DIGITAL POSTCARD ON OPIOID MISUSE

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT OPIOID MISUSE?



TALK ABOUT IT.

Opioids can be addictive and dangerous. We all should have a conversation about preventing drug misuse and overdose.



BE SAFE.

Only take opioid medications as prescribed. Always store in a secure place. Dispose of unused medication properly.



UNDERSTAND PAIN.

Treatments other than opioids are effective in managing pain and may have less risk for harm. Talk with your healthcare provider about an individualized plan that is right for your pain.



KNOW ADDICTION.

Addiction is a chronic disease that changes the brain and alters decision-making. With the right treatment and supports, people do recover. There is hope.



BE PREPARED.

Many opioid overdose deaths occur at home. Having naloxone, an opioid overdose reversing drug, could mean saving a life. Know where to get it and how to use it.



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SURGEON GENERAL'S ADVISORY ON NALOXONE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE

*I, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, VADM Jerome Adams, am emphasizing the importance of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone. For patients currently taking high doses of opioids as prescribed for pain, individuals misusing prescription opioids, individuals using illicit opioids such as heroin or fentanyl, health care practitioners, family and friends of people who have an opioid use disorder, and community members who come into contact with people at risk for opioid overdose, **knowing how to use naloxone and keeping it within reach can save a life.***

BE PREPARED. GET NALOXONE. SAVE A LIFE.



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OPIOID EPIDEMIC: EFFORTS & SUCCESSES

- Nearly **3 million 2-unit doses of naloxone** distributed
- Provisional drug **overdose deaths dropped by 5 percent – first drop in >20 years**
- Since start of the Administration, **number of Americans receiving MAT treatment grew** to nearly 1.27 million Americans
- **HHS has awarded over \$9 billion in grants** to states, tribes, and local communities to combat opioid addiction



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COMPREHENSIVE SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS: AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SYNDEMICS SOLUTION



Syringe Services Programs

Sometimes called “needle exchange” or “syringe exchange,” syringe services programs provide access to clean and sterile equipment used for the preparation and consumption of drugs as well as tools for the prevention and reversal of opioid overdose, such as naloxone training and distribution, fentanyl testing strips, and more. Comprehensive syringe services programs also provide additional social and medical services such as: safe disposal of syringes and needles; testing for HIV and hepatitis C infection and linkage to treatment; education about overdose and safer injection practices; referral and access to drug treatment programs, including MAT; tools to prevent HIV and other infectious disease, such as condoms, counseling, or vaccinations; and linkage to medical, mental health, and social services.

SSP participants are 5X more likely to enter drug treatment and 3.5X more likely to cease injecting compared to those who don't use SSP programs



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142 cases of HIV linked to illegal drugs

Many cases in Scott County are traced to people injecting Opana, a prescription painkiller similar to heroin and sold in pill form.

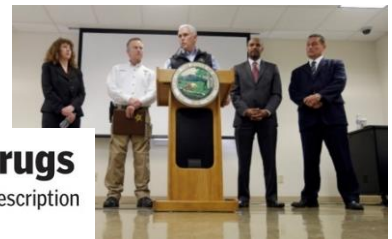


Oxymorphone
An opioid painkiller
sold under names
Opana and
Numorphan



Opana is a hard pill that is difficult to crush and dissolve for injection drug use. For that reason, users find larger needles are necessary.

To slow the rise in HIV, Indiana has extended its emergency needle exchange program in the area.



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CALLS TO ACTION



- Go to [CDC.gov/ssp](https://www.cdc.gov/ssp) to learn more about SSPs
- Read and share my Surgeon General's Advisory on Naloxone and Opioid Overdose
- Carry naloxone and participate in trainings
- Find OUD treatment at [findtreatment.gov](https://www.findtreatment.gov)
- Use SAMHSA's National Helpline – **1-800-662-HELP (4357)**
- Clinicians can obtain an MAT waiver at [pcssnow.org](https://www.pcssnow.org)

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