

PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS



Prescription opioids can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate-to-severe pain but can also have serious risks of addiction, abuse, and overdose. Even when taken as directed, side effects such as tolerance, depression, and physical dependence may occur.

When the Prescription Becomes the Problem

- ✓ More than 191 million opioid prescriptions were dispensed to American patients in 2017—with wide variation across states.
 - ✓ Health care providers in the highest prescribing state, Alabama, wrote almost three times as many of these prescriptions per person as those in the lowest prescribing state, Hawaii.
 - ✓ Studies suggest that regional variation in use of prescription opioids cannot be explained by the underlying health status of the population.
- ✓ The most common drugs involved in prescription opioid overdose deaths include:
 - Methadone
 - Oxycodone (such as OxyContin®)
 - Hydrocodone (such as Vicodin®)



SIDE EFFECTS

In addition to the serious risks of addiction, abuse, and overdose, the use of prescription opioids can have a number of side effects, even when taken as directed:



Tolerance—meaning you might need to take more of the medication for the same pain relief



Physical dependence—meaning you have symptoms of withdrawal when the medication is stopped



Increased sensitivity to pain



Constipation



Nausea, vomiting, and dry mouth



Sleepiness and dizziness



Confusion



Low levels of testosterone that can result in lower sex drive, energy, and strength



Depression



Itching and sweating

SOURCE: CDC



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your local County Health Department
TBD information . . .



The Florida Overdose Data to Action (FL-OD2A) program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services