



PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN THAT COSTS LIVES AND MONEY

Deaths associated with prescription drug misuse have increased dramatically in the United States. Tens of thousands of Americans die each year. Millions more are affected.



52 million

people in the U.S., over the age of 12 have **misused prescription drugs** in their lifetime.¹



Today, **at least half** of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involve a



prescription opioid.

⁴

4x

Unintentional overdose deaths from opioid pain medication **quadrupled between 1999 and 2008.**²



Americans **die each day** from an opioid overdose.³



3 out of 4

new heroin users report prescription opioid misuse prior to using heroin.⁵

Prescription drug misuse impacts communities and the economy:



Emergency departments

People living with substance use disorders **disproportionately consume costly emergency room services.** Care and treatment in the appropriate setting is good for patients and providers.



Insurance costs

People who misuse prescription drugs incur excess health care costs totaling **more than \$72 billion annually** to all public and private health insurers, including Medicaid.⁵



Health care providers

Prescribers **can** actively reduce the impact of prescription misuse.

Help reduce prescription drug misuse in three ways:



1

Provider Education



2

Treatment



3

Prescribing Guidelines

“ Everyone is talking about addictions. But as the numbers show, it is not enough for the more than 28,000 who died from an opioid overdose last year. We need to move from talk to action: **from raising awareness to connecting people with help.**”

Linda Rosenberg, President & CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health

SOURCES

^{1,3} www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k11Results/NSDUHresults2011.htm

^{2,5} www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html

⁴ CDC. Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2016. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

⁶ 2007 Coalition Against Insurance Fraud Report