

# THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

ARE WE IN DANGER OF LOSING A GENERATION OF CHILDREN?

91 Americans die every single day from opioid overdose.<sup>1</sup>

IN 2015 **50,000** more than  
**Americans died from drug overdoses...**  
**30,000 deaths** involved opioids.

That number exceeded traffic fatalities and deaths from HIV/AIDS in 1995 when the epidemic topped out.

ROBERT ANDERSON  
Oversees death statistics at CDC

"I don't think we've ever seen anything like this. Certainly not in modern times."<sup>2</sup>

Since 1999, the amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. has nearly **quadrupled**

yet there has not been an overall change in the amount of pain reported by Americans<sup>3</sup>

Prescriptions for opioids have escalated from

**76 million to 207 million** from 1999 to 2013<sup>4</sup>



and the United States is their biggest consumer accounting for almost



**100%**

OF THE WORLD TOTAL FOR HYDROCODONE (e.g. VICODIN)<sup>4</sup>



**81%**

OF THE WORLD TOTAL FOR OXYCODONE (e.g. PERCOCET)<sup>4</sup>

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?



DRASTIC INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS<sup>4</sup>



INCREASED SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY FOR MEDICATIONS<sup>4</sup>



AGGRESSIVE MARKETING BY PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES<sup>4</sup>

## TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE

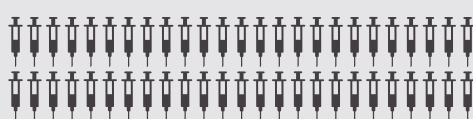
## FENTANYL

IS AN EXTREMELY POTENT SYNTHETIC OPIOID

FENTANYL IS **50X** STRONGER THAN HEROIN



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FENTANYL, AND RELATED COMPOUNDS, ARE ALSO BEING FOUND IN COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE TO LOOK LIKE PRESCRIPTION PAIN RELIEVERS AND SEDATIVES (e.g. OxyContin®, Xanax®, Norco®)<sup>5</sup>

Those who use heroin or prescription drugs laced with Fentanyl are at a much higher risk of overdose or death.<sup>5</sup>

## OPIOID USE AROUND THE WORLD

26.4 TO 36 MILLION PEOPLE ABUSE OPIOIDS WORLDWIDE<sup>4</sup>



[Canada ranked **2nd** for highest opioid consumption per capita in the world.<sup>9</sup>]

Approximately **80%** of the global opioid supply is consumed in the United States.<sup>7</sup>

### ACROSS THE ATLANTIC...

deaths resulting from heroin declined, but deaths from synthetic opioids rose...



**1.2 MILLION**

in China abuse opioids mostly prescription painkillers.



In 2011-2012, Estonia saw opioid related deaths increase

**38 PERCENT** one of the worst in the world.<sup>9</sup>



Britain was showing signs of a "US-style epidemic in abuse of prescription drugs."<sup>9</sup>



In New Zealand, opioid abuse is on the rise.<sup>9</sup>



An Australian coroner reported deaths were increasing at a "frightening" rate due to prescription drugs<sup>9</sup>

## THE IMPACT ON FAMILIES

People often share unused pain relievers, unaware of the dangers of nonmedical opioid use.



Most adolescents who misuse prescription pain relievers are given them, for free, by a friend or relative.

**276,000**

IN 2015

**21,000**

ADOLESCENTS WERE CURRENT NON-MEDICAL USERS OF PAIN RELIEVER, WITH 122,000 HAVING AN ADDICTION TO PRESCRIPTION PAIN RELIEVERS.<sup>8</sup>

ADOLESCENTS HAD USED HEROIN IN THE PAST YEAR. AN ESTIMATED 5,000 ADOLESCENTS WERE CURRENT USERS, AND 6,000 HAD A HEROIN USE DISORDER IN 2014.<sup>8</sup>

When parents get hooked on opioids, they aren't able to properly care for their children.

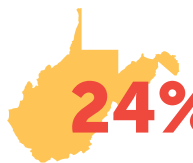


This has contributed to the rates of children in foster care climbing dramatically...



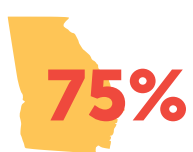
**19%**

IN OHIO, THERE HAS BEEN A 19% INCREASE SINCE 2010<sup>10</sup>



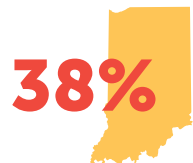
**24%**

WEST VIRGINIA SAW AN INCREASE OF 24% FROM 2012 TO 2016<sup>11</sup>



**75%**

GEORGIA HAS SEEN AN INCREASE OF 75% FROM 2013 TO 2016<sup>12</sup>



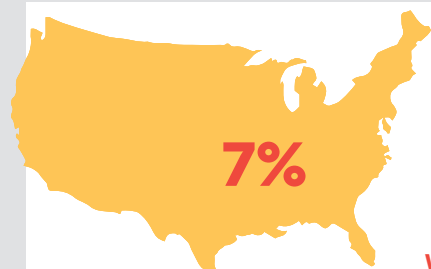
**38%**

IN INDIANA, THERE HAS BEEN A 38% INCREASE FROM 2013 TO 2015<sup>12</sup>



**75%**

VERMONT HAS SEEN A JUMP OF 75% FROM 2013 TO 2016<sup>13</sup>



**7%**

NATIONALLY, THE INCREASE WAS LESS THAN 7% BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015



THE PRIMARY GOALS OF MST ARE TO  
REDUCE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND  
ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR (E.G., DRUG ABUSE)  
AND TO ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES AT A  
COST SAVINGS BY DECREASING RATES OF  
INCARCERATION AND OUT-OF-HOME  
PLACEMENTS

## SOURCES

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