

# Opioid Epidemic



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**Word Bank**  
**Dependence**

**Epidemic**

**Illicit drugs**

**Overdose**

**Public health**

**Substance Use**

**Disorder**  
**Synthetic**

**Tolerance**

	an increase in the number of cases of a disease above what is normally expected in that area
	injury to the body (poisoning) that happens when a drug is taken in excessive amounts
	when a person's use of drugs or alcohol results in health issues or problems in their work, school, or home life; commonly called addiction
	adaptation to a drug that produces symptoms of withdrawal when it is stopped
	humanmade; in this context, drugs that are made in a laboratory or illegally
	the science of protecting and improving the health of people and communities
	the nonmedical use of a variety of drugs that are prohibited by law
	reduced response to a drug with repeated use



# Understanding Opioids

☹️ Opioids are drugs that interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain



☹️ Common opioids:

☹️ Prescription drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine

☹️ Heroin

☹️ Synthetic opioids like fentanyl and carfentanil

☹️ Opioids have high potential for addiction and overdose

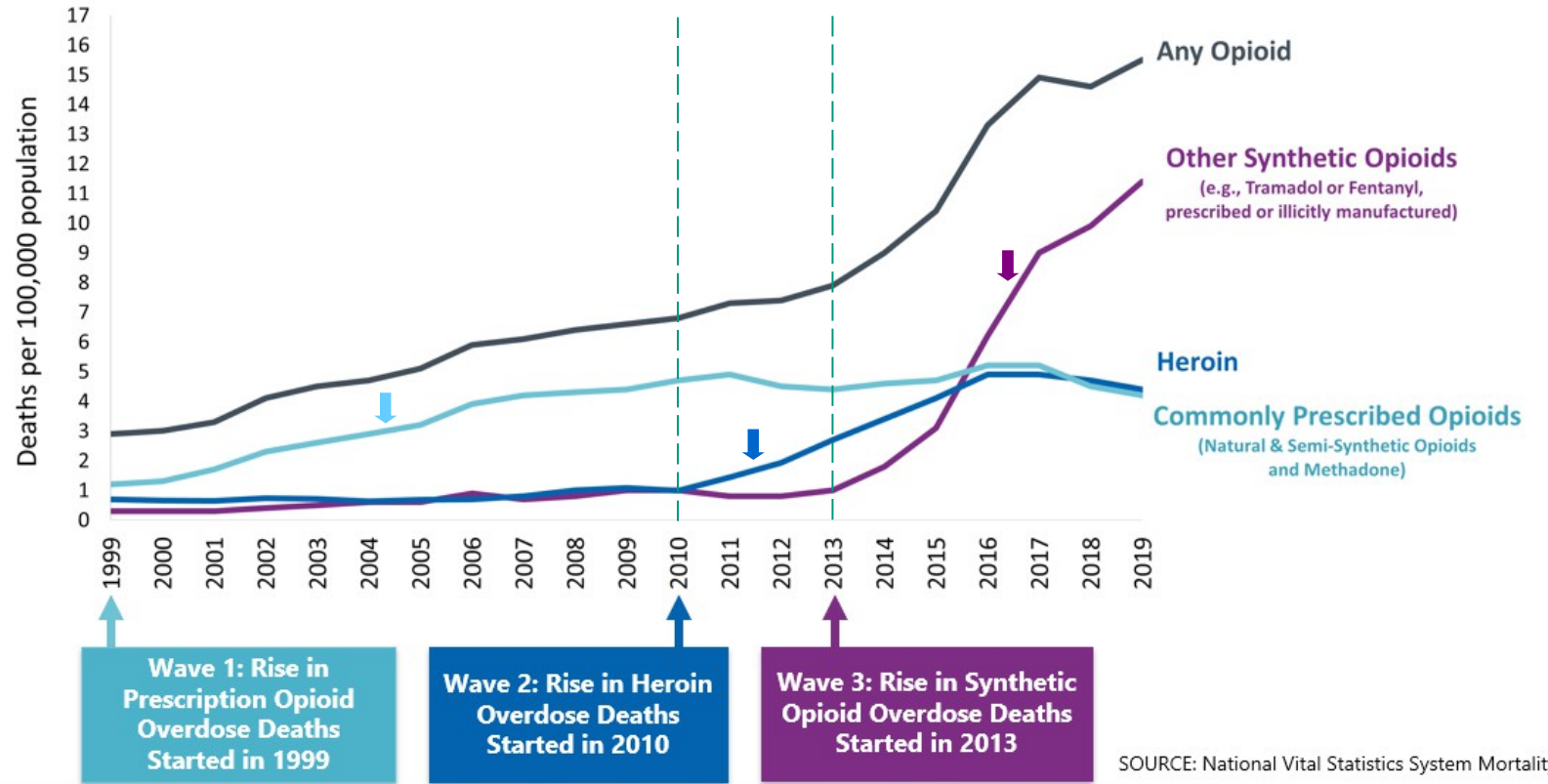
# Think About It



1. Why do you think people are dying from opioid **overdoses**?
2. What are some reasons why people use opioids?
3. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors drug quality and safety. Why is it important to monitor medications?

# Opioids and CDC

## Three Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



Long-term use of prescription or illicit opioids can lead to an opioid use disorder, commonly known as addiction

Opioid overdose deaths have been increasing steadily since 1999

# Opioid Use Disorder and CDC

☹ How can we reduce deaths due to opioid overdose?

☹ Recognize signs of overdose

☹ Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”

☹ Falling asleep or loss of consciousness

☹ Slow, shallow breathing

☹ Choking or gurgling sounds

☹ Limp body

☹ Pale, blue, or cold skin

☹ Passing 911 Good Samaritan Laws

☹ Using naloxone to reverse overdoses

☹ Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)

☹ Syringe service programs

# Think About It



1. Why is fentanyl causing such a dramatic increase in drug **overdose** deaths?
2. How do 911 Good Samaritan Laws help save lives?
3. What responsibility do doctors have in ensuring their patients do not become addicted to the opioids prescribed to them?

# From the Expert



## Effective Interventions to Combat Opioid Misuse: Studies from the Field of Opioid Prescription Management

Thursday, December 10, 2020  
12:00pm EST

The findings presented in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



<https://youtu.be/ogTXanWuwUk>





# Think About It



1. Why should workplaces care about the health and safety of their workers?
2. What are the effects of **opioid use disorder** on the friends, family, and surrounding community of people who are affected by it?
3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the support services for people with OUD were shut down. How do you think that affected rates of drug **overdose**?

## Call to Action!

Build empathy for people with opioid use disorders (OUD).

Design an intervention for opioid use disorder (OUD).

Share your findings.

# Give it a Try

Why do you think participation is important?

# Use the Public Health Approach

Surveillance

What is the problem?

Risk Factor Identification

What is the cause?

Intervention

What works?

Implementation

How did we do it?

# 1. Build Empathy for People with Opioid Use Disorders (OUD)

- Watch and read stories from CDC's Rx awareness campaign, which focuses on people affected by opioid use disorder
- Rx Awareness

# Give it a Try



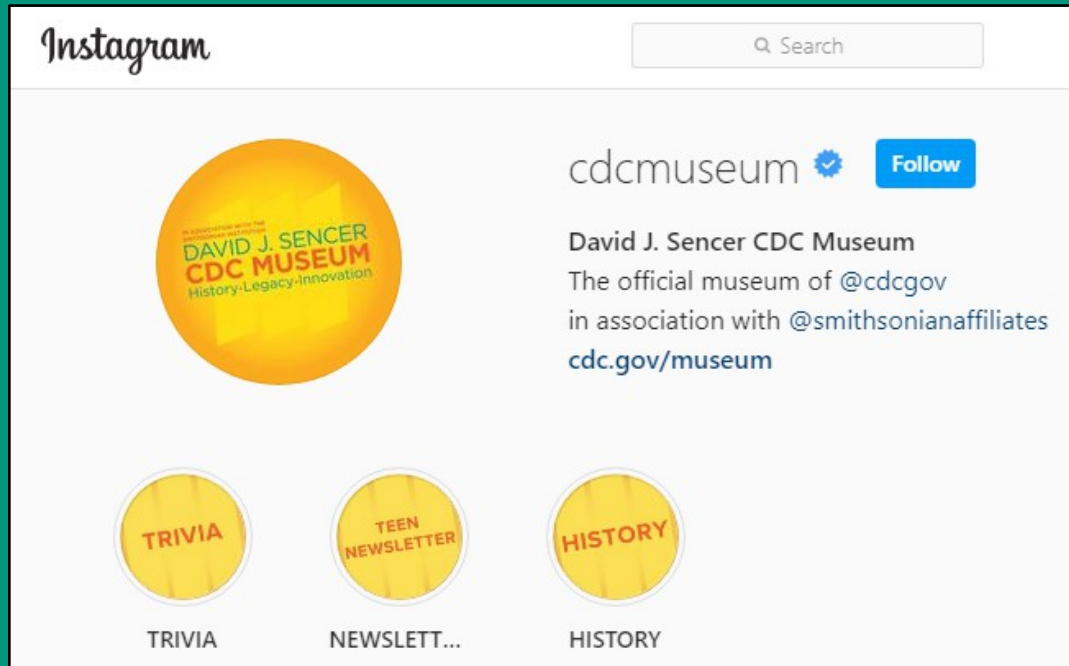
## 2. Design an Intervention for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

- Surveillance:  
What does the data show about opioid overdose deaths?
- Risk Factor Identification:  
Which populations are most at risk?
- Intervention:  
What has worked in the past to address the problem?
- Implementation:  
What intervention will you implement and how?

Give it a  
Try

### 3. Share Your Findings

- Instagram @CDCmuseum



Give it a  
Try

# Questions?