

Delta Dental of Massachusetts

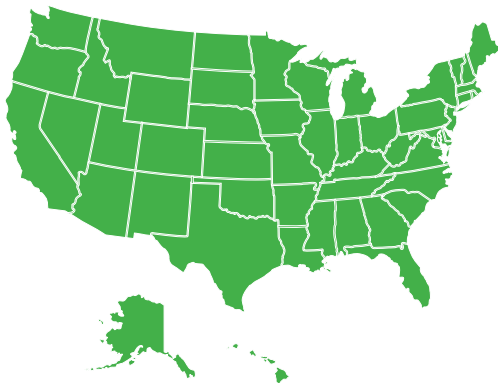
Communities in the United States are in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Opioid overdose deaths have risen nationwide for more than a decade. But it doesn't have to be that way. Arm your family and community with knowledge about opioids so that you can manage pain safely.



WHAT IS AN OPIOID?

- A class of drugs that may be legal (prescription painkillers such as Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet) or illegal (heroin)
- The drug attaches to “opioid receptors” on nerve cells in the brain and body
- This stops the body from sending pain signals to the brain
- Because opioids also produce euphoria, users can become addicted
- Misused, opioids may cause overdose and death

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS IN 2016



64,000 people died of drug overdose in the U.S.
66% (42,249) of the drug deaths were due to an opioid
 U.S. makes up 5% of world population, consumes **80% of opioids** and **99% of hydrocodone**



116 people died every day from opioid-related drug overdose



Overdose deaths surpass deaths from car accidents



2.1 million people misused prescription opioids for the first time



504 billion in economic costs



Each day, **1,000** people are treated in emergency departments for opioid misuse



Opioids can be addictive even if only taken for a short period of time