

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ACCIDENTAL OPIOID OVERDOSE

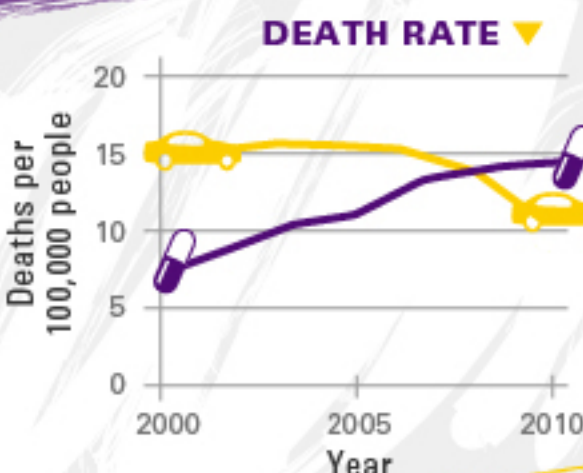
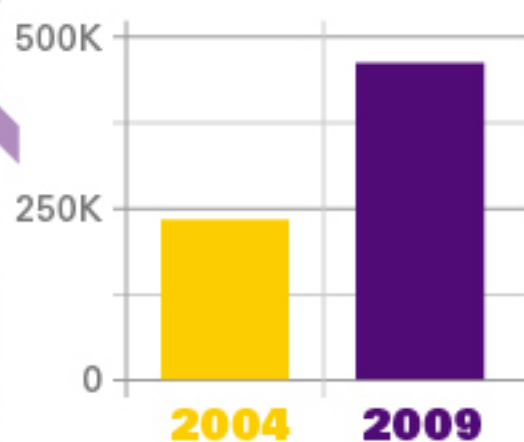
238M PRESCRIPTIONS

for opioid medications were filled in 2011, up from 182M in 2001¹



475,000 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

in 2009 were due to the misuse and abuse of prescription opioids²



DRUG POISONING has now surpassed **AUTOMOBILE COLLISIONS** as the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S, driven largely by prescription opioids³

16,651

In 2010, there were **DEATHS CAUSED BY OPIOID OVERDOSE**, more than 13,000 of which were unintentional⁴



UP TO 60%

OF OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS occur in medical users⁵

Opioid medications have a relatively narrow therapeutic window, meaning that even small changes – such as a single extra dose or the addition of a small amount of alcohol – **CAN CAUSE A POTENTIALLY FATAL OVERDOSE**⁶

Some risk factors include:⁷

High dosage of opioids

Taking certain medications in combination with an opioid

Having history of respiratory conditions (such as asthma, COPD or sleep apnea)

In the event of an opioid overdose, seek emergency medical attention

Some signs include:⁸

Very slow or absent breathing

Loss of consciousness

Extremely small pupils

1. Manchikanti, L. Opioid Epidemic in the United States. *Pain Physician*. 2012; 15: ES9-ES38.
 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Policy Impact-Prescription Painkiller Overdose. November 2011.
 3. National Center for Health Statistics. NCHS data on drug poisoning deaths. http://cdc.gov/nchs/data/factsheets/factsheet_drug_poisoning.pdf. Updated December 2012.
 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Opioid-related deaths continue to increase. <http://media.jsonline.com/images/OPIOIDS20GRX.jpg>
 5. Paulozzi L, et al; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2012; 61: 10-13.
 6. Boyer, E. Management of Opioid Analgesic Overdose. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 367
 7. Leavitt, S. Practical PAIN MANAGEMENT. Intranasal Naloxone for At-Home Opioid Rescue. Oct 2013.
 8. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit: Information for Prescribers. HHS Publication Number (SMA) 13-4742. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; 2013.