

OPIOID FACT SHEET

MARCH 2018

Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

What are Opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs that include:



Heroin



Synthetic opioids like fentanyl
50 - 100 times more powerful than morphine



Prescription pain medication such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine and many others

When used as directed, opioid medications safely control acute pain, such as after a surgery. However, the feelings of pleasure some experience while taking opioids can lead to opioid addiction and misuse. When opioids are misused, they can slow your breathing and heart rate, which can lead to death.

Why are Opioids a Problem in Missouri?

Heroin & Fentanyl

In 2016, of the 63,000+ drug overdose deaths in the US:

- * 31% Fentanyl
- * 24% Heroin
- * 22% Prescription Opioids

908 deaths

In 2016, the number of Missourians who lost their lives due to heroin/opioid overdose. A 35% increase from 2015.

Deaths in 2016

St. Louis City - Highest % of opioid and heroin overdose deaths.
Livingston County - Highest % of non-heroin opioid overdose deaths.

985

Missouri infants were born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome in 2015, up 114% from 2011.

12,835

In 2015, the number of Missourians admitted to treatment for opioid misuse.

DSS Response to Combating this Opioid Epidemic

Keeping Kids Safe

- Call the Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at (800) 392-3738 or (844) CAN-TELL 24/7 if you are concerned about a child's well-being
- DSS works to help struggling families through home visitation and intensive in-home services
- Our staff work in partnership with drug courts and substance use treatment programs to ensure the safety and well-being of every child
- DSS partners with **Families and Communities Trust (FACT)** and other community partnerships to help improve the lives of children and families in those communities

Healthcare Providers

- Providers concerned about a newborn due to drug exposure or the parents care can request a Newborn Crisis Assessment
- We are working with MO HealthNet Providers/pharmacies to guide opioid prescribing and manage opioid prescriptions
- Reimbursement is available to providers and pharmacies who use Naloxone on MO HealthNet participants
- We are using **Show-Me ECHO** to allow providers to collaborate on best practices to treat patients with chronic pain or those who misuse opioids
- DSS can "lock-in" participants to a specific provider and/or pharmacy to prevent misuse

MO HealthNet Participants

- We are providing information about pain management and the safe use of opioids
- We are helping providers understand how to best treat participants for chronic pain
- Participants can take part in **Telehealth** to access behavioral health treatment for mental illness contributing to opioid and substance misuse
- We are working closely with the **Missouri Opioid State Targeted Response (STR) Project**, as it aims to expand access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services throughout the state

Opioid News

Opioids no Better than Tylenol for Chronic Pain, Study Finds

March 7, 2018—A yearlong **study** offers new evidence against using prescription opioids for chronic pain. In patients with stubborn back aches or hip or knee arthritis, opioids worked no better than over-the-counter drugs or other non-opioids at reducing problems with walking or sleeping, and they provided slightly less pain relief.



Data Sources:
■ <http://health.mo.gov/data/opioids/>
■ <https://opioids.mo.gov/>
■ <https://www.cdc.gov/>