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# OPIOID FACTS

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## What are Opioids?

- Opioids are a class of drugs that act on the nervous system to relieve pain
  - Opioids include prescription drugs such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, fentanyl, methadone, and illegal drugs such as heroin
  - Opioids stimulate the reward center of the brain, making some people susceptible to misuse and addiction
  - Because of their potential misuse, opioids are considered a “controlled substance”
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## The Facts

- 91 people die each day from an opioid overdose
- The amount of prescription opioids sold at pharmacies, hospitals and doctor’s offices nearly quadrupled from 1999 to 2010
- Deaths from prescription opioids have more than quadrupled since 1999
- Among the 92 million Americans who were prescribed opioids in 2014, 13 percent reported prescription opioid misuse
- Opioids were the second most commonly abused substance among U.S. 12th graders in 2012, second to marijuana
- There were 71 opioid prescriptions per 100 Americans in 2015
- 4.8 percent of U.S. veterans report opioid misuse
- 3,900 people will use a prescription opioid outside of legitimate medical reasons each day in the U.S.
- 580 people will try heroin for the first time each day in the U.S.
- There’s a rising incidence of maternal use of opioid pain relievers in the U.S., which has contributed to an increased risk of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome -- going from 1.19 in 2000 to 5.63 in 2009 per 1000 hospital births and 1.2 to 5.8 per 1,000 hospital births per year from 2000-2012