

# Ending the Opioid Epidemic

Working Together to Keep You and Your Family Safe

## WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **“Opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain”** that fall into the following categories:

### Prescription opioids

“Prescription opioids can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate to severe pain, but can also have serious risks and side effects. Common types are oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), morphine, and methadone.”

### Fentanyl

“Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain reliever. It is many times more powerful than other opioids and is approved for treating severe pain, typically advanced cancer pain. Illegally made and distributed fentanyl has been on the rise in several states.”

### Heroin

“Heroin is an illegal opioid. Heroin use has increased across the U.S. among men and women, most age groups, and all income levels.”

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

## THE DANGERS OF OPIOID ABUSE IN NYC

Opioid abuse in New York City has been on the rise in recent years, including a dramatic increase in the number of overdose deaths.

### The Facts

- “In 2016 an estimated 1,300 New Yorkers died of drug overdose — the highest number on record. Approximately 1,075 of those involved an opioid.”
- “Almost 90 percent of fatal opioid overdoses in 2016 involved heroin or fentanyl.”
- “Before 2015, fentanyl was involved in fewer than 5 percent of all overdose deaths in NYC.”
- “Rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths increased by 43% for the period 2010 to 2014, from 8.2 per 100,000 residents in 2010 to 11.7 per 100,000 residents in 2014.”

(Source: NYC Mayor’s Office, 2017; NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dec. 2015)

## PREVENTING ABUSE IN YOUR FAMILY

According to the New York State Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse, the following are key steps you can take to help protect your family from the dangers of opioid abuse:

**“Talk to your kids about the dangers of substance abuse** and make it clear such behavior will not be tolerated. Keep the lines of communication open so [they] feel comfortable coming to you in a time of need”

**“Parents who are involved and engaged in their children’s lives are more likely to notice the warning signs** of substance abuse and are able to prevent it before it happens.”

**“Store prescription medications safely** and take inventory of the medications in your possession.”<sup>1</sup>

**NYC police officers are being trained and equipped to prevent overdose deaths.** To help combat the opioid crisis, the PBA recently agreed to have all of its members carry and use the life-saving drug Naloxone, which can prevent an opioid or heroin overdose from becoming fatal. **In the event of an overdose, call 911 immediately.**

<sup>1</sup>(Source: NYS Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse)



NY State Task Force to Combat Heroin & Prescription Drug Abuse:

**1-877-8-HOPENY** or [www.oasas.ny.gov/accesshelp](http://www.oasas.ny.gov/accesshelp)



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