

DEADLY PILLS

One Death Every 24 Minutes

Drugs are now the No. 1 accidental killer in the U.S., with the vast majority of deaths caused by prescription meds. A look at how medicines that are now a part of everyday life can also turn families upside down forever

By KRISTEN MASCIA
Photographs by GRANT DELIN

Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least 3 other drugs.

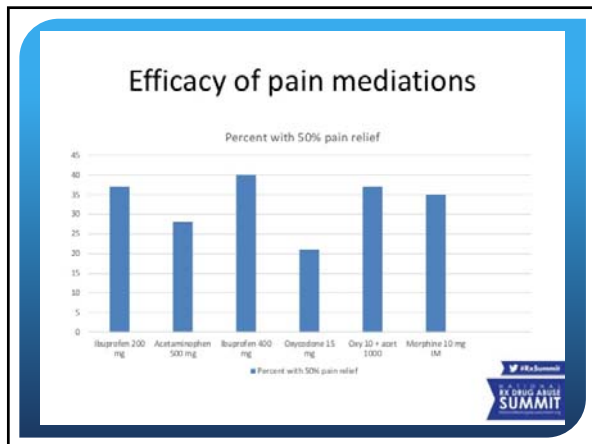
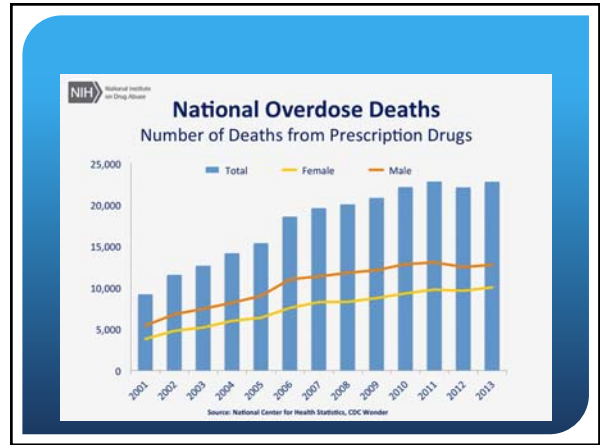
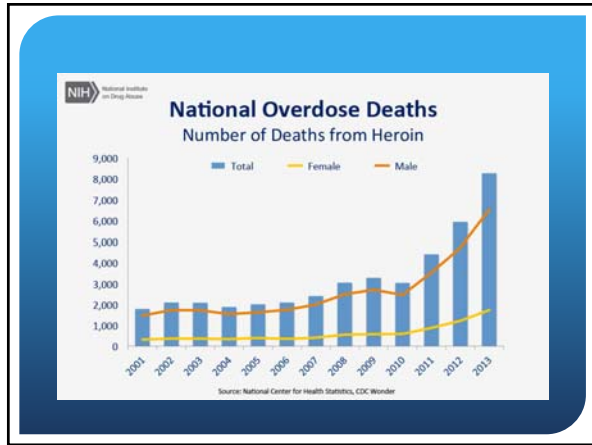
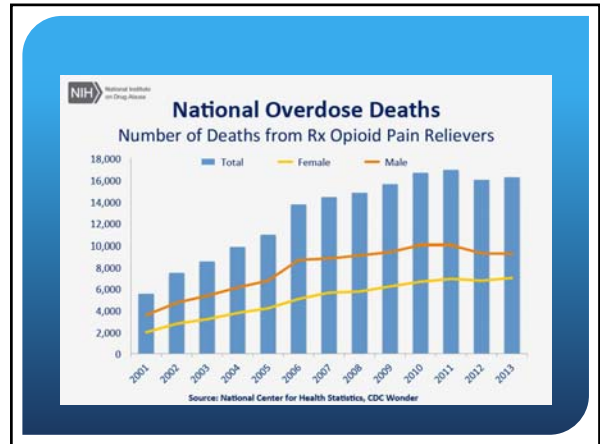
Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and death for users.

People who are addicted to...

ALCOHOL	MARIJUANA	COCAINE	Rx OPIOID PAINKILLERS
are	are	are	are
2x	3x	15x	40x

...more likely to be addicted to heroin.

NIH National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 2011-2013



- ### Signs & Symptoms of Opiate Abuse
- Change in sleep patterns
 - Exhaustion or extreme tiredness
 - Restlessness
 - Insomnia
 - Memory problems
 - Missing items: small electronics, cash, checks, jewelry
 - Nodding out
 - Excessive scratching
 - Constipation and use of laxatives
 - Complexion pale in color
 - Loss of eye contact when engaged in conversation
 - Lethargic
 - Change in friends
 - Moody, argumentative, cranky, explosive
 - Dark circles under eyes
 - Missed appointments or dates with family (Say they forgot)
 - Unreturned phone calls
 - Seems depressed and/or anxious, stressed out
 - Wear long sleeves (even in extreme heat)
 - Decreased performance at job or school
 - Withdrawing from once-pleasurable activities (i.e.: loss of interest in sports, hobbies)

Withdrawal Symptoms

- Muscle spasms
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Hallucinations
- Paranoia
- Seizures

Together We Can Make a
Difference!