



Kent Health Department

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FACT SHEET

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www.kentpublichealth.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Opioid Overdoses in Adults

■ In 2015, 10% of Portage County adults had misused medication to feel good or get high. Source: **Portage County Community Health Assessment**

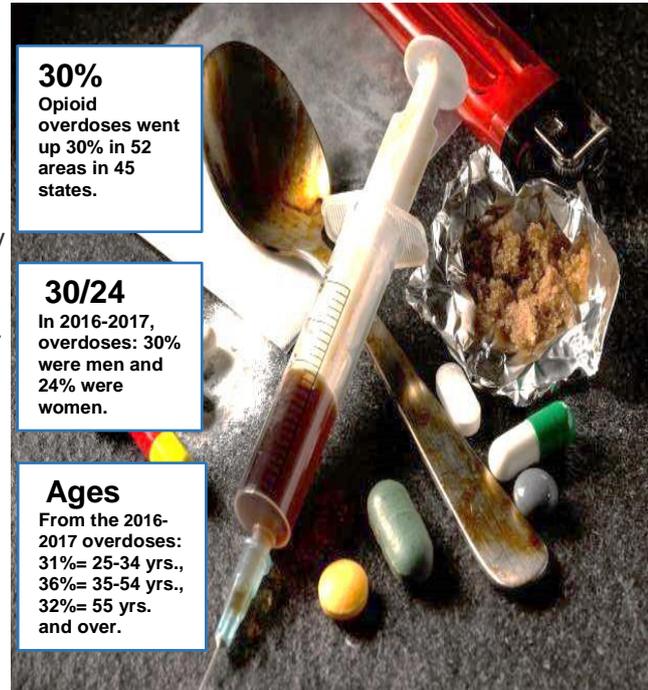
Recognizing Opportunities to Act

Emergency department visits for **opioid*** overdoses rose in all parts of the US from July 2016 through September 2017. People who have had an overdose are more likely to have another, so when being seen at the ER is an opportunity for action. Repeat overdoses may be prevented with medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, which is defined as a problematic pattern of opioid use. Emergency Room data can also provide an early warning system for health departments to identify increases in opioid overdoses more quickly and coordinate response efforts. This fast-moving epidemic does not stay within county lines. Coordinated action between hospitals, health departments, mental health and treatment providers, community-based organizations, and law enforcement may prevent opioid overdose and death. ***Opioids include prescription pain medications, heroin, and illicit fentanyl.**

Want to learn more? Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion



30%
Opioid overdoses went up 30% in 52 areas in 45 states.

30/24
In 2016-2017, overdoses: 30% were men and 24% were women.

Ages
From the 2016-2017 overdoses: 31%= 25-34 yrs., 36%= 35-54 yrs., 32%= 55 yrs. and over.

PROBLEM

Opioid Overdoses: Rising ER Visits

- Emergency Room visits for opioid overdoses continue to steadily increase for all adult age groups.
- Most states saw an increase of opioid overdoses (30% average), especially in the Midwest (70% average).
- Opioid overdoses rose in cities and towns of all types with added increases from larger urban areas.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Everyone Can:

- Learn about the risks of opioids and addiction: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids> or <https://www.samhsa.gov/treatment/naloxone>
- Store prescription opioids in a secure place, out of reach of others (including children, family, friends and visitors).
- Contact the National Hotline: **1-800-662-HELP** for anyone who has trouble with opioid use.



HEROIN

- Heroin is an opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine extracted from the seed pod of the opium poppy plant.
- About 23% of individuals who use heroin become dependent on it.
- Heroin overdoses frequently involve a suppression of breathing. This can affect the amount of oxygen that reaches the brain, a condition called hypoxia.
- Heroin abuse is associated with a number of serious health conditions; including fatal overdose, spontaneous abortion, liver or kidney disease, and infectious diseases like hepatitis and HIV.

(Source: National Institute of Drug Abuse
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/heroin>)

Resource:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1-800-CDC-INFO(232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232- 6348
www.cdc.gov