

# Understanding the Worst Drug Epidemic in Our History: The Link Between Prescription Opioid and Heroin Abuse



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#### The National Problem

Every day prescription drugs are abused in the United States at an alarming rate.





## How Did We Get Here?





## **Prescription Drug Abuse**

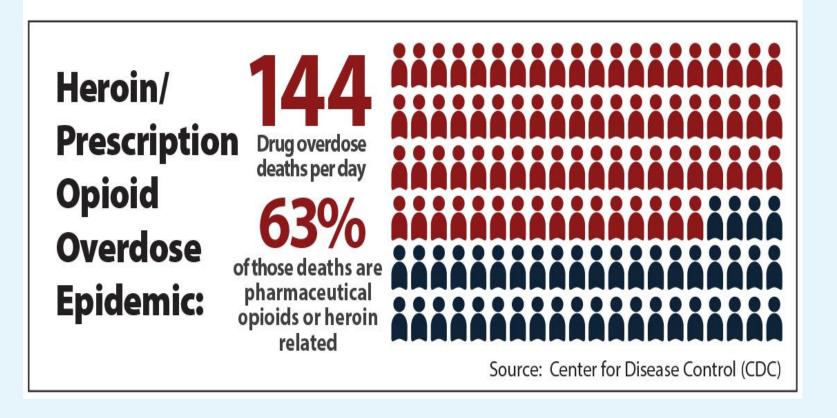
## How big is this problem?

The misuse of prescription drugs is more prevalent than the use of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, MDMA, and PCP

# COMBINED!

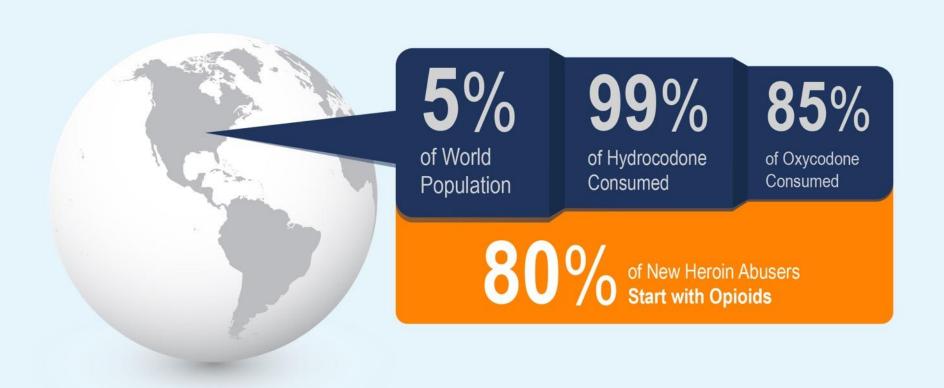


# Opioid & Heroin Overdose Epidemic



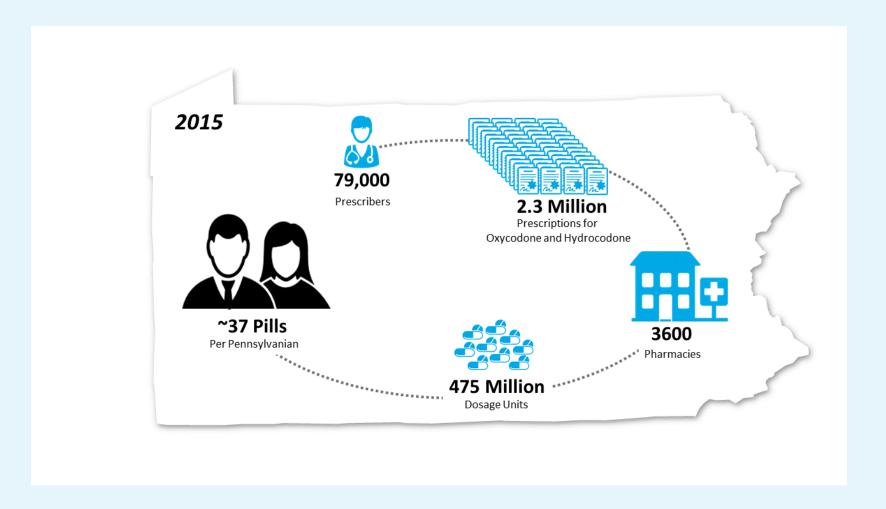


## Targeting the Supply and Demand Problem



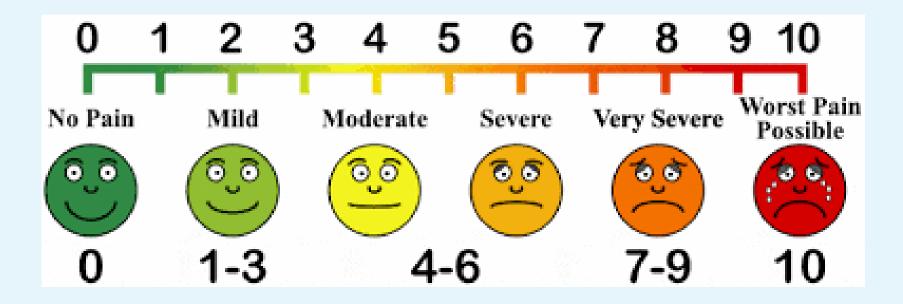


# 2015: 475,000,000 Dosage Units





## **Pain Scale**





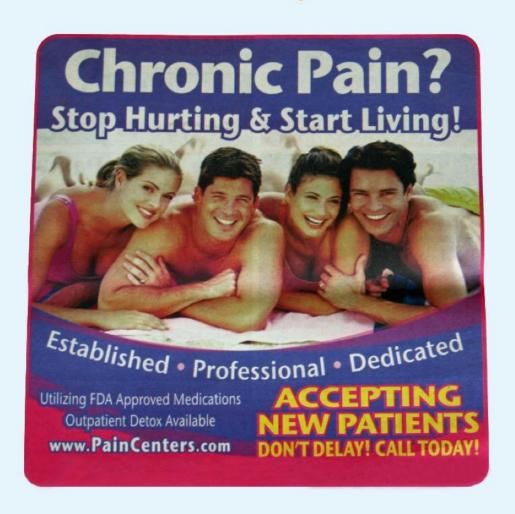
## The 1990s



#### OxyContin® Tablets (oxycodone hydrochloride controlled-release)



## Today





# Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

#### **Medicine Cabinets**





# Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs

#### Friends





#### Illegally Obtaining Prescription Drugs Doctor Shopping





# **Rogue Doctors**







## **Next Step Foundation**



October 6, 2017: CEO
 David Francis arrested in
 Pittsburgh for allegedly
 selling heroin & fentanyl
 to clients of his drug
 recovery center



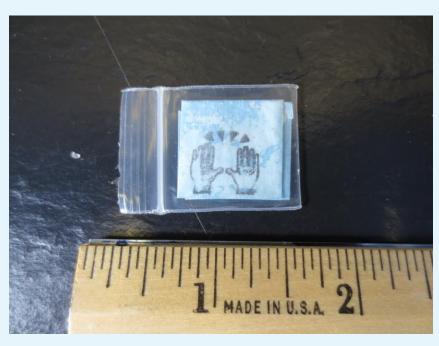
## Heroin: The Primary Drug of Concern

- Increased demand for heroin is largely being driven by a subset of prescription drug abusers switching to heroin because heroin is more available and less expensive
- Some OxyContin<sup>®</sup> abusers switched to heroin after the reformulation of that drug made it more difficult to abuse
- Many cities and counties across the United States, particularly in the Northeast and Midwest, are reporting increasing heroin overdose deaths (acetyl fentanyl)





## This is Heroin







## Glassine Bags & Bundles







## **How Does it Get Here**







## **Concealment Methods**





Concealment Method Shoes



## The Philadelphia Inquirer





# February 19, 2017: "A Hidden Hellscape"







## **April 18, 2017: Dr. Oz Show**





## **Heroin Overdose**





## **Fentanyl**



Synthetic opioid 80-100 times more potent than morphine

Legitimate medical uses

Used as a "cut" in heroin



# Fentanyl Safety "Roll Call" Video





## Fentanyl Related Substances

- Acetyl Fentanyl
- Furanyl Fentanyl
- Acrylfentanyl
- Butyryl Fentanyl
- 3-Methylfentanyl
- 4-Methoxy-Butyrl Fentanyl
- U-47700



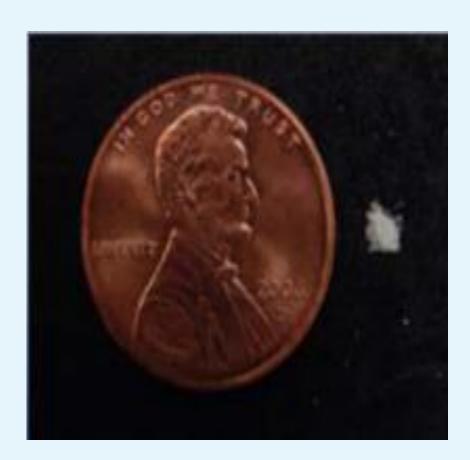


## **Carfentanil**

- Synthetic opioid 10,000 times stronger than heroin

 Analgesic used to treat elephants & rhinos

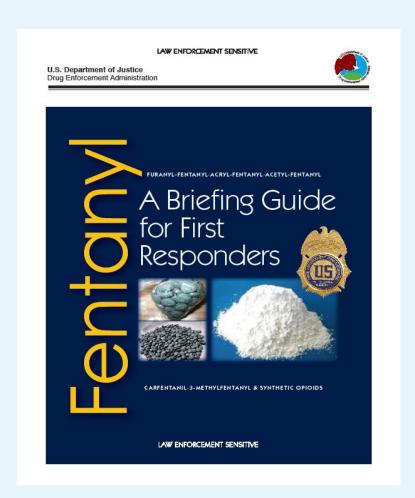
- Sold by milligram (1/1000 of a gram)





## **Fentanyl Briefing Guide**

- Recommendations for first responders
- Exposure risks & treatment
- Detection
- Remediation & decontamination
- www.dea.gov





# **Personal Protective Equipment**





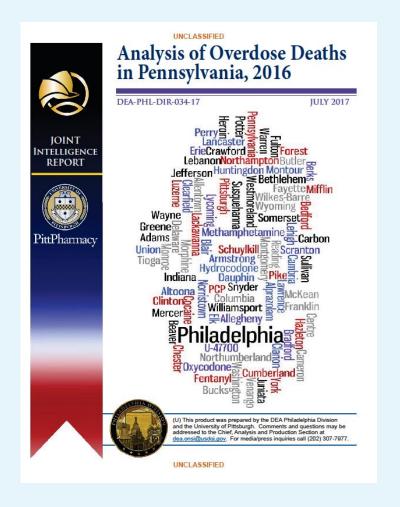


## Why is this Important?

 2016: 4,642 overdose deaths in Pennsylvania

 37% increase from 2015 (3,383 deaths)

Opioids, illicit or prescription, identified in 85% of deaths





# **Philadelphia County**



- 2015: 720 fatal overdose deaths

- 2016: 907 fatal overdose deaths



## **Naloxone**



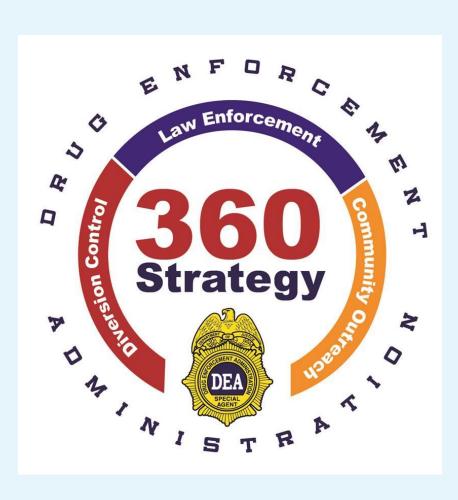
 Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioid overdoses

 Available in Pennsylvania without a prescription

Naloxone saves lives



## **DEA 360 Strategy**



- Addressing prescription opioid & heroin epidemic:
- Targeted Enforcement
- Diversion Control
- Community Outreach



## **Heroin Initiative for State & Local Police**





## Chasing the Dragon Video

Joint DEA & FBI
 documentary for high
 school students about
 dangers of prescription
 opioid & heroin abuse

Available at <u>www.dea.gov</u>





## www.operationprevention.com



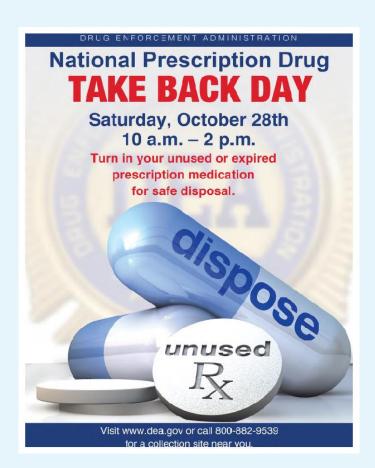
DEA & Discovery
 Education STEM-based initiative

 Free online curriculum to educate middle & high school students, teachers, & parents about science of drug addiction



#### **National Take-Back Initiative**

- Safely dispose of unneeded and expired medications
- Free, anonymous service
- Permanent collection boxes available across region





## **DEA Citizens Academy**

- Six-week program
- Detailed understanding of drug law enforcement
- Firearms & tactical training





## **Contact Information**

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