

# FACTS ON PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS AND HEROIN



IN 2024, THE PEAK AGE GROUP FOR HEROIN-AND-OPIOID-RELATED OVERDOSES WAS **34-44**, WITH **25-34-YEAR-OLDS** CLOSE BEHIND.

**910** MISSOURIANS DIED FROM AN OPIOID OVERDOSE IN 2024. THAT'S 1 IN 73 DEATHS.



## LOSS OF TOLERANCE

Regular use of opioids leads to greater tolerance because more is needed to achieve the same effect. Overdoses can occur when people begin using again following a period of not using, such as coming out of treatment.

## MIXING DRUGS

Mixing heroin or prescription opioids with other drugs, especially depressants like benzodiazepines or alcohol, can lead to an accidental overdose, respiratory problem or death.

## SERIOUS ILLNESS

Serious illnesses like HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or C, heart disease or endocarditis increase the risk of overdosing.

## COMMONLY MISUSED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

### OPIOIDS

*Intended for pain management*

- Hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- Oxycodone (Oxycotin)
- Oxymorphone (Opana)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- Meperidine (Demerol)
- Diphenoxylate
- Codeine
- Fentanyl
- Morphine
- Opium and any other drugs with morphine-like effects

### DEPRESSANTS

*Intended for anxiety & sleep disorders*

- Barbiturates
  - Pentobarbital Sodium (Nembutal)
- Benzodiazepines
  - Diazepam (Valium)
  - Alprazolam (Xanax)
  - Clonazepam (Klonopin)

### STIMULANTS

*Intended for ADHD*

- Dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine)
- Methylphenidate (Ritalin & Concerta)
- Amphetamines (Adderall)

# PREVENTING PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE



Misusing prescription drugs can have serious health effects, including addiction. Misuse occurs when taken:

- by someone other than prescribed
- for reasons other than prescribed
- in dosages other than prescribed

IN 2023, **1,299** MISSOURIANS UNDER THE AGE OF 15 HAD AN OVERDOSE-RELATED ER VISIT – OFTEN CAUSED BY ACCIDENTAL POISONINGS DUE TO UNSECURED MEDICINE THAT WASN'T KEPT OUT OF CHILDREN'S REACH.



## GET NALOXONE!

Naloxone is a medication that quickly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, usually within 1-3 minutes.

Any person who voluntarily requests naloxone from a Missouri pharmacy for themselves or to assist a person experiencing an opioid overdose is eligible to purchase naloxone, with or without a prescription.



### LOCK YOUR MEDICINE CABINET

Prevent others from accessing your medication by securing it in a safe location.

### TAKE INVENTORY

Write the name and quantity of your medications. Check it regularly to ensure nothing is missing.

### PROPER DISPOSAL

Properly dispose of unused or expired medications by dropping them off at a drug take-back location. You can see a list of locations at [opioids.mo.gov](https://opioids.mo.gov)

### SET RULES & MONITOR BEHAVIOR

Express your concerns regarding inappropriate and dangerous use of medications without a prescription. Monitor your child's behavior to ensure the rules are being followed.

### EDUCATION

Learn about commonly misused prescription medications and share your knowledge, experience and support.

Information courtesy of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. To learn more, visit [Time2ActMissouri.com](https://Time2ActMissouri.com).

Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is an equal opportunity employer/program.

If you have served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and would like information about veterans' services and benefits, please complete the survey here: [mvc.dps.mo.gov/MoVeteransInformation/Survey/DOLIR](https://mvc.dps.mo.gov/MoVeteransInformation/Survey/DOLIR).

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