**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)*

**Patients who need Naloxone are not getting it:**
- Emergency Room visits for opioid overdoses overall increased patient out-of-pocket expenses.
- Primary care providers only prescribed about 2 naloxone prescriptions for every 100 high-dose opioid prescriptions.
- Opioid overdoses increased steadily with less dispensing of needed naloxone in rural areas.

**WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

**Everyone Can:**
- Learn about the risks of opioids and addiction: [https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids](https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids) or [https://www.samhsa.gov/treatment/naloxone](https://www.samhsa.gov/treatment/naloxone)
- Take all medicines as prescribed and store them 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.

**Want to learn more?**

[https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/)

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**Naloxone for Treating Opioid Overdoses**

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

**Actions continue to be needed for access locally**

About 48,000 US drug overdose deaths involved opioids* in 2017. The prescription (Rx) drug Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Pharmacists and healthcare providers play a critical role in ensuring patients receive naloxone.

Many states including Ohio have laws that allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription (Rx), which have contributed to lowering deaths. 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)*.

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**PROBLEM**

- Nearly 9 million Rx for naloxone could have been dispensed in 2018.
- Only 1 naloxone Rx is dispensed for every 70 high-dose opioid Rx.
- The number of Rx for naloxone doubled from 2017-2018 as overdoses rise.

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**Resource:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348
www.cdc.gov