

The Opioid Crisis: Our Community

Issue 2

Can it happen here?

“Opioids—prescription and illicit—are the main driver of drug overdose deaths.”

According to the South Dakota Department of Health, in 2015 alone, opioids accounted for roughly one-third of drug overdose-related deaths in South Dakota.

Opioid overdoses accounted for just over 63% of all drug overdose-related deaths in the US in 2015 (CDC 2016).

Surrounding states, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming all have higher drug overdose rates per 100,000. Opioids are a significant part of those rates.

Whether, legal or illegal, opioid use and abuse, is already next door and right in our backyard.

What can we expect?

In 2016, a reported 4.3 million pills were prescribed in South Dakota in the first quarter of 2016 alone. (US News 2017)

Opioids were reported as the cause for 38 of 51 (74%) overdose-related deaths in SD for 2016.



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<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>
<http://doh.sd.gov/Documents/News/Drug-relatedDeathHospData.pdf>
<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/south-dakota/articles/2017-10-27/sanford-health-reports-major-drop-in-opioid-pills-prescribed>
<http://www.ksfy.com/content/news/Opioid-crisis-has-reached-South-Dakota-officials-say-440413183.html>
<https://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA12-4676B1/SMA12-4676B1.pdf>

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Problem solved? No.

Illegal activity involving opioids is already happening.

In one instance, 20,000 fentanyl pills, an opioid, were seized in Chamberlain, SD in 2017.

Minnehaha County law enforcement is seeing increased rates of opioid-related crimes and an increase in the number of Hydrocodone and Oxycodone pills seized. (KSFY 2017)

What can I Do?

Opioids can make their way into a youth's hands legally through prescriptions for treating pain from injury, surgery, or illness. Youth can obtain them illegally through taking opioids from friends and family or buying opioids not prescribed to them.

- Keep track of your prescriptions.
- Keep prescriptions in a locked cabinet.
- Know how many pills are in each bottle.

Talk. They Hear You.

“Kids who continue to learn about the risks of drugs at home are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs than those who are not taught about the dangers (SAMHSA 2013).”

Ways to Talk to about Drugs

- Use blocks of time such as after dinner, before school or on the drive to and from school and extracurricular activities to talk about drug use and abuse and **why it is risky and dangerous.**
- Take advantage of everyday “teachable moments.” For instance, when filling a prescription, talk about taking it as directed.
- Point out drug-related situations going on in your own neighborhood. Does someone you know use and abuse Opioids?
- Use newspaper headlines or TV news stories as a conversation starter.