Opioid Data Analysis and Resources

CDC's Injury Center looks at deaths and nonfatal overdoses for four categories of opioids:

- **Natural opioids** (including morphine and codeine) and **semi-synthetic opioids** (drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and oxymorphone)
- Methadone, a synthetic opioid
- Synthetic opioids other than methadone (drugs like tramadol and fentanyl)
- **Heroin**, an illicit (illegally made) opioid synthesized from morphine that can be a white or brown powder, or a black sticky substance.

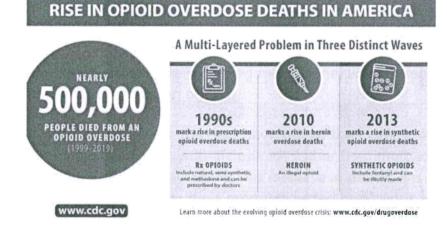
Overdose Waves

Nearly 500,000 people died from overdoses involving any opioid, including prescription and illicit opioids, from 1999-2019.¹

This rise in opioid overdose deaths can be outlined in three distinct waves.

- 1. The first wave began with increased prescribing of opioids in the 1990s, with overdose deaths involving <u>prescription opioids</u> (natural and semi-synthetic opioids and methadone) increasing since at least 1999.²
- 2. The second wave began in 2010, with rapid increases in overdose deaths involving heroin.3
- 3. The third wave began in 2013, with significant increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, particularly those involving illicitly manufactured <u>fentanyl</u>.^{4,5,6} The market for illicitly manufactured fentanyl continues to change, and it can be found in combination with heroin, counterfeit pills, and cocaine.⁷

Many opioid-involved overdose deaths also include other drugs.^{8,9}



Trends in Death Rates

Opioids were involved in nearly 50,000 deaths in 2019,¹² which was over six times the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths in 1999.¹