

Opiate use statistics

- 669,000 Americans reported using heroin in the past year.
- Twenty-six (26) % of persons seeking treatment for SA/SD reported opiates as the primary substance (16% heroin, 10% prescription).
- Persons meeting the DSM Criteria has doubled (100%) since 2007.
- Over half of all young persons receiving treatment for heroin dependence started by abusing prescription opioids (replicated in 3 recent independent surveys).
- Unintentional poisoning from prescription opioids quadrupled from 1999-2010
- This death rate now outpaces the rates of death from both heroin and cocaine **combined.**

Profile of Today's Opioid Dependent Person
(Treatment Episode Date Set 2002-2012, DHHS)

- **White**, non-Hispanic (65% of heroin admissions); 86% for opiate, non-heroin
 - ✓ Black persons btw the ages of 20 to 34 accounted for 1/10 of 1% of admissions.
- **Male** (41% vs. 24% for females).
- **Young Adults**
 - ✓ Forty-seven percent of admissions for opiates other than heroin were aged 20 to 29 (2012).
 - ✓ Fifty-five percent of admissions for heroin were age 20 to 34 (2012).
- **Peak age for all opiate treatment seekers is 25 years of age.**
- **Using pills in late teens.**
 - ✓ First use of prescription opiates is predominantly after the age of 16 (79%) compared to 50% for other substances.
- **Has likely had at least five (5) treatment episodes.**
- **Injecting** (71%).

Opiate Treatment Principles

- Addiction is a Brain Disease
- Opiate Addiction is highly influenced by *endorphin deprivation*
- Structured Program of Recovery: Every day of abstinence improves the person's likelihood of long term brain healing and personal recovery.
- Post Acute Withdrawal:
 - ✓ can last up to 18 months
 - ✓ is a major reason for relapse (unstable brain chemistry leading to unstable thought, actions and behaviors)
 - ✓ Although not a psychiatric disorder, PAWS has symptoms that mimic mental illness.

Treatment Phases for Opiate Dependence

Transition Phase

Initiation Phase

Implementation Phase

Stabilization Phase Half Way House Option

Stabilization Phase Outpatient Option

**Stabilization Phase Half Way House and
Outpatient Option
Maintenance Phase**