



# INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Opioids (also called narcotics) are a class of drugs that relieve pain and include

- prescription pain relievers, such as oxycodone and morphine
- fentanyl, a prescription pain reliever increasingly made and distributed illegally
- heroin, an illegal opioid

## US INFORMATION



In the US in **2016**

- More than **11** million people abused prescription opioids
- **116** people died every day from opioid-related drug overdose (**13.3** deaths per **100,000**)
- What is the U.S. Opioid Epidemic? US Dept. of Health and Human Services  
<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/index.html>
- Opioid Basics. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/index.html>
- Opioid Abuse and Addiction. US National Library of Medicine  
<https://medlineplus.gov/opioidabuseandaddiction.html>

## GEORGIA INFORMATION



In Georgia from **2015-2016**

- **918** people died from opioid-related overdose (**8.8** deaths per **100,000**)
- Georgia providers wrote **77.1** opioid prescriptions per **100** persons
- Georgia Opioid Summary. National Institute on Drug Abuse. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/georgia-opioid-summary>
- Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative web site <http://stoprxabuseinga.org>
- Prescription Opioids and Heroin Epidemic in Georgia. Substance Abuse Research Alliance.  
<http://www.senate.ga.gov/sro/Documents/StudyCom mRpts/OpioidsAppendix.pdf>
- Stop Opioid Abuse (Fulton County).  
<http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/soa-home>
- Drug Safety Task Force <http://iprce.emory.edu/task-forces/drug-safety.html>
- Town Hall Discussion on America's Opioid Crisis  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alpfXhcOlcw>

## Discussion @ Emory

### Further Resources for Information

- Dowell, D., K. Zhang, R. K. Noonan, and J. M. Hockenberry. Mandatory provider review and pain clinic laws reduce the amounts of opioids prescribed and overdose death rates. *Health Affairs*. 2016; 35(10): 1876-83.
- Le Roux, C., Y. L. Tang, and K. Drexler. "Alcohol and Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adults: Neglected and Treatable Illnesses." [In English]. *Current Psychiatry Reports* 18, no. 9 (Sep 2016): 10.
- Häuser, W., Schug, S., & Furlan, A. D. (2017). The opioid epidemic and national guidelines for opioid therapy for chronic noncancer pain: a perspective from different continents. *Pain Reports*, 2(3), e599.