

What Are Opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs derived from the opium poppy plant naturally or synthetically.

(NIDA, 2020)

Oxycodone

Hydrocodone

Heroin

Codeine

Morphine

Hydromorphone

Fentanyl

Methadone

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS



130+

People died every day from opioid-related drug overdoses³
(estimated)



10.3 m

People misused prescription opioids in 2018¹



47,600

People died from overdosing on opioids²



2.0 million

People had an opioid use disorder in 2018¹



808,000

People used heroin in 2018¹



81,000

People used heroin for the first time¹



2 million

People misused prescription opioids for the first time¹



15,349

Deaths attributed to overdosing on heroin (in 12-month period ending February 2019)²



32,656

Deaths attributed to overdosing on synthetic opioids other than methadone (in 12-month period ending February 2019)²

SOURCES

1. 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Mortality in the United States, 2018
2. NCHS Data Brief No. 329, November 2018
3. NCHS, National Vital Statistics System. Estimates for 2018 and 2019 are based on provisional data.