

**In 2021, Dorchester  
County had 89 opioid  
overdoses, 18 of which  
were fatal**



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[DORCHESTERGOESPURPLE.ORG](https://DORCHESTERGOESPURPLE.ORG)**



**You don't have to do it alone.**

**Treatment is available:**

**Call 410-228-7714.**

**In crisis: Call or text 988**



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Using a prescription drug  
not prescribed to you or  
differently than  
prescribed is misuse



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Nearly half (47.2%) of people misusing opioids got them from family or friends. Another 43.6% of people misusing opioids got them from health care providers



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**Talk with your kids  
about misusing  
prescription pain medicine.  
Your voice matters to your  
children.**



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**Feeling connected to  
family, school, and  
community protect  
young people from risky  
behaviors**



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**Lock up and monitor your  
prescription medicine.  
Safe storage helps  
prevent misuse.**



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Most commonly used opioids include hydrocodone (Vicodin), oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet), morphine, codeine, fentanyl, and heroin



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**Peer Support Specialists have lived experience with substance use disorder and offer support to individuals using substances or in recovery. To speak with a Peer: Call DRI-Dock at 410-228-3230**



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**Got old or unused  
medicine? Take it to a  
24-hour drop box at any  
law enforcement agency,  
no questions asked**



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**Some signs of an opioid overdose include having a hard time breathing, clammy skin, blue lips and fingers, limp body, and vomiting.**



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**If your child gets pain  
medicine after an injury  
or dental procedure,  
control and monitor the  
pills.**



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Take time to care for your  
mental wellbeing. About half of  
those who experience a mental  
illness during their lives will also  
experience a substance  
use disorder



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**9.3 million people  
aged 12 and older  
misused pain  
relievers in 2020**



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**The Good Samaritan Law  
protects people who help  
with an overdose from  
arrest and prosecution of  
certain crimes**



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**You can become  
dependent on  
prescription pain  
medicine at  
prescribed doses**



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**Some signs of opioid  
abuse include pinpoint pupils,  
slurred speech, having difficulty  
breathing, confusion, nausea, itching  
or flushed skin, constipation, and  
nodding off**



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**If your healthcare  
provider suggests opioids,  
ask about the risks and if  
there is non-addictive  
alternative**



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**For the first time since 2016,  
prescription opioid deaths  
increased significantly in  
Maryland, accounting for 445  
fatal overdoses in 2020.**



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**Prescription opioid  
use is a risk factor  
for starting  
heroin use**



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**Fentanyl is a man-made  
drug being mixed with other  
drugs. Fentanyl was involved  
in 84% of all fatal overdoses  
in Maryland in 2020**



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**Opioids are highly  
addictive. If you use  
opioids regularly, you  
may become dependent  
on them.**



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**Substance use disorder  
is a chronic brain  
disease that is long-  
lasting and changes the  
way the brain works**



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An individual is more likely to die from an opioid overdose than a motor vehicle crash



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**774,000 adults  
aged 26 or older  
misused a prescription  
pain reliever for the  
first time in 2020**



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**Substance misuse  
does not discriminate  
against age, race,  
gender, or  
economic status**



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**Opioids were involved in 90%  
of all fatal overdoses in 2020,  
which is higher than at any  
other point during the opioid  
crisis in Maryland**



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**Combining opioids  
with alcohol and  
other drugs increases  
your chances of death**



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**Maryland had 917  
cocaine-related deaths in  
2020. Cocaine was the  
substance most frequently  
mixed with opioids.**



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**Anyone can learn how to respond to  
an opioid overdose using naloxone  
(Narcan), a life-saving medicine.  
Call 410-228-3230 for information on  
free training**



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