

**In 2022, Dorchester County
had 89 opioid overdoses,
11 of which were fatal.**



**To learn more and get engaged visit:
[Dorchestergoespurple.org](https://dorchestergoespurple.org)**



Help is Available

Call Dorchester County Health Department

410-228-7714

After Hours Call Eastern Shore Crisis Response Services

888-407-8018

In crisis: Call or text 988

**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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44.9% of people misusing opioids got them from family or friends. Another 43.2% 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, church, and community
protects 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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**The most commonly misused pain
relievers include hydrocodone
products like Vicodin and
oxycodone products like
OxyContin and Percocet.**



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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 difficulty breathing, clammy skin, blue lips and fingers, limp body, and vomiting.



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**If your child is prescribed medicine
for pain, an injury, or a medical 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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**8.7 million people aged 12
and older misused pain
relievers in 2021.**



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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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Overdose deaths among Marylanders aged 55 and older has been rapidly rising since 2016.



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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 all fatal overdoses in Dorchester County in 2022.



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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 accidental
opioid overdose than in a
motor vehicle crash.**



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1.4 million adults aged 26 or older misused a prescription pain reliever for the first time in 2021.



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

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16% of Dorchester County high school students have misused prescription pain medicine.



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

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**7% of Dorchester County
high school students have
used heroin.**



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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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