# PREVENTION TEEN TALKS: OPIOID CRISIS

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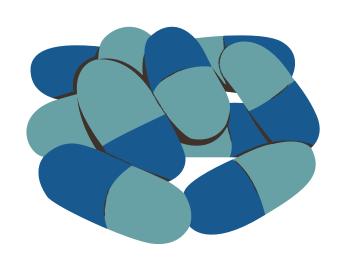


- The opioid crisis
- Concerns & issues with use
- Negative affects

#### What are Opioids?



Opioids are a class of drugs that can be medically to reduce used pain prescribed by a doctor. There are multiple illegal 'street' drugs also in this class, such heroin and illegally dispersed as medication prescription such as oxycodone and the synthetic opioid fentanyl. Only when prescribed doctor and medically needed their benefits outweigh the risks.



There is a misconception that all opioids are safe because they are prescribed by doctors. However, they require a prescription for use because doctors must ensure the benefits outweigh the possible risks. There are many factors such as age, weight, health, addition risk, etc. that doctors must assess before prescribing them.

## Why They're Dangerous & Form Addictions

As briefly discussed, Opioids have risks attached to their use. A single dose can cause your heartbeat and breathing to slow. Taking opioids with alcohol or other sedatives can increase these risks and gradually will need a higher dose to have the same effects. It is important to note, Increasing the dosage increases effects. Opioid addiction risks/side be very difficult to serious and can withdraw discontinue use due 10 symptoms which occur. If prescribed any type of opioid, you should follow all specific instructions provided by your doctor.

Opioid misuse can lead to overdose. Overdose is when a person has taken too much of a substance, leading the body to shut down, potentially leading to death. This can be prevented by following the prescribing doctor's instructions.







#### **Tolerance & Withdrawal**

Tolerance is a reduced response to an opioid and usually leads to a feeling of a 'need' to use increasing doses to achieve the desired effect. Your body essentially gets used to the usual amount you use which causes a need to use more in order to get the same effect.

Withdrawals are physical and psychological symptoms you experience when attempting to quit use of substances such as opioids, alcohol, tobacco and nicotine and more. These symptoms can be life-threatening.



#### **Fentanyl Danger**

This synthetic opioid is incredibly strong and can be 50-100 times more potent than heroin or prescription opioids. Fentanyl is used medically sparingly but is being used by illegal distributors of street drugs. It can be incorporated in other substances such as heroin or cocaine without the user's knowledge. Since it is so much stronger and the user is unaware, there is an extremely high risk of overdose. This is a serous threat in the U.S. and is another reason to avoid illegal substances.

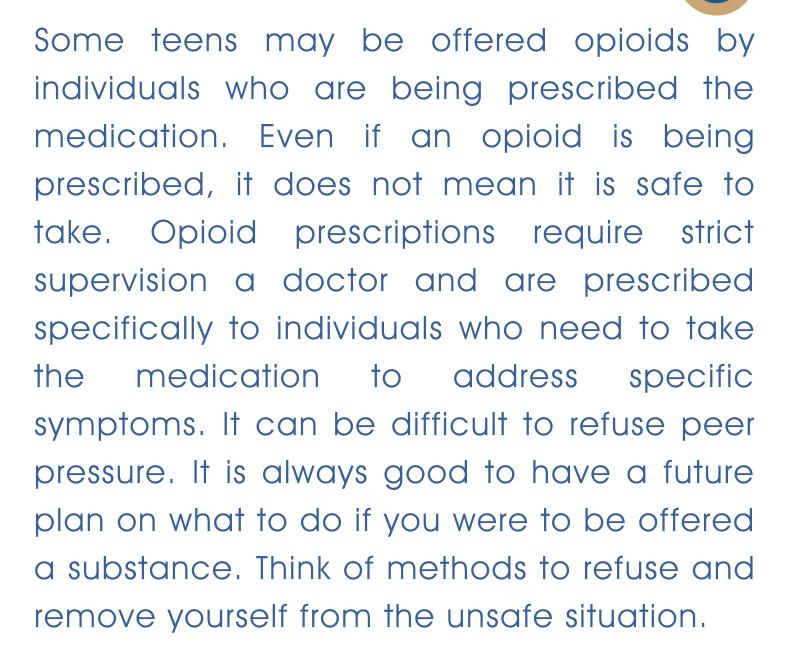
#### MYTH CHECK!

**Myth:** "Opioids are safe because my doctor prescribed them to me"

• MYTH: Prescription opioids—when used long term or incorrectly—can cause the brain to become reliant on the drug and are addictive.



### Taking Precautions





Horseshoe Drive Location | Prevention Services 2806 South Horseshoe Drive, Naples Florida 34104 | 239-263-4013

Parenting Classes: To register contact 239-263-4013
Prevention Talks: DLCPrevention.org
Mind Your Mind: DLCMindYourMind.org

