



OPIOID OVERDOSE AND OLDER ADULTS

What are Opioids? Opioids are pain medicines. An opioid overdose happens when someone takes too much. It is serious. It can cause death.

How do I know if I'm taking an Opioid? Some common opioid medications are listed below. You can also ask your medication provider or pharmacist if any of your prescriptions are opioids.

Medication Generic Name	Brand Names
Oxycodone	OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®, and others
Hydrocodone or dihydrocodeinone	Vicodin®, Lortab®, Lorcet®, and others
Morphine	Kadian®, Avinza®, MS Contin®, Duramorph®, Roxanol®
Codeine	Various brand names, often combined with acetaminophen and aspirin
Fentanyl	Duragesic®, Actiq®, Sublimaze®

Are Older Adults Really at Risk of Opioid Overdose? YES. In 2022, 293 Missourians over the age of 55 died as a result of opioid overdose. This is a 94% increase since 2017.

Am I at Risk of an Opioid Overdose if I Take Prescription Opioids? YES. In 2021, there were 16,706 overdose deaths nationwide due to prescription opioids.

Are all Opioid Overdoses Fatal? NO. In 2022, there were 5,926 inpatient and ER visits for nonfatal opioid overdoses. One thousand one hundred sixty of these visits were individuals over the age of 55. See more about responding to an overdose on the back of this sheet.



How do I Recognize an Opioid Overdose?

These are signs of an opioid overdose:



What do I do if I Think Someone has Overdosed on Opioids?

1. Check for breathing and clear airways.
2. Lay the person on the back and give naloxone (if available).
3. Call 911.
4. Stay with the person until medical help arrives. Follow any instructions given by the dispatcher. This may include giving rescue breaths and administering a second dose of naloxone.

How do I Access Naloxone? Having naloxone on hand can prevent an overdose death. There are many ways to access naloxone.

- Ask your medical provider for a prescription for naloxone if you are taking prescription opioids.
- Ask for naloxone at the pharmacy. Missouri has a standing order that allows any person to purchase naloxone.
- Find a local agency that distributes naloxone at nomodeaths.org/where-to-get-naloxone.

How can I find Help for an Opioid Addiction? Treatment locations can be found at findtreatment.gov or by calling 1-800-662-4357 (1-800-487-4899 – TTY).

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

912 Wildwood Drive | Jefferson City, MO 65109