

Naloxone (Narcan): The Opioid Overdose Antidote



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Past 30 days Illicit Drug Use among Persons 12 and Older: 2014 (in millions)

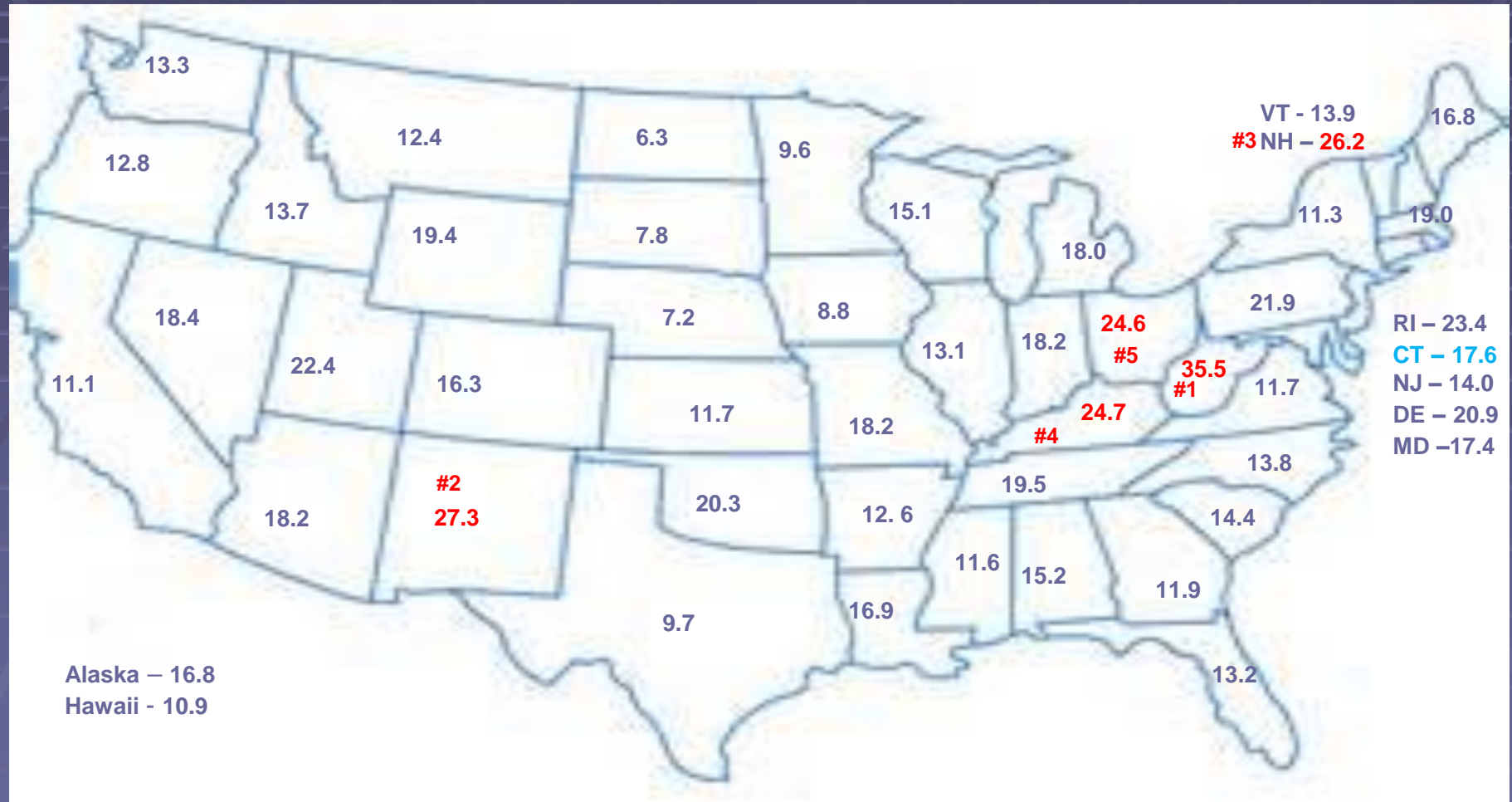


Why the Concern about Prescription Drugs?

- In 2010, enough painkillers were prescribed to medicate *every adult American around the clock for a month*
- People think they are safe
- Risk of Tolerance, Dependence, Addiction, Overdose, and Death
- Diversion: 66% come from friends/family
- Transition: past misuse of prescription opioids is the strongest risk factor for heroin initiation and use

Overdose Death Rates (2014)

Prescribing/Overdoses vary greatly by state



While anyone can overdose...

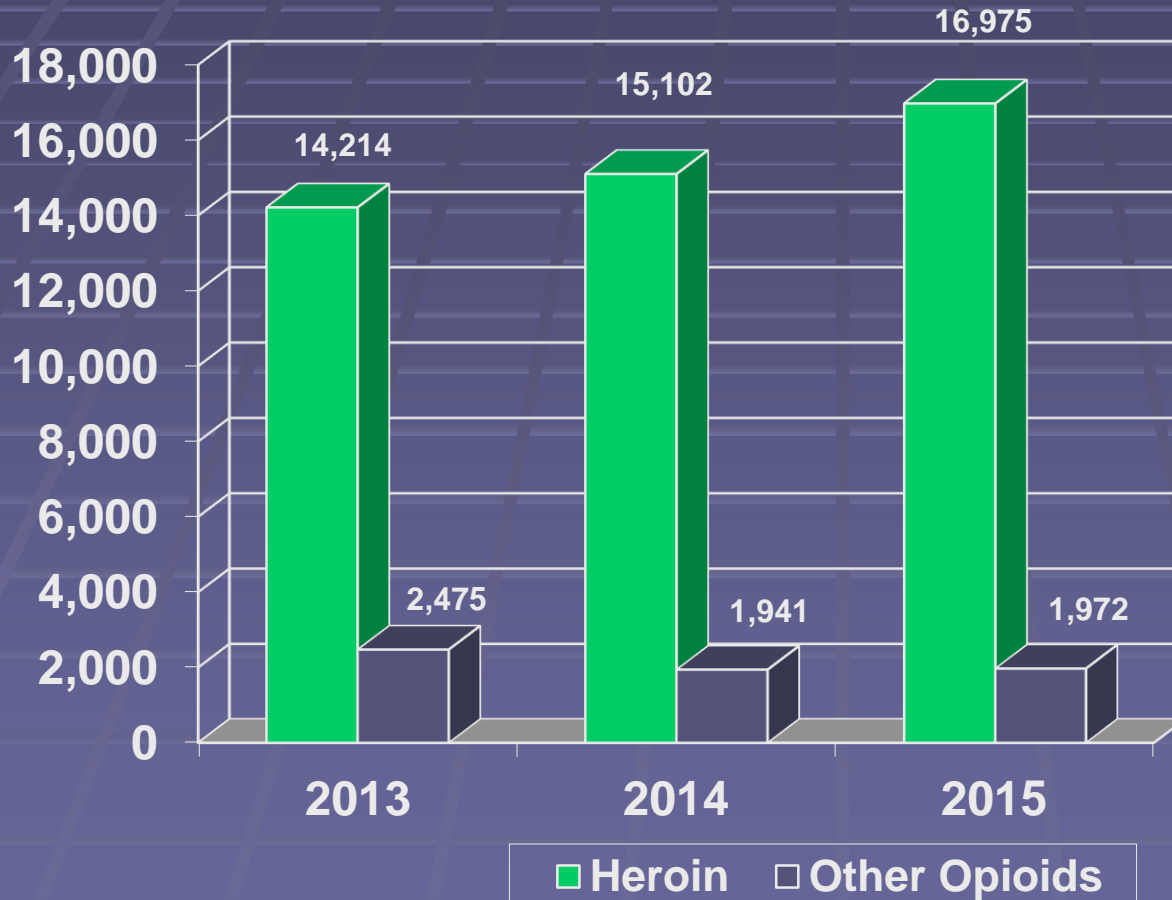


- **Women:** 5X ↑ OD deaths from opioid painkillers between 1999 – 2010
- **Baby Boomers/ 50+:** higher substance use rates; more pain/medical issues/prescriptions; those 55-64 had 6X ↑ OD deaths from opioid painkillers between 1999-2011
- **Chronic Pain Clients:** 3% of Americans; there is no convincing evidence of long-term efficacy of opioids for chronic pain
- **Medicaid Recipients:** prescribed painkillers at 2X the rate of non-recipients and have 6X the rate for painkiller overdose

Connecticut Data:

DMHAS Admissions to Substance Use Services

Primary Substance at Admission



**45% of
substance use
services
admissions are
for opioids
compared to
35% for alcohol**

Naloxone Distribution Programs

- Naloxone Distribution Programs started in 1996
- As of June 2014, there were 644 sites distributing kits & reporting **26,463 opioid overdose reversals**
- Many states now have programs
- Strategies/legislation vary by state
- Education is an expectation

CT Narcan Legislation

- 11-210 (21a-279): Good Sam law; ↑ calls to 911
- 12-159 (17a-714): Narcan could be prescribed to anyone; Prescribers protected from civil liability/criminal prosecution
- 14-61(17a-714): 3rd party administering narcan is protected from civil liability and criminal prosecution
- 15-198: Governor's Omnibus Bill:
Pharmacist prescribing/dispensing; CMEs; checking CPMRS; clarify 2012; ADPC

Naloxone (Narcan)

- Prescription medication
- Safe medication
- Only has an effect if the person has opioids in their system
- Replaces the opioid at the receptor site and reverses its effects for 30-90 minutes
- Has no abuse potential or street value so you cannot get high from it and if you are high on opioids, it causes withdrawal

Standard Training on Naloxone (Narcan)

- Overdose Risk Factors
- Identifying an Opioid Overdose
- Calling 911
- Rescue Breathing
- Naloxone (Narcan) administration
- Recovery Position

Resources

- Susan.Wolfe@ct.gov; 860-418-6993
- Opioid Overdose Prevention/Naloxone (Narcan) on the DMHAS website;
<http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/cwp/view.asp?a=2902&q=509650>
- Harm Reduction Coalition; Harm Reduction. org
- Prescribe to Prevent. org