

A Glance at the Impact of Opioids

National Data (2015)

- Overdose deaths are the leading injury death in the United States.
- Although 2016 overdose death data has yet to be released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the overdose deaths reported by the CDC in 2015 totaled 52,404. This is an average of 144 drug overdose deaths per day – up from 129 per day in 2014 – which represents an 11.4% increase in just one year.
- According to the same 2015 CDC report, the mortality rate from synthetic opioids other than methadone (including illicitly manufactured fentanyl) increased by 72.2%, and deaths related to heroin increased by 20.6% from 2014 to 2015. Increases have occurred across all demographic groups and regions and in numerous states.

South Carolina Data (2016)

- **8,071** patients were discharged from emergency departments (EDs) with issues related to opioid use/dependence in 2016.
- **3,855** patients were discharged from EDs with issues related to opioid overdose/poisoning in 2016.
- These numbers represent **10,523** unique individuals who were seen at an ED due to either opioid use or an opioid-related overdose/poisoning in 2016 in our state. (NOTE: *These numbers are not mutually exclusive.*)
- There has been a **135% increase** in service utilization at state-funded substance use disorder treatment programs for individuals looking for help with an opioid use disorder – from 2,469 in 2006 to 5,803 in 2016.
- There has been a **67% increase** in the number of attempts to reverse opioid overdoses conducted by EMS personnel throughout South Carolina from 2013 through 2016.
 - 3,847 attempts in 2013
 - 4,187 attempts in 2014
 - 4,610 attempts in 2015
 - 6,427 attempts in 2016

Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths:

- In 2016, there were **616** opioid-related overdose deaths reported in South Carolina, representing a 3.7% increase from the 594 overdose deaths that occurred in 2015.

Good News:

- In December 2014, the *State Plan to Prevent and Treat Prescription Drug Abuse* was released. The plan includes more than 50 recommendations on how public and private agencies and groups might collaborate to systematically address the opioid epidemic. More than 45 recommendations have been acted on to date.
- In September 2016, DAODAS was awarded \$3,192,722 in a five-year grant to increase access to the overdose antidote naloxone by increasing the number of first responders, at-risk community members and their caregivers who are trained and equipped with the drug in an effort to reduce overall opioid overdose mortality.
- With the help of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, more than **4,100 law enforcement officers have been trained across 126 agencies, resulting in 136 lives saved** so far across the state.
- In April 2017, DAODAS was awarded \$6,575,623 per year through a two-year grant (totaling \$13,151,246) titled the *State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis*. With 17 initiatives and more than 60 partners, DAODAS will use these funds to pursue a comprehensive response to opioid issues in South Carolina.