**Impact of Opioids Across the Nation**

* Overdose deaths are the leading injury death in the United States.
* The CDC reported 70,237 drug overdose deaths in 2017, up **10.4%** from 63,632 in 2016. Of those deaths in 2017, **67.8%** (47,600) involved an opioid, which is up **12.7%** (42,249) from 2016. From 2016 to 2017, 30 states saw an increase of 5% or greater in their drug overdose death rate, and six states saw an increase of 20% or greater. Increases have occurred across all age groups, genders, and regions throughout the country.
* According to the 2017 CDC National Vital Statistics, the age-adjusted mortality ratefrom synthetic opioids other than methadone (including illicitly manufactured fentanyl) **increased by 102.6%** (9,580 deaths to 19,413),and deaths related to heroin **increased by 19.1%** (12,989 to 15,469) from 2015 to 2016.

**Impact of Opioids in South Carolina**

* According to the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) Office, **10,717** patients were discharged from emergency departments (EDs) and inpatient departments (IPs) with issues related to opioid use/dependence in 2017.
* The RFA Office also reported that **6,961** patients were discharged from EDs and IPs with issues related to opioid overdose/poisoning in 2017.
* There has been a **167% increase** in service utilization at state-funded substance use disorder treatment programs for individuals looking for help with an opioid use disorder from CY 2007 (2,598) to CY 2018 (6,945).
* There has been a **110% increase** in the number of naloxone administrations to reverse opioid overdose conducted by EMS personnel throughout South Carolina, from 3,847 in 2013 to 8,102 in 2018.
* In 2017, there were **748** opioid-related overdose deaths reported in South Carolina, representing a **21%** increase from the 616 overdose deaths occurring in 2016. Drug overdose deaths in general have continued to increase from 2014 to 2017.

**Good News**

* 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 and patients/caregivers who are trained and equipped with the drug in an effort to reduce overall mortality related to opioid misuse.
  + As of January 2019, with the help of its partner agency, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, **7,920 law enforcement officers** had been trained to use naloxone, representing 190 departments in 44 counties across the state.
    - **619 overdose reversals (on 573 unique individuals)** had been conducted by trained law enforcement officers throughout South Carolina since June 2016, with **554 lives saved**.
  + In addition, **364** patients receiving treatment at state-funded substance use disorder treatment programs had, along with their caregivers, been trained by staff on how to appropriately administer naloxone and provided this lifesaving antidote.
* In April 2017, DAODAS was awarded a **$6,575,623** State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant.
* In December 2017, Governor Henry McMaster declared the state’s opioid crisis to be a public health emergency and established the South Carolina Opioid Emergency Response Team (SC OERT).
  + The SC OERT developed a multilateral strategy to prevent and treat the misuse of prescription opioids and use of illicit opioids in order to strengthen public health, security, safety, and the economic well-being of the citizens of South Carolina.