

What are Opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs naturally found in the opium poppy plant. Opioids are often used as medicines because they contain chemicals that relax the body and relieve pain. Prescription opioids are used mostly to treat moderate to severe pain. Opioids can be highly addictive.



Heroin and prescription opioids are chemically similar. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that can be mixed with or substituted for heroin. It can also be sold as tablets that mimic other opioids. The high potency of fentanyl greatly increases the risk of overdose, especially if a person who uses drugs is unaware that a powder or pill contains fentanyl.

What are common prescription opioids?

- Hydrocodone (Vicodin®)
- Oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®)
- Oxymorphone (Opana®)
- Morphine (Kadian®, Avinza®)
- Codeine
- Fentanyl

Popular slang terms for opioids include Oxy, Percs, and Vikes.

CHANGE the SCRIPT

Learn more at
drugfreet.org

For addiction treatment 24/7
call the Access Line

1-800-563-4086

(this includes transportation to detox
and treatment for prescription opioids
or heroin addiction)



This publication is funded in whole by a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or HHS.



CHANGE the SCRIPT

Opioid misuse is a
public health issue that can
be prevented and treated.

Recovery is possible.

Learn more at
drugfreet.org

■ Safe Medication Storage & Disposal

Safe storage tips

- *Keep prescription medications in the original containers.* These containers often have child resistant lids to prevent young children from taking any medications.
- *Lock your medications.* There are a variety of ways to lock your medications including lock bags, lock boxes and safes.
- *Don't save leftover medications.* Keeping medications that are expired or unused increases the risk of medication misuse.

Safe disposal methods

- Medication drop boxes are located in police department lobbies where you can simply drop off unneeded medications and they will be disposed of safely.
- Prescription drug take back days provide temporary collection sites set up to help communities safely dispose of medications.
- Household disposal of medications is an option if there are no take back days or drop boxes available to you. For simple instructions on how to safely dispose of medications at home, go to drugfreect.org.

■ Overdose Prevention & Naloxone

Warning signs of an overdose

An individual may exhibit one or more of the following:

- constricted pupils
- unresponsive or limp
- awake but unable to talk
- slow or erratic breathing or they are not breathing
- slow or erratic pulse or they have no pulse
- pale gray or blue skin, especially around the fingernails and lips
- is making deep, slow snoring, choking or gurgling sounds
- is vomiting

What is naloxone?

Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. It can very quickly restore normal respiration to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped as a result of overdosing on heroin or prescription opioid medications.

Where can I get naloxone?

Connecticut law allows trained and certified pharmacists to prescribe naloxone to anyone requesting it. Be sure to call the pharmacy prior to your visit to ensure they have the naloxone in stock.

■ Treatment & Recovery

There are a number of treatment options for those living with a substance use disorder, including but not limited to withdrawal management, medication assisted treatment (MAT), inpatient and outpatient treatment, and mutual support groups.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services established the 24/7 access line to help individuals in Connecticut connect with detox and treatment, including transportation to detox.

1-800-563-4086

Recovery supports exist across the state of Connecticut. To learn more about these supports, go to drugfreect.org.

