

Other Drugs

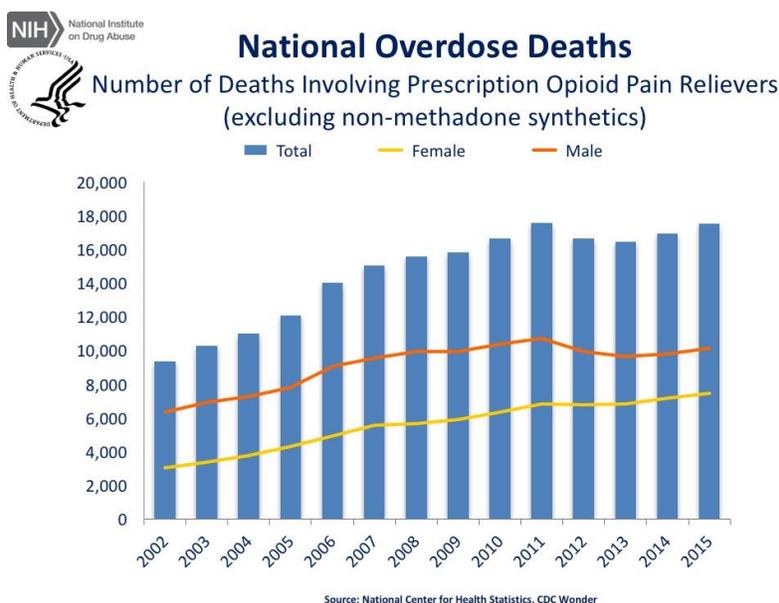
Empower yourself to make wise decisions. Learn more about emerging trends and common concerns associated with illicit drug use at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/>

Consider checking out [Emerging Trends: up to date information on dangerous illicit drug trends](#) & [Commonly Abused Drug Charts](#) for information on health effects & various treatment options by drug class.

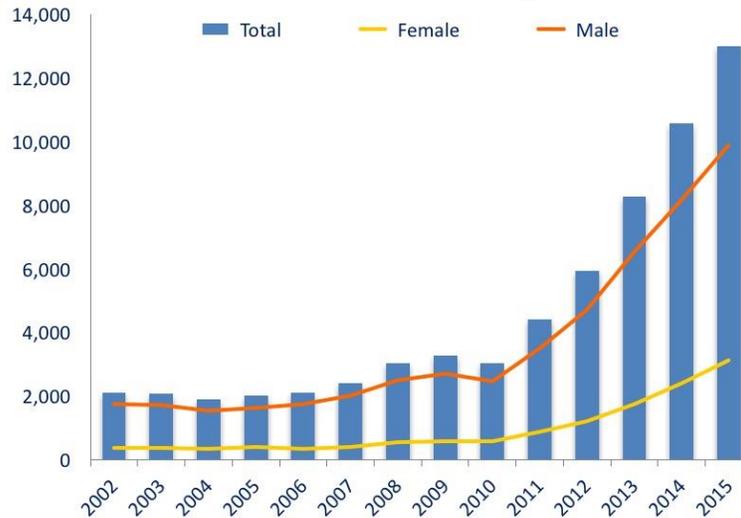
The National Institute on Drug Abuse also provides a [Commonly Abused Drugs and Withdrawal Symptoms chart](#).

Prescribed Opioid Misuse/Heroin Use, An Overdose Epidemic

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse all opioids are chemically related and interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain. Opioid pain relievers are generally safe when taken for a short time and as prescribed by a doctor, but because they produce euphoria in addition to pain relief, they can be misused (taken in a different way or in a larger quantity than prescribed, or taken without a doctor's prescription). Regular use—even as prescribed by a doctor—can lead to dependence and, when misused, opioid pain relievers can lead to addiction, overdose incidents, and deaths.



National Overdose Deaths Number of Deaths Involving Heroin



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder

Life Saving Drug Naloxone (Narcan), Opioid Overdose Reversal Medication

An opioid overdose can be reversed with the drug *Naloxone*, available without a prescription in North Carolina, when given right away. Many harm reduction advocates have campaigned, urging those who use Opioids to have Naloxone with them in case of an overdose. *Many Emergency Responders carry Naloxone in NC.*

Advocacy has resulted in the NC 911 Good Samaritan Law, which states that individuals who experience a drug overdose or persons who witness an overdose and seek help for the victim can no longer be prosecuted for possession of small amounts of drugs, paraphernalia, or underage drinking.

Please note recent studies conducted by the National Institute of Health report reversal of opioid toxicity may precipitate an opioid-withdrawal syndrome. At the same time, there is a risk of inadequate response or re-narcotization after the administration of a single dose of naloxone in patients who have taken large doses or long-acting opioid formulations, as the duration of effect of naloxone is shorter than that of many opioid agonists. *Because of this, it is important to seek medical treatment, even after using Naloxone for an overdose.*

Considering making a change? Are you, a friend or loved one concerned about your drug or alcohol use? Consider coming to Counseling Services to talk with the Addictions Specialist available FREE to you.

Call 910-814-5709 to set up a confidential, judgment free session.

Prefer to seek treatment outside of CU? Visit [SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator](#) or contact your insurance company for in network providers.

Sources: <http://www.nchrc.org/law-enforcement/post-overdose-response-programs/>,

<http://www.nchrc.org/programs-and-services/911-good-samaritan-laws-naloxone-access-and-syringe-law-in-nc/>,

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5753997/>