

PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE IN CALIFORNIA

Opioids can be prescribed to treat moderate to severe pain but can be **highly addictive**

Common prescription opioids

Hydrocodone	→ Vicodin ®
Oxycodone	→ Percocet ®
Oxymorphone	→ Opana ®
Morphine	→ Kadian ®
Codeine	
Fentanyl	

Over 21 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2017, that's nearly **1** prescription for every **2** Californians



In California

Although most people take prescription medications responsibly,

Nearly **2** million people in the USA have **substance abuse disorders** involving prescription opioids

Prescription opioid abuse is worst in **rural Northern California** among people 25 – 65 years old where some counties are “a disaster area as bad as West Virginia”
- Dr. Pfeifer, CA Health Care Foundation

In one year, PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE in CALIFORNIA resulted in over...

4 million dollars in healthcare costs



More than double what any other state spent

4000 emergency room visits



and over 3,600 hospitalizations

1300 overdose deaths



Over 70% of all opioid deaths involved prescription opioids

CA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE is **FIGHTING BACK**



Investigating Prescription Opioid Manufacturers



Charging Doctors for Illegal Prescribing



Maintaining an Opioid Prescription Database

Since 2012

Prescription opioid deaths in California decreased by

16%



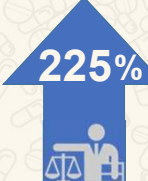
People obtaining opioid prescriptions from **5+ providers** decreased by

74%



Physicians charged for **improper prescribing** in California increased by

225%



The opioid crisis is a **serious public health threat** that is taking the lives of too many Californians, destroying our communities, ripping apart families, and impacting the work of law enforcement.

We cannot sit back as this crisis claims more lives everyday. It's critical that we continue to address this epidemic from all angles.

California Attorney General
Xavier Becerra

