Opioids can be prescribed to treat moderate to severe pain but can be highly addictive. Over 21 million opioid prescriptions were written in 2017, that’s nearly a prescription for every 2 Californians.

Common prescription opioids:
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin ®)
- Oxycodone (Percocet ®)
- Oxymorphone (Opana ®)
- Morphine
- Codeine
- Fentanyl

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...

- 4000 emergency room visits and over 3,600 hospitalizations
- 4 million dollars in healthcare costs
- 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

Physicians charged for improper prescribing in California increased by 225%

Since 2012, prescription opioid deaths in California decreased by 16%

People obtaining opioid prescriptions from 5+ providers decreased by 74%

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

For citations and information regarding calculations, click here.