

# PRESCRIPTION OPIOID ABUSE IN CALIFORNIA

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



### Common prescription opioids

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

### 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...



## CA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE is **FIGHTING BACK**

Investigating Prescription Opioid Manufacturers

Charging Doctors for Illegal Prescribing

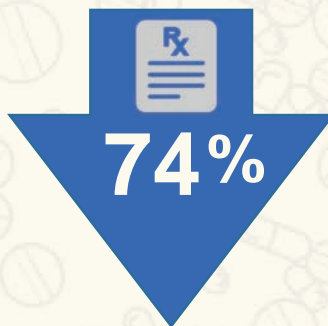
Maintaining an Opioid Prescription Database

Since 2012

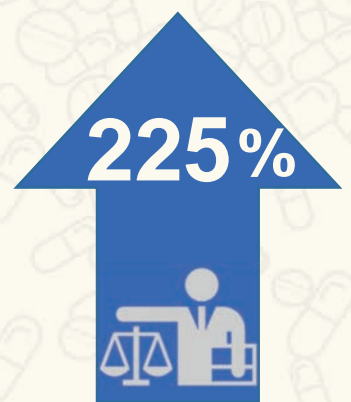
Prescription opioid deaths in California decreased by



People obtaining opioid prescriptions from 5+ providers decreased by



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



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