

What is the opioid crisis?

The prescription Opioid epidemic has become a nationwide crisis across all races, genders, and age groups specifically in the State of Missouri. Opioids are pain medications prescribed by a doctor and dispensed amongst pharmacies. Forms of opioid include tablets, capsules, liquid and patches. In the State of Missouri, common pain remedies ordered by a physician are hydrocodone, oxycodone, and tramadol; all three drugs encompass 85% of all pain relievers dispensed. Generally, uncontrolled opioid consumption is directly related to heroin addiction cases. "1 out of every 66 deaths in 2016 was due to opioid and heroin Overdose," according to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Approximately 908 deaths were caused by pain medication and heroin overdose in Missouri during the year of 2016.

What is the State of Missouri doing to bring awareness to the outbreak?

In the month of July, Governor Greitens signed an executive order allowing the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to implement a drug monitoring and prevention program. The executive order allowed the Department of Health and Senior Services to collaborate and partner with local health departments, health organizations, and private entities to collect data for analysis based upon state geographic location and promote awareness of pain medication dispersion and disposal. Each region of the state launched a series of Opioid Summits to bring about awareness and address any specific issues within each constituency. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has also paired with project MO HOPE; the mission is to, "reduce opioid overdose deaths in Missouri through expanded access to prevention, public awareness, assessment, referral to treatment, overdose education and naloxone for those at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose event."

THE STATE OF MISSOURI'S
opioid CRISIS

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The overall goal for Butler County is to decrease prescription pain medication abuse or misuse of its community members while also providing safe avenues to successful treatment. Butler County has joined the initiative to reduce pain medication and heroin dependence by specifically increasing access to medication disposal routes, public awareness, and education. Prescription pain medication abuse and addiction are medical conditions that must be treated with appropriate clinical care and social support. The continuation of implementation calls for a monitoring system and proper dispensing of prescription pain medication on a local level to assist the discovery of drug abuse and misuse. The Butler County Health Department and State of Missouri held an Opioid Summit in Poplar Bluff during the month of October. A pain medication disposal method given to the Butler County Health Department from the state were Medication Disposal Kits, pictured left; these kits are environmental friendly pouches used to remove expired or unused medications. The packaging deactivates up to 45 capsules or tablets, 6 ounces of liquid, or 6 patches by just adding water.

Ask the Butler County Health Department for more information on how to obtain a personal disposal kit today.



It is important to remember three key facts with prescription pain medication use; 1) follow directions exactly as explained by a doctor, pharmacist, or medication label; 2) never use another individual's prescription medications or distribute personal medications amongst others; 3) always check the expiration date and dispose of all medications properly. Treatment for pain medication abuse and addiction calls for successful detoxification or cleansing of toxins in the body, behavioral counseling, medication, evaluation and treatment for mental health concerns, and long term continuation of an addiction program to lower the possibility of relapse. SEMO Behavioral Health, the Family Counseling Center, and Behavioral Health Group all promote treatment and support for individuals struggling with dependence.

How is Butler County joining the movement against prescription drug abuse and misuse?

How can I treat prescription abuse or misuse?



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