Opioid (Narcotics) Facts
November 16, 2017

- Last year, more Americans died from drug overdose in one year than all the American dead from all the years of the Vietnam War combined—the majority of those OD deaths from opioids (narcotics).
  
  **Source:** Editorial Board of Chicago Tribune Nov 4, 2017

- “Opioids place a burden on hospitals, emergency responders and correctional facilities, as well as employers. It sunder[s] families and leaves children orphaned or in the care of grandparents.... The annual economic cost exceeds $100 billion.”
  
  **Source:** Editorial Board of Chicago Tribune Nov 4, 2017

- In 2016, Shasta County had more than double the rate of opioid prescriptions compared to California. (Shasta had 1159 opioid prescriptions per 1,000 residents in 2016 vs California 562/1,000).
  
  **Source:** California Department of Public Health
  https://pdop.shinyapps.io/ODdash_v1/

- 1 in 4 Shasta County 11th grade survey takers used prescription pain killers to “get high”.
  
  **Source:** California Healthy Kids Survey 2006-2011, the latest available, CDPH.

- From 2011 through 2015, there were a total of 101 opioid-related deaths of Shasta County residents. 7 of these were from heroin, the rest from Rx opioids.
  
  **Source:** Shasta County Health and Human Service Agency (HHSA) from CDPH VRBIS

- CDC Wonder recorded 16 heroin deaths in Shasta County from 1999-2015, <1 per year averaged over those 17 years. There were 0 or 1 heroin deaths per year from 2000 to 2014; that number was 4 heroin related deaths in 2015.
  
  **Source:** Shasta HHSA from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Wonder

- Shasta’s rate for heroin deaths was roughly 70% of California’s rate for heroin deaths. The crude rate of heroin deaths for Shasta County was 0.89/100K and the crude rate for CA was 1.26/100K in 2011-2015, i.e. 70%.
  
  **Source:** Shasta HHSA from CDC Wonder

- About 75% of persons who initiate heroin first misused prescription opioids.
  
  **Source:** www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6634a2.htm?__cid=mm6634a2_w

- Opioid prescribing varied substantially across the U.S., with average per capita amounts prescribed in the top-prescribing counties approximately six times the amounts prescribed in the lowest prescribing counties in 2015. Shasta remains in the top
prescribing counties category but has seen a decrease in prescription rate since 2012.
Source: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6626a4.htm?s_cid=mm6626a4_w

- Higher amounts of opioids were prescribed in counties with a larger percentage of non-Hispanic whites; a higher prevalence of arthritis; higher rates of unemployment; lower educational attainment; more physicians per capita; a higher prevalence of diagnosed disability; and higher suicide rates, all of which Shasta Co. has more compared to CA as whole.
Source: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6626a4.htm?s_cid=mm6626a4_w and Shasta Co HHSA-Outcomes, Planning and Evaluation

- The rate of long-term (> 1 year) Rx opioid use, an indicator or addiction risk, was low (6.0%) for persons with at least one day of opioid therapy, but increased to ~30% still using Rx opioids at 1 year when first episode of Rx opioid use was for ≥31 days.
Source: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6610a1.htm?s_cid=mm6610a1_w

- Estimates of U.S. drug overdose deaths exceeded 60,000 in 2016 and were partially driven by a fivefold increase in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids (excluding methadone), from 3,105 in 2013 to approximately 20,000 in 2016. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50–100 times more potent than morphine, is primarily responsible for this rapid increase.
Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6643e1.htm

- While most synthetic fentanyl is east of the Mississippi, in California, during Oct–Dec 2015, seven people, including two who died, were found to have been exposed to fentanyl-adulterated counterfeit Xanax. During March 25–April 5, 2016, seven cases of counterfeit Norco ingestion and intoxication were identified by the California Poison Control System. Whereas Norco typically contains acetaminophen and hydrocodone, these counterfeit tablets predominantly contained fentanyl.

- Photo of four counterfeit Norco “M367” tablets obtained from patient during the investigation of a counterfeit Norco poisoning outbreak — San Francisco Bay Area, 2016

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6516e1.htm?s_cid=mm6516e1_w