

AMERICANS ARE AT GREATER RISK FOR ADDICTION THAN THEY REALIZE



Opioid pain medications have a number of side effects and the risk of addiction may be the most serious. However, it is clear most people do not understand this risk. A 2015 National Safety Council public opinion poll found nearly 90 percent of opioid users were not worried about addiction, even though 60 percent of respondents reported having an addiction risk factor such as personal or family history of alcoholism, depression, use of psychiatric medications, or a history of physical, mental or sexual abuse. More education is needed about who is at risk for addiction from opioid pain medication use.

More than 1.9 million Americans are addicted to opioid painkillers. (SAMHSA, 2015) For some people, their first prescription of an opioid pain medication began an addiction that was never intended or expected. More than 4.3 million people have misused¹ an opioid painkiller in the past month. (SAMHSA, 2015) Seventy percent of people gain access to opioids from people they know. (SAMHSA, 2015) Tragically, about four percent of those who misuse opioid painkillers will transition to heroin. (JONES, 2013)



for Opioid Addiction

- Having depression, anxiety or other mental health illness
- A personal and/or family history of alcohol or substance abuse
 - A history of physical, mental or sexual abuse
- Long term use of opioid pain medications



STARTED MISUSING
an opioid pain medication
for the first time
TODAY!

¹ "Misuse" includes use without a prescription or taking the drug for the feeling or "high" it causes. Examples of misuse include using another person's prescription or using "saved" medications from a previous medical condition or surgery.