

The opioid epidemic and the connection to dental care.

The misuse of opioids has resulted in an epidemic affecting countless lives and communities across the country. Here's a look at how oral health and the ongoing epidemic are connected:



1 in 10

opioid prescriptions are written by oral health professionals, including



70%

of wisdom teeth extractions for people 16-22 result in at least one opioid prescription.¹

45%

of opioid prescriptions for adolescents.¹



75%

of people who misuse opioids started by taking prescribed medications.²



Epidemic Impacts:



47K+

lives are lost each year to opioid overdoses.³



\$500B+

in added costs to the U.S. economy.⁴



¹ UnitedHealthcare analysis of more than 4 million claims, 2018

² Cicero TJ, Ellis MS, Surratt HL, Kurtz SP. The changing face of heroin use in the United States: a retrospective analysis of the past 50 years. JAMA Psychiatry. 2014;71(7):821-826.

³ National Institute on Drug Abuse, Opioid Overdose Crisis; 2019. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>

⁴ The Council of Economic Advisors, 2017 study