

Opioids

PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS

HEROIN

OTHER STREET OPIOIDS

Prescription pain pills and heroin belong to the same class of drugs: called opioids.

According to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA), "[Opioids] reduce the intensity of pain signals reaching the brain and affect those brain areas controlling emotion, which diminishes the effects of a painful stimulus. Basically, they decrease the amount of pain the person is feeling. They also act by causing a person to be happy or very relaxed—and this can lead to dependence.

The problem gets worse once a person becomes dependent on opioids and starts looking for cheaper, perhaps easier to get illegal drugs that makes him feel the same. The drug of choice is usually Heroin, but there are many variations of opioids that are sold on the streets.



Learn about the risks of
prescription opioids
www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose



According to the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) opioids caused more than 28,000 deaths in 2014 from opioids, the highest number of opioid related deaths to date.



BOTTOM Line, Opioids can kill.

Other opioid drugs: Fentanyl is a potent, synthetic opioid painkiller. Fentanyl is abused for its intense euphoric effects, and can serve as a substitute for heroin in opioid dependent individuals. Illegally manufactured, non-pharmaceutical grade fentanyl is also a problem. This may be found mixed into heroin to increase its potency, or in tablets bought on the streets and sold as other opioid painkillers.

Information taken from: [Texas Poison Center Network](#), [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [American Association of Poison Centers \(AAPCC\)](#) & [Drugabuse.gov](#)- an online resource.

IF YOU SUSPECT YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH ANY POISON

PLEASE CONTACT THE POISON CENTER AT 1-800-222-1222