

What You Need to Know About Treatment and Recovery

There is hope.
Recovery is possible.

Addiction Is A Disease

Opioids are highly addictive, and they change how the brain works. Anyone can become addicted, even when opioids are prescribed by a doctor and taken as directed. In fact, millions of people in the United States suffer from opioid addiction.

Signs of Opioid Addiction

A major warning sign of addiction is if a person keeps using opioids even though taking them has caused problems—like trouble keeping a job, relationship turmoil, or run-ins with law enforcement. Other signs can include:¹



Trying to stop or cut down on drug use, but not being able to.



Taking one drug to get over the effects of another.



Stealing drugs or money to pay for drugs.



Using drugs because of being angry or upset with other people.



Being scared at the thought of running out of drugs.



Overdosing on drugs.

Opioid Use Disorder

Sometimes referred to as “opioid addiction,” opioid use disorder is a chronic and relapsing disease that affects the body and brain. It can cause difficulties with tasks at work, school, or home, and can affect someone’s ability to maintain healthy relationships. It can even lead to overdose and death.

¹ [findtreatment.gov/content/understanding-addiction/addiction-can-affect-anyone](https://www.findtreatment.gov/content/understanding-addiction/addiction-can-affect-anyone)

To learn more about opioid misuse, go to [cdc.gov/RxAwareness](https://www.cdc.gov/RxAwareness).

