

About Overdose

If you have a loved one with a history of using prescription pain killers and/or heroin, be prepared for relapse and possible overdose. Knowing what puts a person at risk for overdose and how to prevent fatal overdose with Narcan® can save a loved one's life. Here are some of the factors that put people at risk for fatal overdose:

- Mixing drugs
- Using drugs after a period of abstinence lowers tolerance
- History of past non-fatal overdose
- Using drugs alone - when breathing stops there is no one to call for emergency medical help

People at higher risk of opioid overdose

- People recently released from incarceration or detoxification - due to reduced tolerance
- People who inject opioids
- People who use prescription opioids, in particular those taking higher doses
- People who use opioids in combination with other sedating substances
- People who use opioids and have medical conditions such as HIV, liver or lung disease, or suffer from depression
- Household members of people in possession of opioids (including prescription opioids).