

# What Are Opioids?

- Opioids are a class of drugs used to reduce pain
- They come in pill, liquid, or powder form
- Prescription opioids include Oxycontin, Vicodin, morphine, and methadone
- Illegal opioids include fentanyl and heroin



# The Epidemic

Opioid abuse has been declared a national health emergency. Virginia is NOT exempt from this crisis.

- 66% of drug overdoses involve an opioid
- Fatal drug overdose has been the leading cause of unnatural and accidental death in Virginia since 2014
- There were over 1,500 deaths from drug overdoses in Virginia in 2019

## Spotting the Signs

Changes in behavior and mood:

- Reduction in social activity
- Drowsiness, disorientation, lack of energy
- Inability to concentrate, lack of motivation

Changes in appearance:

- Pinpoint pupils, sudden itching, drooping eyes, flushed face and neck; head nodding, intense calm, slurred speech
- Withdrawal: frequent yawning, runny nose, dilated pupils, nausea, vomiting, insomnia



## How to Help

- **Naloxone** is the antidote for opioid overdoses.
- Find out more [Find out more about prevention and rescue](#)
- For addiction, prevention, and recovery resources, visit [CurbTheCrisis.com](#)
- Visit [Virginia Opioid Crisis Website](#) to read about the crisis, learn how to respond to an opioid overdose emergency, and see the data

# OPIOID ABUSE

## Recognizing the Signs

