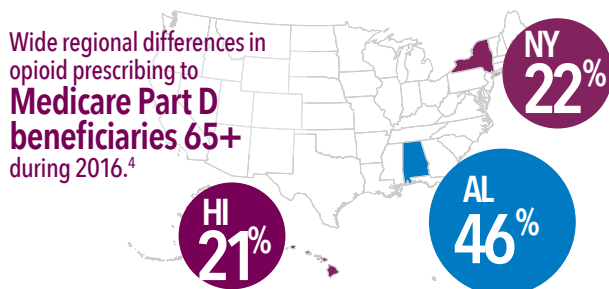
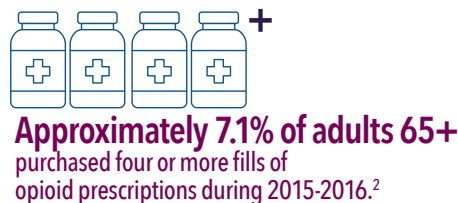


State of Opioid Use, Misuse, and Opioid Use Disorder among Older Adults

It is well-established that older adults are at higher risk for harms from opioid use than younger adults.

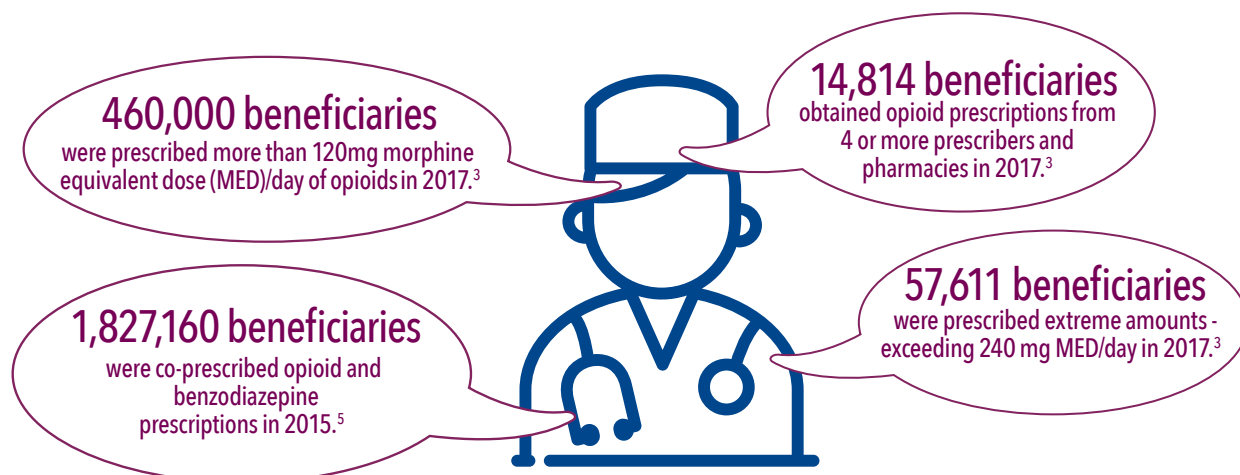


Yet, prescription opioid use among older adults is common.



And high risk opioid prescribing is also common among Medicare Beneficiaries 65 and older.*

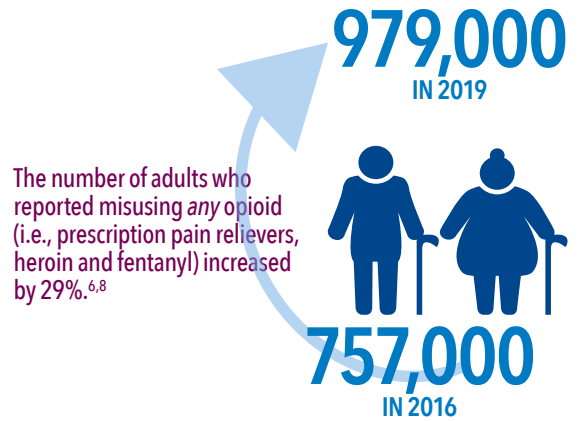
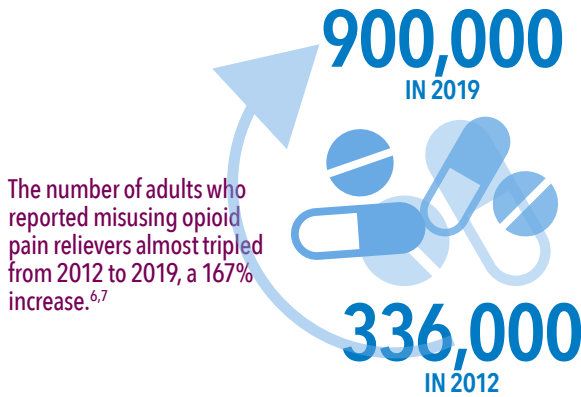
For example, high daily dosages, long-term use of opioids, obtaining prescriptions from multiple providers, and co-prescribing of benzodiazepines and opioids can increase the risk of harm.



*Not in end of life care or diagnosed with cancer.

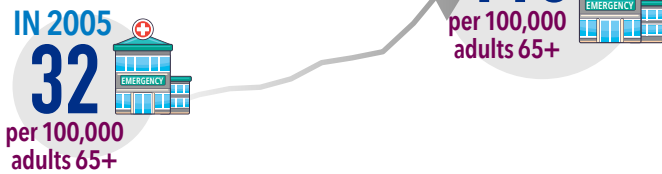
Further, misuse of opioids among older adults 65 and older is increasing.

“Drug misuse” means the use of illegal drugs or use of prescription drugs in a manner other than as directed by a provider (e.g., in greater amounts, more often, longer than directed, using someone else’s prescription).⁶

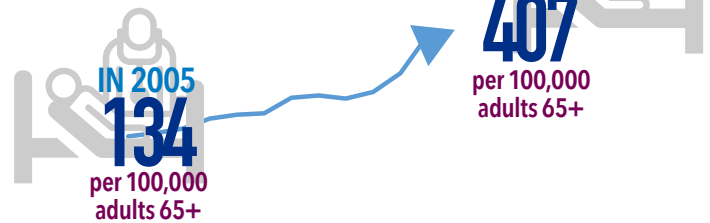


As a result, older adults 65 and over are experiencing harm from opioid use.

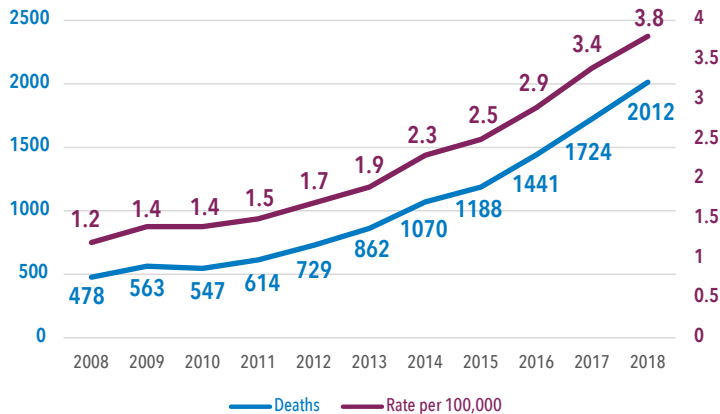
- Between 2005 and 2017, rates of opioid-related emergency department visits rose by 275%.⁹



- Between 2005 and 2017, rates of hospitalizations for opioid-related reasons increased by 204%.⁹



Opioid-Related Deaths Among Older Adults 65+ from 2008 to 2018.



- Between 2008 and 2018, opioid-related death rates increased by 217%.¹⁰

References

- 2018 NSDUH Detailed Tables. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2018-nsduh-detailed-tables>. Accessed 8/6/2020.
- Moriya, A.S. and Miller, G.E. Any Use and Frequent Use of Opioids among Elderly Adults in 2015-2016, by Socioeconomic Characteristics. September 2018. Statistical Brief #515. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. https://maps.ahrq.gov/mapsweb/data_files/publications/st515/st515.pdf. Accessed 9/1/2020.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services OIG. Opioid Use in Medicare Part D Remains Concerning. Washington, D.C. 2018. Accessed 9/1/2020.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services OIG. Opioids in Medicare Part D: Concerns about extreme use and questionable prescribing. Washington, D.C. 2017. HHS Data Brief OEI-02-17-00250. Accessed 9/1/2020.
- Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines in a Medicare Part D Population. Unpublished document dated 5/12/2016. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prescription-Drug-Coverage/PrescriptionDrugCovContra/Downloads/Concurrent-Use-of-Opioids-and-Benzodiazepine-s-in-a-Medicare-Part-D-Population-FY-2015.pdf>. Accessed 10/30/2020.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. 2020. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2019-nsduh-detailed-tables>. Accessed 10/15/2020.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. 2013. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DataTables2012/NSDUH-DataTables2012/HTML/NSDUH-DataTables2012.htm>. Accessed 10/15/2020.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. 2018. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2017-nsduh-detailed-tables>. Accessed 10/15/2020.
- Computed from HCUP Fast Stats. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). April 2020. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/faststats/opioid/opioiduse.jsp?radio3=on&location1=US&characteristic1=02&setting1=ED&location2=&characteristic2=02&setting2=ED&expansionInfoState=hide&dataTableState=show&definitionsState=hide&exportState=hide. Accessed 10/29/2020.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2018 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released in 2020. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2018, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html> on 10/16/2020.