The Opioid Crisis

The opioid epidemic has become a public health crisis with devastating consequences.

Opioids
- include powerful prescription pain medications and the illegal drug, heroin

115+
- Americans die each day from opioid overdose

~25%
- of patients prescribed opioids for pain misuse them

80%
- of heroin users first used prescription opioids

If change doesn’t occur, the death toll will keep rising.
**Make A Change**

**Practice safe storage of medications**

Treat opioid medications like you would a firearm:
- Store in a safe, secure location
- Utilize a lockbox
- Never leave medications on a counter, nightstand, or other accessible locations
- Return medications to a secure location after each use

**Dispose of medications safely:**
- Dispose of your medications at DEA authorized collectors or at drug take-back events
- Utilize medication disposal bags
- Mix your medication with an undesirable substance, seal it in a bag, and dispose of it in your household trash
- Mark out labels and safely dispose of your medication bottles so you don’t become a target for break-ins

**Save a Life**

**Know how to respond in an emergency**

**Signs of an overdose are:**
- Shallow breathing
- Gasping or choking for air
- Pale skin
- Blue lips and/or fingertips
- Small, pinpoint pupils
- Unconsciousness

**If you suspect someone is overdosing:**
1. **Rouse and stimulate.** Attempt to wake the person.
2. **Call 911.** The dispatcher may advise you to perform CPR.
3. **Administer naloxone.** If you or another bystander has naloxone, administer it.