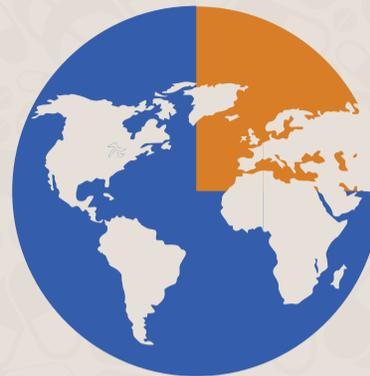


# Opioid Use for Chronic Pain

Chronic pain is a major public health problem. It affects...

...more than one-third of people in the United States...



...and about 20 to 30% of the world's population.<sup>1</sup>

The prevalence of persistent pain is expected to rise as the incidence of diseases increases in the aging U.S. population. These diseases include:



diabetes



cardiovascular disorders



obesity



arthritis



cancer

Opioids are powerful analgesics which are commonly used and effective for many types of pain. However, opioids can produce **significant side effects**, including:

respiratory depression  
(which can sometimes lead to death)

mental clouding

physical dependence

nausea

constipation



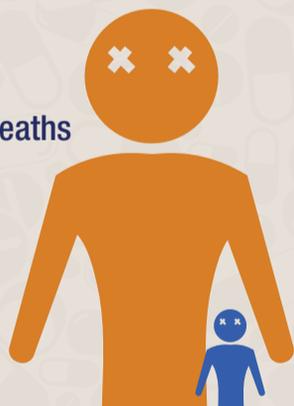
1990s



2010s

The prescribing of opioids by clinicians has **increased 300%** in the last 20 years, contributing to the problem of prescription opioid abuse.

Rx Opioid Deaths



Cocaine and Heroin Deaths

Today, the number of people who die from prescription opioids **exceeds** the number of those who die from heroin and cocaine combined.<sup>2</sup>

The 2014 National Institutes of Health Pathways to Prevention Workshop on the Role of Opioids in the Treatment of Chronic Pain will seek to clarify the following:

- Long-term effectiveness of opioids for treating chronic pain
- Potential risks of opioid treatment in various patient populations
- Effects of different opioid management strategies on outcomes related to addiction, abuse, misuse, pain, and quality of life
- Effectiveness of risk mitigation strategies for opioid treatment
- Future research needs and priorities to improve the treatment of pain with opioids.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 2000–2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/ucd.html>. Accessed Feb.11, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vital Signs: Overdoses of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers and Other Drugs Among Women—United States, 1999–2010. *MMWR*. 62(26);537–542. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6226a3.htm>. Accessed July 9, 2014.