

# PAIN KILLERS CAN BE JUST PLAIN KILLERS

Opioid misuse is at an epidemic level in South Carolina. And, the consequences are devastating. Even though opioids can be a life-changing tool for people living with chronic pain, it's vital to understand that there are safe, effective alternatives. These statistics highlight why opioids should only be used with extreme caution.

**4.5 MILLION PAIN KILLER PRESCRIPTIONS ARE FILLED EVERY YEAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA - THAT'S MORE THAN ONE FOR EVERY PERSON IN OUR STATE.**

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**1 IN 4 PEOPLE WHO ARE PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS STRUGGLES WITH ADDICTION.**

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**4 IN 5 HEROIN USERS STARTED WITH PRESCRIPTION PAIN KILLERS.**

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**1 IN 4 TEENS HAS MISUSED OR ABUSED A PRESCRIPTION DRUG AT LEAST ONCE.**

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**IN 2019, THERE WERE 876 OVERDOSE DEATHS IN SOUTH CAROLINA RELATED TO OPIOIDS. THAT'S NEARLY A 7.5% INCREASE FROM 2018.**

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**OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS IN SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE INCREASED FOR THE 5TH YEAR IN A ROW.**

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**HEROIN-INVOLVED OVERDOSE DEATHS INCREASED 17% FROM 2017 TO 2018.**

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Help stop South Carolina's opioid epidemic. Store any prescription medications safely and securely. Find safe drug disposal locations. Know where to get help. And, ask your medical professional about safe, effective alternatives to prescription opioids. Learn more at [JustPlainKillers.com](http://JustPlainKillers.com).

**JUST PLAIN KILLERS** .COM

AN INITIATIVE OF **South Carolina**  
**DAODAS**  
Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

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