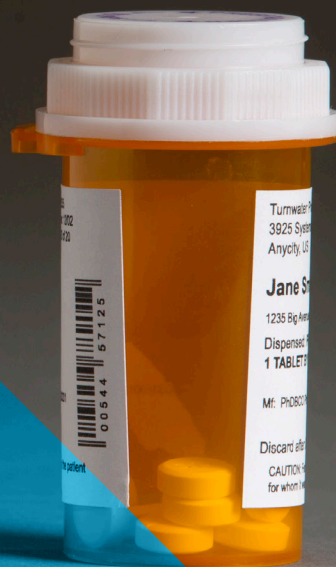


Take Action to Prevent Addiction

Learn how to reduce risk.



Know the Facts About Opioids

41 PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY

Every day in the United States, 41 people lose their lives to prescription opioid overdose.

Prescription opioids—like hydrocodone, oxycodone, and morphine—can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate to severe pain but can have serious risks and side effects.



ANYONE CAN BECOME ADDICTED

Opioids are highly addictive. Research shows that if you use opioids regularly, you may become dependent on them.

That's because opioids change how the brain and nervous system function. **You can't know how your brain will react to opioids before taking them.**

Talk With Your Doctor

Your doctor may talk to you about prescription opioids for pain treatment. Ask about the risks and benefits so that you can work together to decide what is best. You can also ask your doctor to help you find other safer ways to manage pain.

It Only Takes a Little to Lose a Lot

Opioids can be addictive and dangerous.

Risks include misuse, addiction, and overdose.



Opioids affect the part of the brain that controls breathing.

If you take too high a dose, it can slow your breathing and cause death.



Combining opioids with alcohol and other drugs—

like sleeping pills or cough medication **—increases your chances of death.¹**



Start the Conversation

Protect yourself and others by talking about your questions and concerns.



Talk with your doctor.

Ask about nonopioid pain management options, addiction, and overdose risks.

Talk with your loved ones if you're concerned about opioid misuse or addiction.

Let them know that you care about them, and be patient and open when listening so that they feel heard and valued.

Encourage your loved ones to get help if they need it.

Help them look for treatment, and offer to go with them to their first appointment. Your support can make a difference.

Tips to Reduce Risk

Follow these tips to protect yourself and those you care about.



Only take prescription medication that is prescribed to you. **Don't share medication with others.**



Take the medicine as prescribed. Don't use medications in greater amounts, more often, or longer than directed by your doctor.



Dispose of expired or unused prescription opioids.

Remove them from your home as soon as possible to reduce the chance that others will misuse them. To get rid of prescription opioids and other medications safely:

- Check with your pharmacist to see if you can return them to the pharmacy.
- Find a medicine take-back option near you at [takebackday.dea.gov](https://www.takebackday.dea.gov).



Keep medicines in a safe place. It's best to store prescription opioids in a place that can be locked—like a keyed medicine cabinet—to keep them secure from children and visitors.

Treatment Support

For those who might have an opioid use disorder, call SAMHSA's National Helpline at **1-800-662-HELP**.

Find opioid treatment options in your state at [goo.gl/Gtkv9C](https://www.gov/gtkv9c).

Learn the signs of a quality treatment center at [goo.gl/X1FCGW](https://www.gov/x1fcgw).

Hear real stories about recovery from prescription opioids at [cdc.gov/RxAwareness](https://www.cdc.gov/RxAwareness).



CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS



WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

You can’t see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs of a concussion:

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE:

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”



SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes



DANGER SIGNS

Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if s/he has:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?

1. **SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY**
A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to regular activities, including sports.
2. **KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF PLAY.**
Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon - while the brain is still healing - risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Repeat or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
3. **TELL YOUR CHILD'S COACH ABOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONCUSSION.**
Coaches should know if your child had a previous concussion. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION OR OTHER SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY?

- Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. Protective equipment should fit properly and be well maintained.
- Wearing a helmet is a must to reduce the risk of a serious brain injury or skull fracture.
 - However, helmets are not designed to prevent concussions. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for kids and teens to avoid hits to the head.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL SAFELY AFTER A CONCUSSION?

Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer

Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms. As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION  www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp

TO LEARN MORE GO TO >> WWW.CDC.GOV/CONCUSSION

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