

# CONVERGING CRISES: THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC & MOUNTING MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

## THE STATE OF THE NATION

Opioid-related overdose deaths have reached unprecedented levels in the United States. Fatal opioid-related overdose deaths increased **by 90% since 2018**.<sup>1</sup> It's time to embrace a new approach and focus on preventing opioid addiction before it starts!



**Over 107,500 Americans** died from a drug-related overdose in 2021 – a 15% increase from 2020.<sup>2</sup>



**75 percent** of the drug-related deaths involved opioids.<sup>3</sup>



**97 percent of opioid misusers** take prescription pain relievers.<sup>4</sup>



**45 million Americans** are in recovery or have an active substance use disorder.<sup>5,6</sup>

## MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION

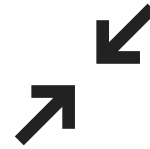
The opioid addiction crisis is made worse by the confluence of two concurrent public health crises – the global COVID-19 pandemic and rising rates of mental illnesses.



**1 in 5 adults** experienced a mental illness in 2020 (52.9 million people).<sup>7</sup>



**1 in 4 Medicare Beneficiaries** have a treatable mental illness.<sup>8</sup>



**6.7% of adults** (17 million) had a co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder in 2020.<sup>9</sup>

**2x**

**Twice as Likely** People with mental illness are 2x as likely to have a substance use disorder.<sup>10</sup>



**25% increase** Rates of mental illness have increased by 25% since the start of the pandemic.<sup>11</sup>

**We cannot wait any longer.**

Access to safe, effective non-opioid options to treat pain can help prevent addiction before it starts.

Congress must pass the NOPAIN Act today!

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/verr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

2. See footnote 1

3. See footnote 1

4. <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/opioid-crisis-statistics/index.html>

5. [https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report\\_2790/ShortReport-2790.html](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/report_2790/ShortReport-2790.html)

6. <https://drugfree.org/newsroom/news-item/survey-ten-percent-of-american-adults-report-being-in-recovery-from-substance-abuse-or-addiction/>

7. <https://www.nami.org/mhstats>

8. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2020/jul/medicare-mental-health-coverage-covid-19-gaps-opportunities#2>

9. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2020-nsduh-annual-national-report>

10. See footnote 9

11. <https://www.who.int/news/item/02-03-2022-covid-19-pandemic-triggers-25-increase-in-prevalence-of-anxiety-and-depression-worldwide>