

OPIOIDS AND YOUR BUSINESSES

# Terminology you hear

### **Opiates/Opioids/Narcotics**

- Group of medication that treats pain
- Opiate
  - Natural, from opium poppy
  - · Morphine, Codeine, Heroin
- Opioid
  - Synthetic, manufactured
  - Percocet, Oxy, Vicodin, Demerol, Dilaudid
  - In thte last few years, opioid has been uses as a the term for both natural and synthetic

Narcan or Naloxone block the effects of opioids

## How these drugs work

Opiates are chemicals in your brain that attach to tiny parts on nerve cells called opioid receptors.

Opioids act on many places in the brain and nervous system:

#### Limbic system

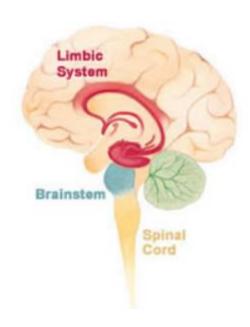
 Controls emotions, opioids cans create feelings of pleasure

#### **Brainstem**

Controls breathing among other things.
 Opiates can slow breathing

#### Spinal cord

- Opiates decrease feelings of pain
- http//drugabuse.gov



# What we are seeing

#### National 2015

- There were more deaths via heroin. than gun deaths in the US
  - 12,989 via heroin V 12,979 for guns
    - That 12,989 is just heroin, not fentanyl, Vicodin, or any other opioid

US life expectancy went down for the first time in 20 years

#### Our service area

May 2014 was the turning point

The Critically ill patient. Priority 1

2.13

0		total	daily average	
0	2014	416	1.14	
0	2015	542	1.48	
0	2016	685	1.88	

More and more public space overdoses

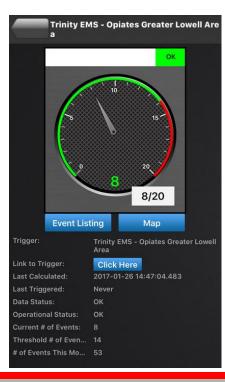
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**Bathrooms** 

Public parks

In cars

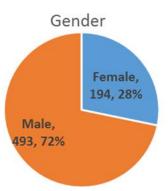
2017



# What you will see

### Signs of an overdose:

- Slurred speech
- Drowsiness/ Unresponsiveness/ lethargy
- Confusion
- Slow breathing/sounds like they are snoring
- Pinpoint pupils
- Cardiac Arrest

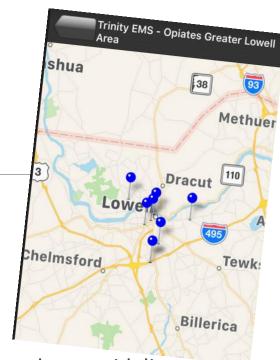


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194 Male

## What to do

- Call 911
  - About 25% of emergency calls have no transport
- If safe stay with the patient
- If you are trained and you have Narcan use it
- If you have first aid equipment and training you can follow those guidelines
- Have others clear a path to the patient



## After we leave

### Talk with your staff

- What did they see?
- How did they feel when they found the patient/Initial reaction?
- How do they think everyone handled the call?
- What can we do next time/ How can we improve?

# What's being done?

Lowell COOP

**Project CARE** 

Live opioid monitoring

Narcan, narcan and narcan

### Resources

### www.drugfreegreaterlowell.org

Vets drop in center 978 453 1151

Learn2cope.org

Get narcan - Most pharmacies around \$20 no prescription needed

Get first aid training

We are doing more and more of these calls in public locations