



OPIOIDS AND YOUR BUSINESSES

# Terminology you hear

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## **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 the last few years, opioid has been used as a term for both natural and synthetic

Narcan or Naloxone block the effects of opioids

# How these drugs work

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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

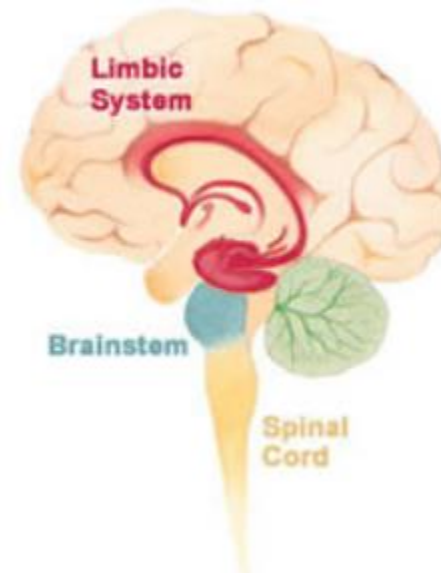
- Controls emotions, opioids can create feelings of pleasure

## 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

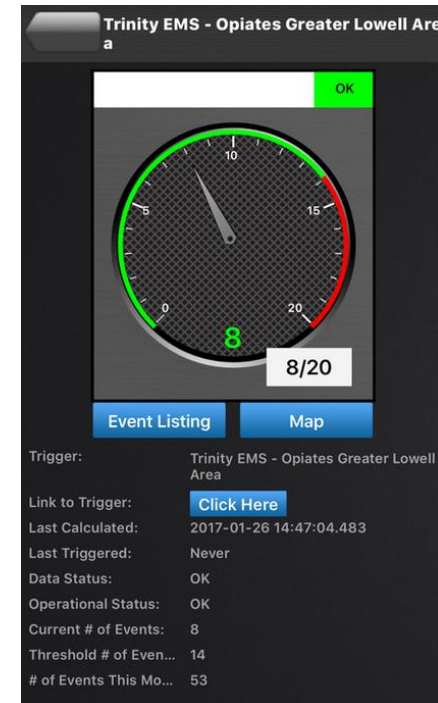
	total	daily average
◦ 2014	416	1.14
◦ 2015	542	1.48
◦ 2016	685	1.88
◦ 2017	518*	2.13

More and more public  
space overdoses

Bathrooms

Public parks

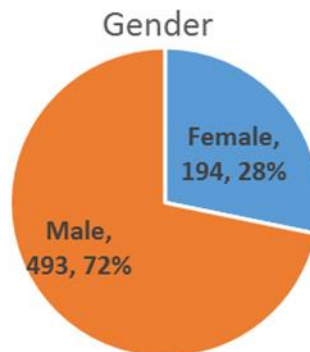
In cars



# 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

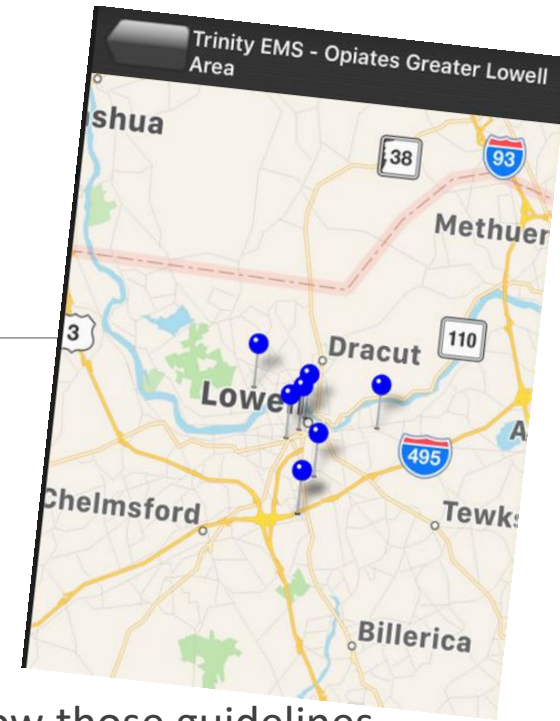


Female	194	Male	493
17	2	17	0
18	1	18	1
19	0	19	4
20	0	20	4
21	2	21	2
22	6	22	10
23	7	23	5
24	6	24	16
25	4	25	14
26	10	26	20
27	10	27	14
28	6	28	14
29	4	29	23
30	6	30	17
31	12	31	17
32	4	32	17
33	5	33	18
34	4	34	18
35	7	35	9
36	7	36	20
37	8	37	15
38	7	38	8
39	7	39	15
40	8	40	8
41	2	41	9
42	1	42	7
43	8	43	14
44	7	44	6
45	3	45	21
46	4	46	10
47	10	47	9
48	1	48	23
49	4	49	7
50	1	50	12
51	0	51	11
52	3	52	5
53	5	53	9
54	1	54	6
55	0	55	8
56	1	56	2
57	5	57	17
58	2	58	5
59	1	59	5
60	1	60	3
		61	1
		62	5
		63	1
		65	1
		66	3
		67	1
88	1	(blank)	3

# What to do

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- 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

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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?

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Lowell COOP

Project CARE

Live opioid monitoring

Narcan, narcan and narcan



# Resources

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[www.drugfreegreaterlowell.org](http://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