

MAJOR TRENDS IN OPIOID USE AMONG SENIORS



Older adults are often prescribed opioids to cope with persistent or ongoing pain rather than alternative pain therapies

1 IN 3

Medicare Part D beneficiaries received a prescription opioid in 2017



Opioids have a stronger impact on older adults because the body metabolizes drugs more slowly as someone ages



Across the U.S., older adults have the fastest growing rate of: opioid use, opioid-related hospital visits, and opioid-related deaths

IMPORTANT SIGNS OF OPIOID MISUSE

Less functional while on opioids

An older adult may become less mobile or unable to keep up daily hygiene

Opioid use is dominating one's life

Getting and taking opioids may become the focus

Increased confusion

This might look like over-sedation or extreme drowsiness

Medication is not lasting as long as it should

An older adult may be taking more opioids than what was prescribed

RESOURCES

Recovery Hotline

For help finding recovery resources including a referral for behavioral health or medicine to treat opioid use disorder:

1-866-789-1511

Call 24/7/365 or text M-F 9 am-9 pm

warecoveryhelpline.org

Take Back Your Meds

Any medicine that is no longer prescribed should be safely disposed of. To find a safe disposal nearby:

Text MEDS to 667873

takebackyourmeds.org

Community Living Connections

Information and support service for older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers:

1-844-348-5464

communitylivingconnections.org

Overdose Prevention

Helping individuals and communities in WA respond to and prevent opioid overdose including how to get naloxone, the overdose reversal medication:

stopoverdose.org

For more information, visit: **kingcounty.gov/overdose** or **agingkingcounty.org**.