

A GLANCE AT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Opioids are highly addictive narcotic substances commonly prescribed to treat pain. Opioids are a class of drugs that include licit prescription pain relievers (like vicodin, oxycodone, and fentanyl) and the illicit drug heroin. Taking a prescription opioid medication in a way that is different from what the doctor prescribed is often referred to as prescription drug misuse or abuse.



The Fairfield Opioid Response Team is collectively reducing the impact of opioid overdoses/deaths and stimulant use/abuse in Fairfield County

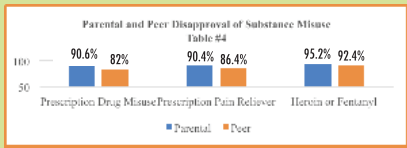
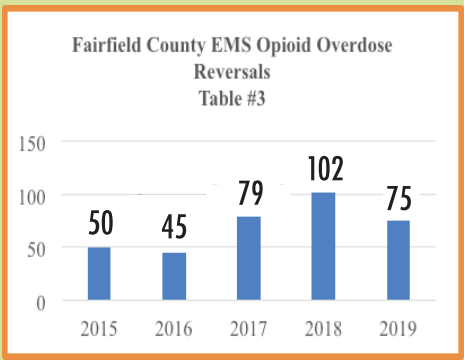
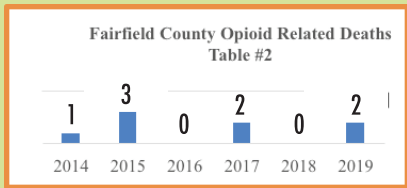
- 4 out of 5 heroin users started with Rx pain pills.
- 1 in 4 people who are prescribed opioids struggle with addiction.
- Opioid dependency can develop in just 3 days.
- In SC, an opioid prescription is filled every 7 seconds.

A deeper dive into Fairfield County data from the “Just Plain Killers” website and SCDHEC reveals tragic but gratefully a low number of deaths from 1 in 2014 to 2 in 2019 as indicated in **Table #2 Fairfield County Opioid Related Deaths**. **Table #3** shows the number of county **EMS Opioid Overdose Reversals** which increased by 50% from 2015 to 2019 but decreased by 26% from 2018 to 2019.

These trends we believe once again, particularly for 2018-2019, are in direct correlation with the increase of opioid users, increase in treatment for opioids, public awareness provided via billboards and other advertisements, The Just Plain Killers Symposium we held, Opioid Education & Narcan Training, Faith Based Opioid Education Initiative, permanent drop box installations, Deterra bag distributions, etc.

According to the **SC Communities That Care (CTC) Survey 2020 Fairfield County Results**,

- 92.3% (345) never in their lifetime misusing prescription drugs;
- 94.4% (355) never used prescription pain relievers;
- 98.1% (377) never used cocaine;
- 98% (350) never used heroin or fentanyl;
- 89.5% (327) said that it was sort of hard or very hard to obtain heroin or fentanyl;
- 74% (374) for prescription drugs;
- 75% (276) for pain relievers;
- 87.4% (321) for other illicit drugs;
- 83.9% (316) students in 9th – 12th grades reported seeing a moderate risk or great risk from prescription drug misuse;
- 85.2% (322) from prescription pain reliever misuse.



To glimpse at the survey results for **Parental and Peer Disapproval of Substance Misuse**, we offer a side-by-side view shown in **Table #4**. Parental disapproval was higher for all three substances. Although the CTC survey showed over 80% of the 9th – 12th graders disapproving of the peers’ substance use, less than average percentages for prescription drug misuse and prescription pain reliever misuse suggests more monitoring, awareness and education is needed.

The Fairfield Opioid Response Team is currently reviewing data for 2020 that will be shared with the community in the near future along with our implementation and participation in the **Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)**. ODMAP is a web-based mobile-friendly software platform to support reporting and surveillance of suspected fatal and nonfatal overdoses. Ms. Danika Bass, Opioid Incentive Facilitator – SCHEC provided the ODMAP training to the Team during its regular meeting on 2/1/21. Emergency/911, EMS, Coroner’s Office, Fairfield County Sheriff Department and Winnsboro Public Safety will be able to log real-time overdoses. This information will be very useful in helping the Fairfield Opioid Response Team identify concern areas of the county, mobilize prevention resources, minimize fatalities and to mitigate public health and safety crisis through prevention, treatment and recovery efforts.

What can you do NOW?

- Learn more about the dangers and impact of opioid use at <https://justplainkillers.com> and <https://naloxonesavessc.org>
- Request a prescription drug deactivation bags (Deterra Bags) for your family, community, church, or business etc.
- Collect all unused prescription drug pain killers and place them in the prescription drug drop boxes located at Fairfield County Sheriff and Winnsboro Public Safety (Hawthorne Pharmacy and 1 more site to be installed soon)
- Participate in **Opioid Education and Narcan Distribution training TODAY** through Fairfield Behavioral Health Services (and receive **free NARCAN** to prevent an overdose)
- Administer **NARCAN for someone you believe in good faith is experiencing an opioid overdose without being subject to civil or criminal liability**.
- Participate in the Strengthening Families Program through Fairfield Behavioral Health Services
- Start treatment and recovery for opioid and stimulant use TODAY at Fairfield Behavioral Health Services

“This article was prepared by Fairfield Behavioral Health Services under award number 1H79Tl083300-01 from SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

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