

# THE IMPACT OF OPIOID ABUSE ON AMERICA

Our nation is in the midst of the deadliest drug crisis on record. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., accounting for more fatalities than automobile accidents and gun homicides. At the center of this crisis; prescription pain pills including fentanyl, oxycodone and other synthetic opioids, fueling both heroin addiction and the staggering economic impact this epidemic has on our nation.

## OPIOID ABUSE

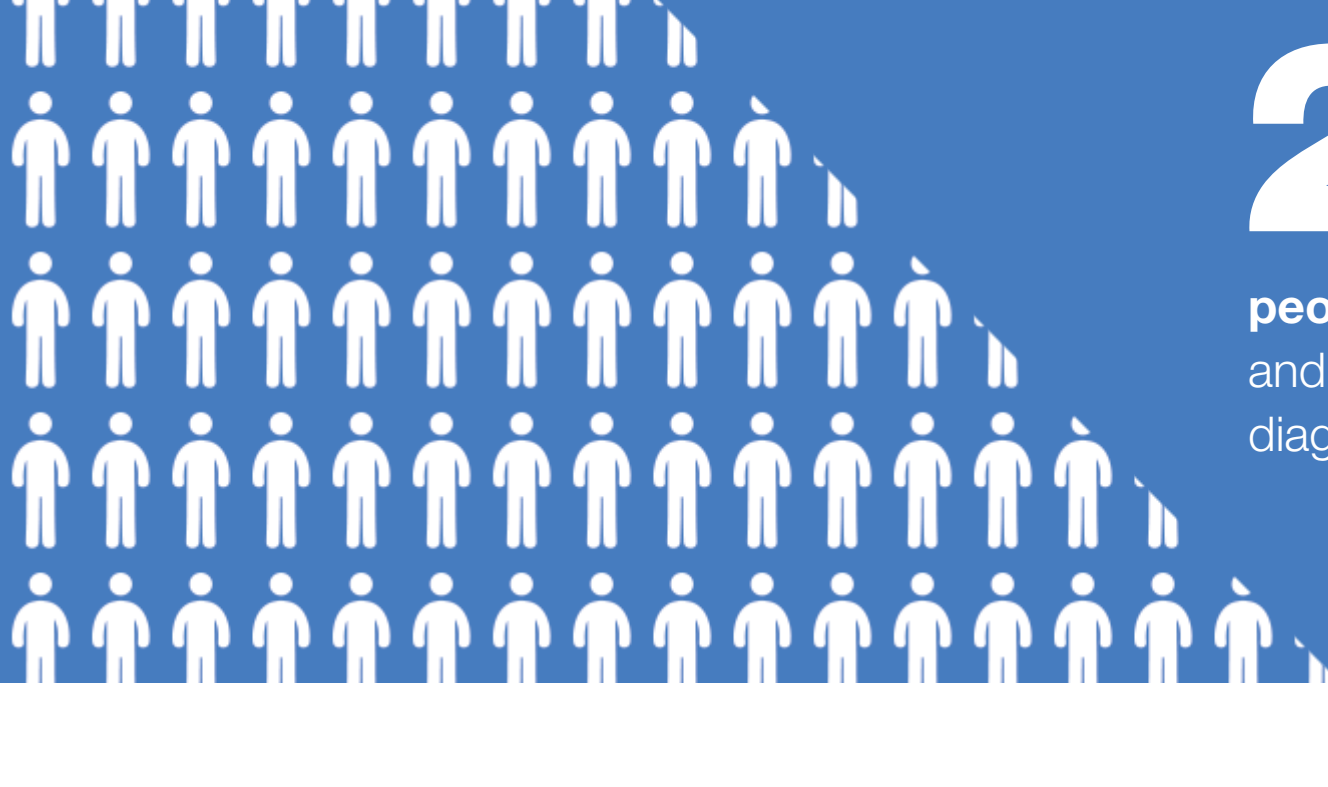
**240+** Million

prescriptions for opioids were written in 2014 alone. This is more than enough to give every adult in our country their own bottle.



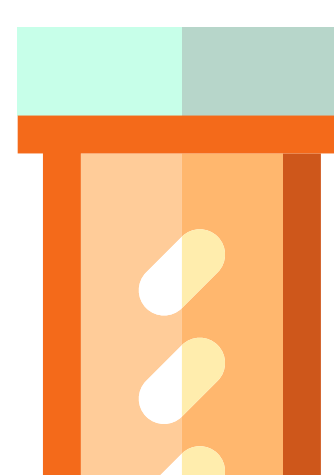
**20.8** Million

people in the U.S. are believed to abuse illicit drugs and alcohol. That is more people than those diagnosed with cancer.



**650** Thousand

opioid prescriptions are dispensed on an average day in the United States.



80% of the global opioid supply is consumed in the U.S. Prescription pain medications are the second-largest pharmaceutical class globally, after cancer medicines.

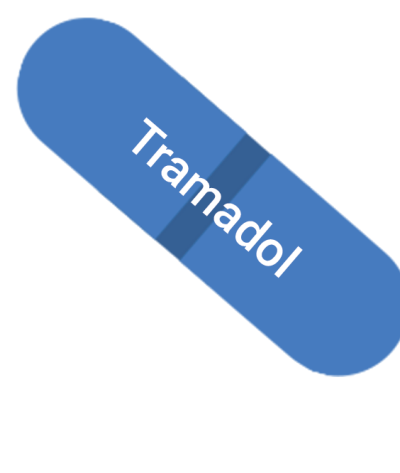
## MORE Americans

used prescription painkillers than used cigarettes, smokeless tobacco or cigars combined in 2015.



**580** People

initiate heroin use on an average day in the United States. The high cost and rampant use of prescription/synthetic drugs including fentanyl, oxy and tramadol are fueling this dangerous and fatal trend.



**4/6** new heroin users report having abused prescription opioids before having abused and started heroin because prescription opioids were more expensive and harder to obtain.

## OVERDOSE

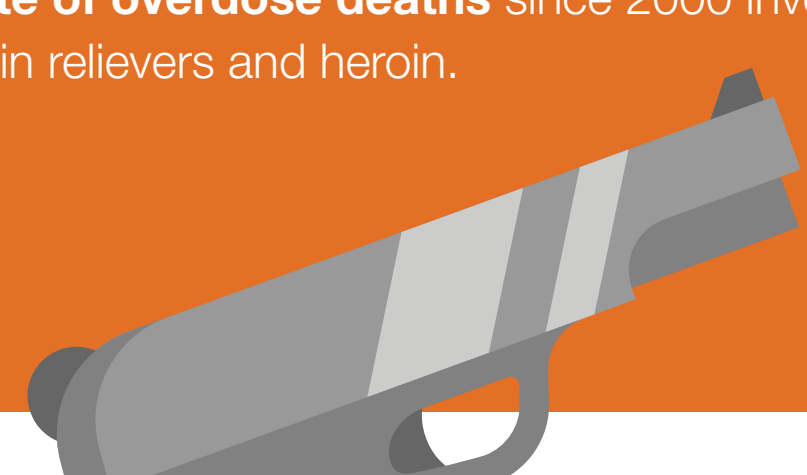
**75+** People

die everyday from an opioid-related overdose.



**200%** Increase

in the rate of overdose deaths since 2000 involving opioid pain relievers and heroin.

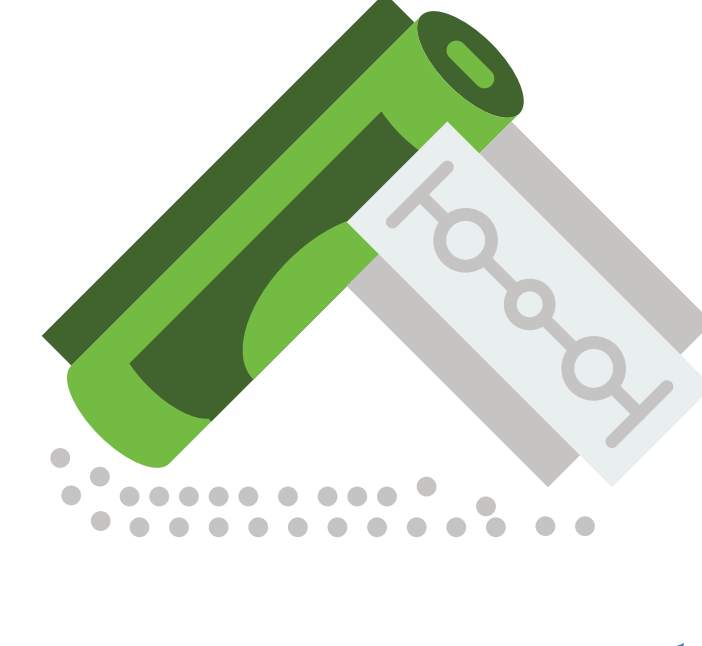


Heroin deaths now surpass gun homicides in our country, with a 23% increase in just one year according to government data. In comparison, gun homicides outnumbered heroin deaths by more than 5 to 1 in 2007.

## DRUGS

are claiming more lives than car accidents.

More than 50,000 people died from an alcohol, opioid or other drug related overdose in 2015. This compared to 32,744 who died from automobile related accidents the same year.



## COCAINE

related overdose deaths are on the rise in recent years, as users mix deadly cocktails with other dangerous drugs including heroin.

## Deaths From FENTANYL

increased by more than 75 percent from 2014 to 2015. Fentanyl is being added or mixed with other drugs and sold as counterfeit heroin and/or prescriptions on the street.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

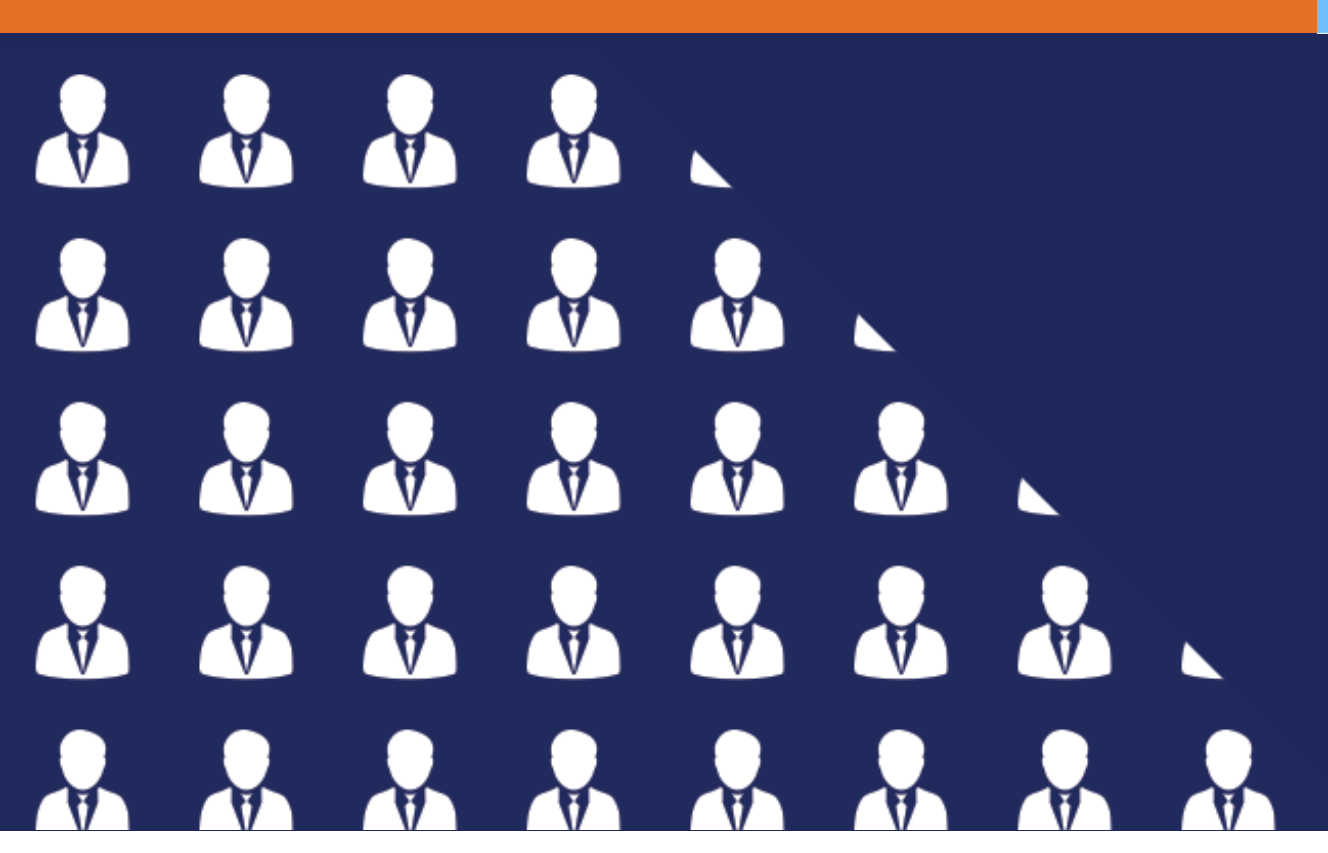
**420** Billion

dollars a year is the estimated cost on our nation in the form of health care costs, crime and lost economic productivity related to substance use disorders.



**81** Billion

dollars a year is the estimated cost, drug abuse imposes on the economy. Some 70 percent of the estimated 14.8 million Americans who use illegal drugs are employed.



## OBAMA

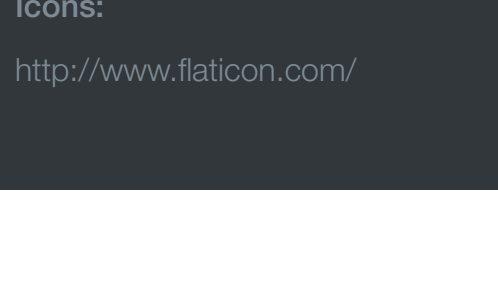
Seeks More Than

**\$1 BILLION**

To Fight Opioid Abuse



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