

## Impact of Opioids

- Overdose deaths are the leading injury death in the United States.
- The CDC has reported **52,404 total overdose deaths in 2015**, an average of over 144 drug overdose deaths per day. This is up 11.4 % in just one year – from 129 a day in 2014.
- Last year, the mortality rate from synthetic opioids other than methadone (including illicitly-manufactured fentanyl) **increased by 72.2%, and deaths related to heroin increased by 20.6%**. Increases have occurred across all demographic groups, regions and in numerous states.

## In South Carolina

- **5,702** patients were discharged from emergency departments (EDs) with issues related to opiate abuse/dependence in 2015.
- **2,398** patients were discharged from EDs with issues related to opiate overdose/poisoning in 2015.
- There has been a **135% increase** in service utilization at state-funded substance use disorder treatment programs for individuals looking for help with an opiate use disorder – from CY 2006 (2,469) to 2016 (5,803).
- There has been a **67% increase** in the number of attempts to reverse opioid overdose conducted by EMS personnel throughout South Carolina from 2013 through 2016.
  - 3,847 attempts in 2013
  - 4,187 attempts in 2014
  - 4,610 attempts in 2015
  - 6,427 attempts in 2016

### **Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths:**

- In 2015, there were **594** opioid-related overdose deaths in South Carolina vs. **311** homicides.
  - **508** overdose deaths occurred in 2014
  - **594** occurred in 2015 (16.9% increase)

### **Good News:**

- In December 2014, the State Plan to Prevent and Treat Prescription Drug Abuse was released. The Plan includes **more than 50 recommendations** for public and private agencies and groups might collaborate to systematically address the opioid epidemic. Over 45 recommendations have been acted on to date.
- In September 2016, DAODAS was awarded **\$3,192,722** in a five-year grant to increase access to the **overdose antidote, naloxone**, by increasing the number of first responders and caregivers who are trained and equipped with the drug in an effort to reduce overall mortality related to opioid misuse.
- With the help of our partner agencies – the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Fifth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office – more than **2,500 law enforcement officers** have been trained in 68 agencies with 79 deployments and **73 lives saved** across the state.
- In April 2017, DAODAS was awarded a \$6,575,623 grant for State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis. With 17 initiatives and more than 60 partners, DAODAS will use these funds to achieve a comprehensive response to opioid issues in South Carolina.