

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Charles County Department of Health  
*CharlesCountyHealth.org/Health-Services/Substance-Abuse*

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)  
Diversion Control Division  
*DeaDiversion.usdoj.gov*  
*GetSmartAboutDrugs.gov*

National Institute on Drug Abuse  
*Teens.DrugAbuse.gov*

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
*HHS.gov/Opioids*

Before It's Too Late  
*BeforeItsTooLate.Maryland.gov*

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The abuse of opioids can have a lasting effect on an abuser's life and can even cause death. This includes the misuse of prescription drugs. Despite popular belief, using prescription drugs in a manner not prescribed and/or recommended by a doctor is NOT SAFER than using illegal drugs.

It is necessary to realize that the abuse of opioids not only affects the abuser, but his/her loved ones, and the community at large. We are in this fight together.

For information about opioids, including its effects, the warning signs of abuse, how to get help, and resources, take a look inside of the brochure.



## OPIOID ABUSE

### State's Attorney's Office

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3065, La Plata, MD 20646

Physical Address:

Charles County Courthouse Basement Level  
200 Charles St., La Plata, MD 20646

Phone: 301-932-3350

Anthony B. "Tony" Covington

State's Attorney  
Charles County, MD

[www.CCSAO.us](http://www.CCSAO.us)



# WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

OPIOIDS ARE NATURAL OR SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS THAT DECREASE THE PERCEPTION OF PAIN. NATURAL OPIOIDS, LIKE HEROIN AND MORPHINE, ARE DERIVED FROM THE OPIUM PLANT. SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS LIKE VICODIN, OXYCONTIN, AND PERCOCET, ARE MAN-MADE DRUGS AND MIMIC THE PAINKILLING EFFECTS OF NATURAL OPIOIDS.

FACT: THE USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN A MANNER NOT PRESCRIBED BY A DOCTOR IS **NOT SAFER** THAN USING ILLEGAL DRUGS.

## POSSIBLE EFFECTS

PAIN RELIEF

EUPHORIA

DROWSINESS

SLOWED OR STOPPED BREATHING

CONSTIPATION

NAUSEA

CONFUSION

# WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

WEIGHT LOSS/GAIN

MOOD SWINGS

DECELERATED BREATHING

NEEDLE MARKS OR BRUISES AT INJECTION SITES

DROWSINESS AND/OR INCREASE OR DECREASE IN SLEEP

LOSS OF INTEREST IN SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND ACTIVITIES

NEGLECT IN APPEARANCE AND/OR PERSONAL HYGIENE

USE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION IN HIGHER DOSES THAN PRESCRIBED

USE OF EXCUSES TO GET MORE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BEFORE REFILL DATE

USE OF DIFFERENT DOCTORS TO GET MORE PRESCRIPTIONS

# NEED HELP?

IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, ARE STRUGGLING WITH OPIOID ADDICTION OR DEPENDENCE, THERE IS HELP...

## TALK TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST

ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS TO RECOVERY IS ASKING FOR HELP. FOR YOUTH, REACH OUT TO A PARENT OR A TRUSTED ADULT AND LET THEM KNOW THE ISSUES YOU ARE FACING.

## SEEK MEDICAL HELP

CONSULT A DOCTOR OR APPROPRIATE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WITH ADDICTION EXPERIENCE. A DOCTOR WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE IF YOU NEED TREATMENT/WHAT TYPE OF TREATMENT YOU NEED.

FIND TREATMENT IN YOUR AREA:  
[HTTPS://FINDTREATMENT.SAMHSA.GOV/](https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/)