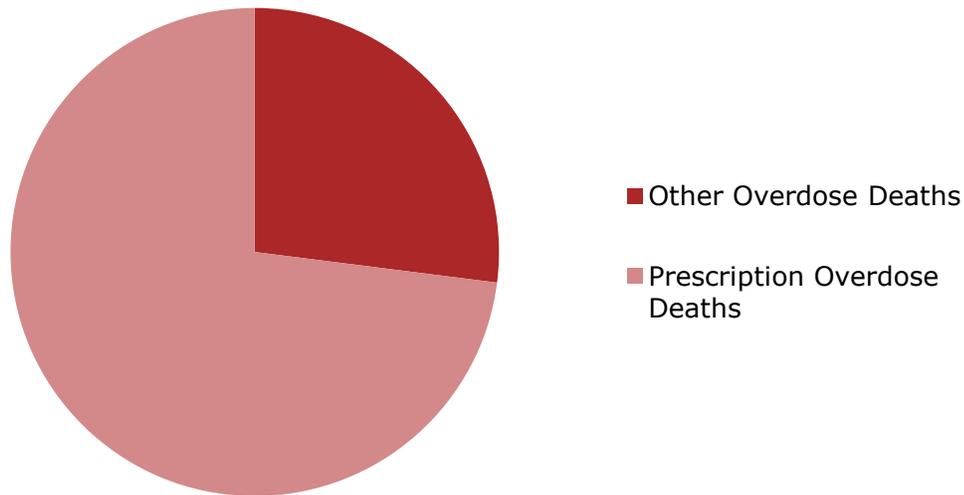


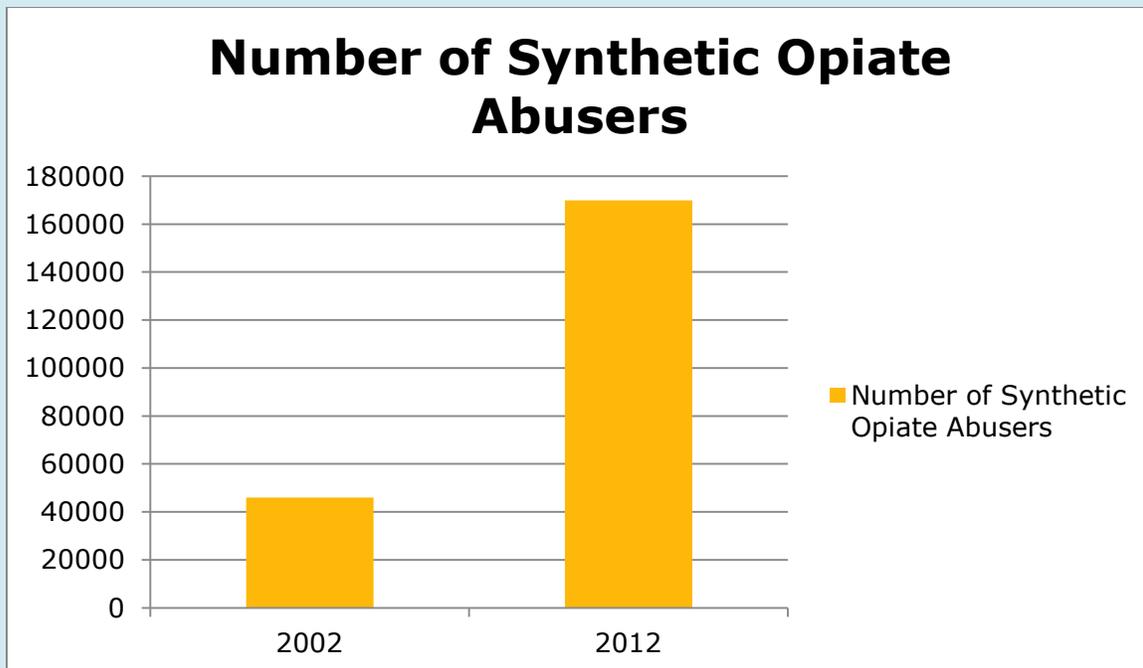
Total Overdose Deaths in 2013



Prescription drug users in Georgia make up 73% of all overdoses resulting in death.

Why is prescription drug addiction harmful?

- ◆ **Prescription medication requires a prescription for a reason. If they are taken without need, they are actually having an unnecessary, and therefore negative, effect on your body.**
- ◆ **Many drugs come with side effects that are quite damaging.**
 - ➔ **Opioids cause constipation and sleepiness.**
 - ➔ **Stimulants raise temperature, blood pressure, and heart rate, making the heart work harder.**
- ◆ **When mixed with other substances, these dangerous side effects become deadly.**



In Georgia 2002, synthetic opiate users were recorded at 45,959. In ten years, it increased a shocking 270% to 169,868 users.

Something called dependence happens because the brain and body adapt to having drugs in the system for a while. A person may need larger doses of the drug to get the same effect, or high. This leads directly to heroin abuse. Why?

- ◆ **Heroin is much cheaper, and since it causes the same high that opiates do, except much more intense, it is becoming more popular.**
- ◆ **This is a huge danger because different heroin producers put different dosages of the drug in the mixture.**
 - ➔ **When someone goes to get high, they may accidentally overdose because the dosage is not what they are used to.**

- ◆ **It's cheaper because producers can put whatever they want into the mixture.**

- ➔ **This is very dangerous because many users inject the drug directly into their bloodstream.**

So how do we avoid even getting to this point? Since 70% of all drugs abused come from unknowing family and friends, it is important to make sure medication is locked up and properly disposed of. Medication they're currently using can be locked up in a medication safe as cheap as \$20. When they're done with it, there is one perfect way to get rid of it.

- ◆ **Many people think that crushing the pills into the trash can does the trick.**

- ➔ **This is dangerous because the powder can give you an unhealthy dosage if inhaled, and pets or children could get it out of the trash.**

- ➔ **Human medications are actually the leading cause of pet poisonings, most often from trash-related exposures.**

- ◆ **Even if the medication safely gets out of your house, unwanted drugs are still chemically active in the landfills.**

- ➔ **Just as we do not put used motor oil or leftover paint in the trash, we should not put these extremely dangerous chemicals into trash cans.**



So of course, flushing them down the toilet does the trick. Well, this ends up hurting aquatic species and contaminating our food and water supplies.

- ◆ **Most medicines are not removed by wastewater treatment plants or septic systems.**
- ◆ **Scientists have found medicines in surface, ground and marine waters as well as soils and sediments in the Pacific Northwest.**
- ◆ **Even at very low levels, medicines in the environment hurt aquatic life.**

The solution is to go to the sheriff's offices to find amnesty boxes. It's where you can put any drugs at all and nobody can reach them. The police officers then properly dispose of the medication for you. It's a wonderful way to save a life, save the environment, and duck the hassle and danger of self disposal.

