

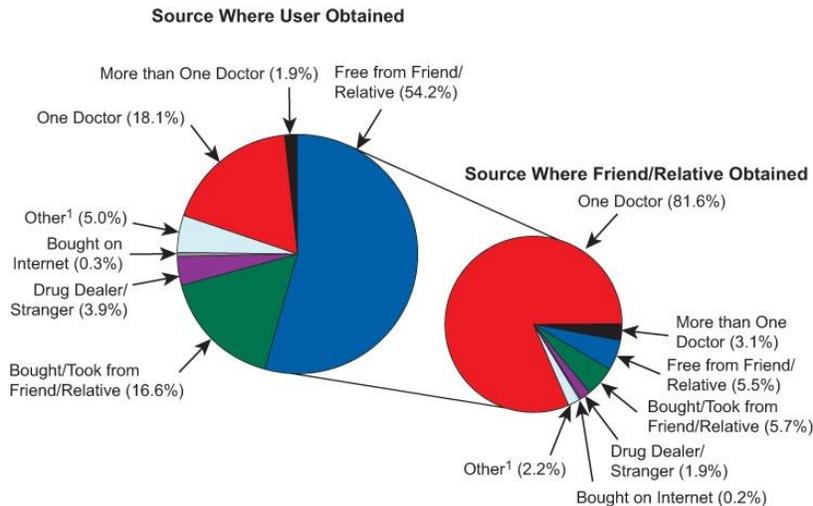
**LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY  
Health and Human Service Needs  
FACT SHEET**

**Prescription Drugs and Opiates in Livingston County  
February 2018**

**What is Prescription Drug Abuse and Opiate Addiction?**

Opioids are a class of drugs used for treating pain. They are derived from opium which comes from the poppy plant. Opioids go by a variety of names including opiates and narcotics. The term “opiates” is sometimes used for close relatives of opium such as Vicodin, codeine, morphine and heroin, while the term “opioids” is used for the entire class of drugs including synthetic opiates such as Oxycontin and Fentanyl. When used for pain relief, many people develop a tolerance, meaning they need more medication to get the same effect. Opioids produce a sense of well-being or euphoria that can become addictive to some people.

**About 1 in 5 U.S. patients get painkillers from their doctor**



**Abusers of painkillers are most likely to get the drugs from friends or family**

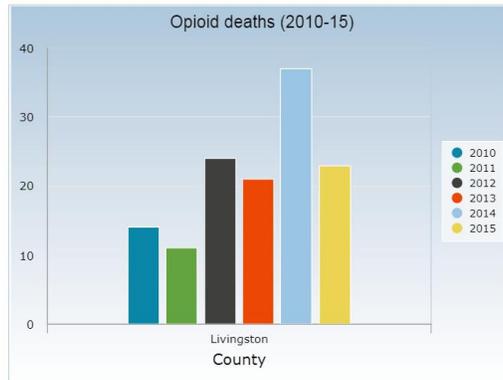
- Most people who abuse prescription opioids get them for free from a friend or relative.
- Those who take prescription painkillers for non-medical reasons for 200 or more days a year are more likely to get the drugs from a stranger or a dealer.

**What does this issue look like for all of Michigan?**

- **Opioid prescriptions in Michigan increased 41% between 2009 and 2015**  
In 2016, 11 million prescriptions were written for opioids, which is about 1.1 prescriptions for every Michigan resident.
- **Opioid/heroin deaths now exceed gun and traffic fatalities**
- **Michiganders are more likely to overdose on prescription drugs vs. heroin – 2 times as likely!**
- **Michigan is among the states with more opioid prescriptions than people**
- **Michigan ranks 15th in drug overdose death rates**  
In 2015, Michigan had an age-adjusted drug overdose death rate of 20.4 deaths per 100,000 people, the 15th highest rate in the country.

## Why is this issue so important to Livingston County?

- In 2015, 9,836 prescriptions were written for opiate medications in Livingston County. This is a 35% increase from 2009.
- Death rates are hard to track. There are many factors related to identifying a death as an opioid death and matching it to our county. This is due in part to the person may overdose elsewhere or be treated elsewhere (like in Ann Arbor health systems). In order to better track, the county recently hired an epidemiologist.



## What programs & services exist to support long-term recovery?

Livingston County Community Alliance - [www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org](http://www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org)

PAAL - [www.keycenters.org/paal.html](http://www.keycenters.org/paal.html)

Narcotics Anonymous - [www.michigan-na.org/livingston/liv\\_meetings.htm](http://www.michigan-na.org/livingston/liv_meetings.htm)

Celebrate Recovery - [www.thenaz.org/ministries/celebrate-recovery](http://www.thenaz.org/ministries/celebrate-recovery)

Alcoholics Anonymous - [www.district8aami.org/index.html](http://www.district8aami.org/index.html)

Wake Up Livingston - [www.wakeuplivingston.com](http://www.wakeuplivingston.com)

Key Development Center, Inc. - [www.keycenters.org](http://www.keycenters.org)

Livingston County Catholic Charities - [www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org](http://www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org)

Stepping Stones Recovery - [www.cmhliv.org](http://www.cmhliv.org)

## What can the community do to help?

Prescription drugs and opiates within the community are everyone's business. The cause and solution cannot come from any one source. As a community, Livingston County must embrace its residents and work together to promote long-term recovery.

### Get Involved:

- Work with your township, municipality, school district, and/or local law enforcement agency to recommend policies to regulate access to prescription drugs.
- Join the Livingston County Community Alliance (LCCA). The LCCA is a broad-based, county-wide, coalition that works to establish healthy community norms regarding alcohol and other drug use through education, public policy development, and community services. [www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org](http://www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org)
- Participate in community presentations and actions to inform and educate, as well as address Opiates and Prescription drugs. Wake Up Livingston is a county wide initiative to address and combat opiate addiction and overdose through every sector of our community. To join us, contact [www.wakeuplivingston.com](http://www.wakeuplivingston.com)
- Dispose of your unused and past date prescriptions by throwing them in the red barrels located at local police departments. For more information on the Big Red Barrel Program, go to [www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org/bigredbarrel](http://www.livingstoncountycommunityalliance.org/bigredbarrel)
- Check out other resources:

[www.neversaynevermi.com](http://www.neversaynevermi.com)

[www.itstopswithstudents.com](http://www.itstopswithstudents.com)