



# THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mississippi Board of Nursing

Phyllis Johnson, MSN, RN, FNP-BC

Executive Director



# OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN MISSISSIPPI

- ❖ Opioids refers to prescription painkillers and heroin
- ❖ Drug diversion and heroin abuse has greatest impact on public health and public safety in MS
- ❖ Impact is felt statewide



# OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- ❖ Opioids account for the largest proportion of the prescription drug abuse problem
- ❖ Gateway to other drugs such as heroin
- ❖ In 2016, a total of 20 heroin related overdose deaths were received by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (up from 1 reported in 2013)



# OPIOIDS

- ❖ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration data: 4 out of 5 heroin users become addicted by abusing opioid pills.
- 




# PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- ❖ Hormone imbalance
- ❖ Cancer (caused by nicotine or steroid use)
- ❖ Prenatal and fertility issues
- ❖ Gastrointestinal disease
- ❖ HIV/AIDS
- ❖ Organ Damage



# COST TO SOCIETY


- ❖ More than \$768 billion dollars/year
  - ❖ Includes illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco
  - ❖ Increased health care costs
  - ❖ Lost productivity
  - ❖ Crime
- 

# DRUGGED DRIVING





# DRUGGED DRIVING

- ❖ Drugs linked to drugged driving:
  - ❖ Alcohol
  - ❖ Marijuana
  - ❖ Benzodiazepines
  - ❖ Cocaine
- 



# DRUGGED DRIVING IN OLDER ADULTS

- ❖ In 2010, more than one-quarter of drugged drivers in deadly crashes were aged 50 years or older.<sup>10</sup>
- ❖ Illicit drug use in adults aged 50 to 59 has increased, more than doubling from 3 percent in 2002 to 7 percent in 2010.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ Older adults also may not break down the drug in their system as quickly as younger people. These factors can lead to unintended intoxication while behind the wheel of a car.



# KEY ROLE OF OPIOID PRESCRIBERS

- ❖ Misuse of prescription opioids is a risk factor for heroin use
- ❖ 80% of heroin users report prior misuse of prescription opioids
- ❖ 60% of patients using Rx opioids are also taking other Rx drugs (benzos, opiates, and muscle relaxants)



# PRESCRIBER ROLES

- ❖ Re-evaluate opioid prescriptions
- ❖ Determine when to initiate or continue opioids for chronic pain
- ❖ Opioid selection, dosage, duration, follow-up and discontinuation
- ❖ Implement CDC guidelines for opioid prescribing
- ❖ Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)



# REFERENCES

- ❖ National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), June 2016
- ❖ [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain \(2016\)](#)
- ❖ MBN Overview of Mississippi's Opioid and Prescription Painkiller Epidemic, February 2017

# QUESTIONS

