

## **Opioid Fact Sheet**

#### Delta Dental of Massachusetts

Communities in the United States are in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Opioid overdose deaths have risen nationwide for more than a decade. But it doesn't have to be that way. Arm your family and community with knowledge about opioids so that you can manage pain safely.



#### WHAT IS AN OPIOID?

- A class of drugs that may be legal (prescription painkillers such as Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet) or illegal (heroin)
- The drug attaches to "opioid receptors" on nerve cells in the brain and body
- This stops the body from sending pain signals to the brain
- Because opioids also produce euphoria, users can become addicted
- Misused, opioids may cause overdose and death

### THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS IN 2016



**64,000** people died of drug overdose in the U.S.

66% (42,249) of the drug deaths were due to an opioid

U.S. makes up 5% of world population, consumes **80% of opioids** and **99% of hydrocodone** 



# 116 people died every day from opioid-related drug overdose







Overdose deaths surpass deaths from car accidents



**504** billion in economic costs



Opioids can be addictive even if only taken for a short period of time

Created by Dr. Linda Vidone VP Clinical Management/Sr. Dental Director Delta Dental of Massachusetts; sources: 1 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2 Mortality in the United States, 2016 NCHS Data Brief No. 293, December 2017, 3 CEA Report: The underestimated cost of the opioid crisis, 2017