

# What Are the Long-Lasting Effects of Opioid Abuse?

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The opioid epidemic has been a growing problem in recent years and the results have been devastating. People in need of opioid treatment spend an average of two hours waiting for pain relief before entering a hospital emergency room (ER).

Opioids are one of the most dangerous drugs in the world, which are often prescribed to patients who are suffering from pain. Although they provide an effective remedy for such pains, there is a concern that these medications may have lasting effects on the brain, body, and behavior. In this article, we'll take a look at how opioid use can actually lead to long-lasting ills.



## The Effect of Opioid Abuse on Society

Opioid abuse has a tremendous effect on society today, and the number of people who are using these drugs is increasing. According to an article by the CDC, in 2016, there were over 63,000 deaths from drug overdoses in the United States. That number is higher than the entire number of deaths that occurred in car accidents or gun violence. They also estimate that 74% of these individuals were using prescription opioids such as oxycodone or hydrocodone. The effects that opioids have on a person can be severe including respiratory depression (insufficient breathing), sedation/coma/death due to overdose, and dependence.

There are also more social effects to opioid addiction as well depending on where they live such as what kind of discrimination they experience which may be based on their socio-economic status and race, or how much money they make. Opioid addiction can lead to homelessness for example because of not being able to afford to live and so on. Let's take a look at this epidemic in more detail.

## What Is Opioid Addiction?

Opioid addiction is a type of drug addiction that can be very difficult to overcome with prolonged treatment. By understanding what opioid addiction is, it is easier to know how one might get addicted to opioids and how it could impact life in the long run.

Opioid addiction can occur with any type of opioid drug, including prescription painkillers, heroin, and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Opioids are also used recreationally for euphoria or in the context of dependence on other drugs. Opioids often produce a feeling of relaxation or euphoria that leads to compulsive use and tolerance development over time.

## What Types of Opioid Addiction Are There?

With the opioid addiction epidemic in America, it is important to understand what kinds of opioid addiction are there. This includes physical dependence, psychological dependence, and substance-use disorder. There are several types of opioid addiction including physical dependence, psychological dependence, and substance-use disorder. Physical and psychological addictions often overlap in the case of long-term opioid use.

## How Is Opioid Addiction Treated?

Opioid addiction is a worldwide problem that has become a key issue in the United States. More than 200 million people worldwide abuse opioids and between 4 million and 6 million Americans are addicted to these drugs as well. There are many treatment options available for opioid addiction, some of which are prescription drugs, such as methadone and buprenorphine. However, these treatments have their own limitations.

## What Are the Long-Lasting Effects of Opioid Addiction?

Opioid drugs are pain relievers. This does not mean that they should be taken without medical supervision in any way. It is important to note that these drugs do not have an instant effect as other pain relievers might, and they also come with many long-term side effects.

Opioids allow us to feel good, but only for a short period of time before we crash and feel worse than before. In fact, it's common for people who abuse these drugs to become addicted after just one dose!

Opioid addiction is a chronic condition that can have long-lasting effects on the body and brain. As a result, people who become addicted to opioids often experience withdrawal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and more. These symptoms are often caused by drug withdrawal but can also be attributed to the many other factors that come with addiction.

## How Opioid Abuse Can Injure Other Areas of Life

In the United States, there has been an increase in the usage of opioids over recent years. This has, in turn, led to an increase in addiction rates and long-lasting side effects.

Long-lasting effects of opioid abuse can be seen in a number of areas, including long-lasting physical effects of opioids such as social isolation and emotional problems such as depression or anxiety, and long-term side effects that occur due to the loss of work productivity and jobs.

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