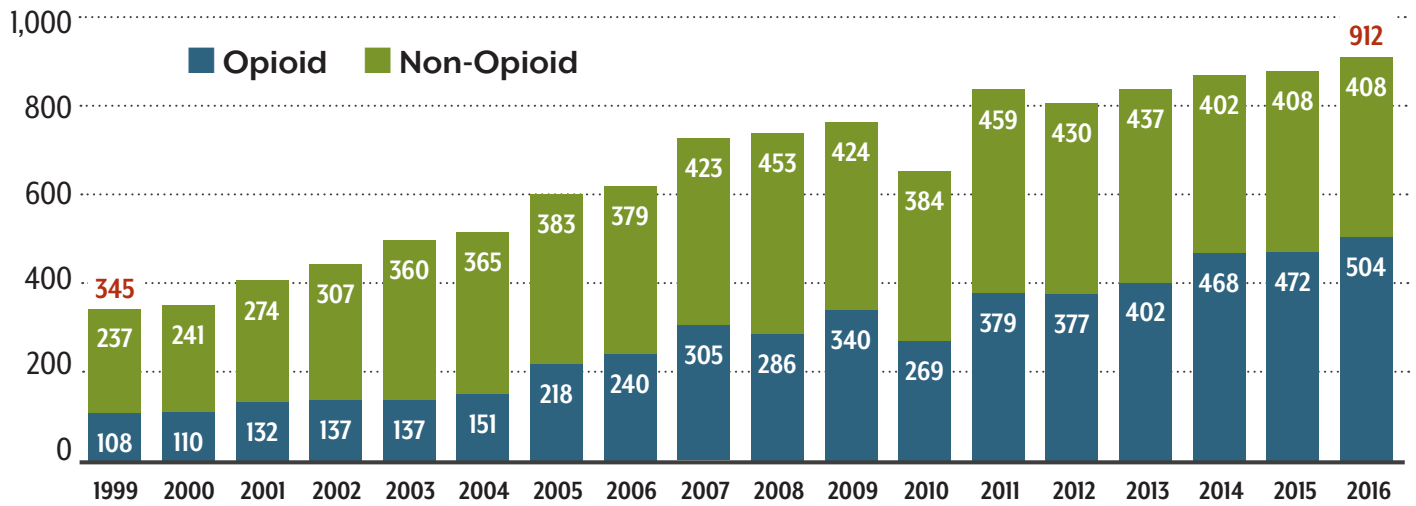


# Confronting the Crisis of Our Generation

## THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN COLORADO

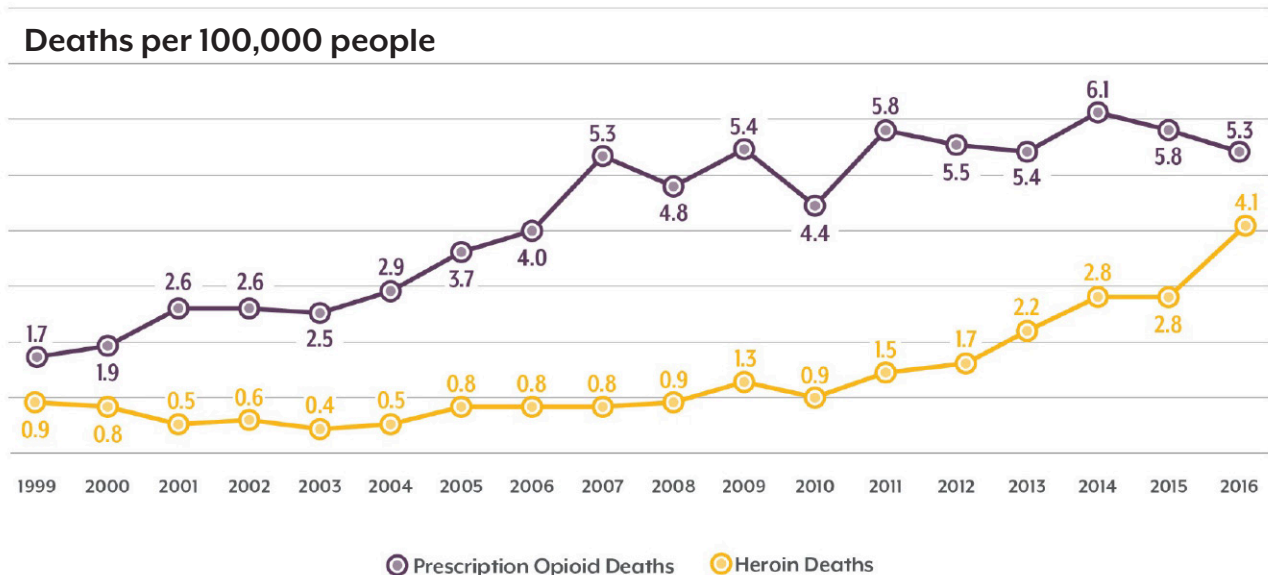
FEBRUARY 2018

Drug Poisoning Deaths in Colorado, 1999-2016



► **The Point:** Nearly three Coloradans a day die from drug overdoses, and opioids now cause more than half of those deaths.

Prescription Opioid and Heroin Overdose Death Rate in Colorado, 1999-2016



► **The Point:** The death rate for prescription opioids leveled off in 2007, but heroin deaths are rising dramatically.

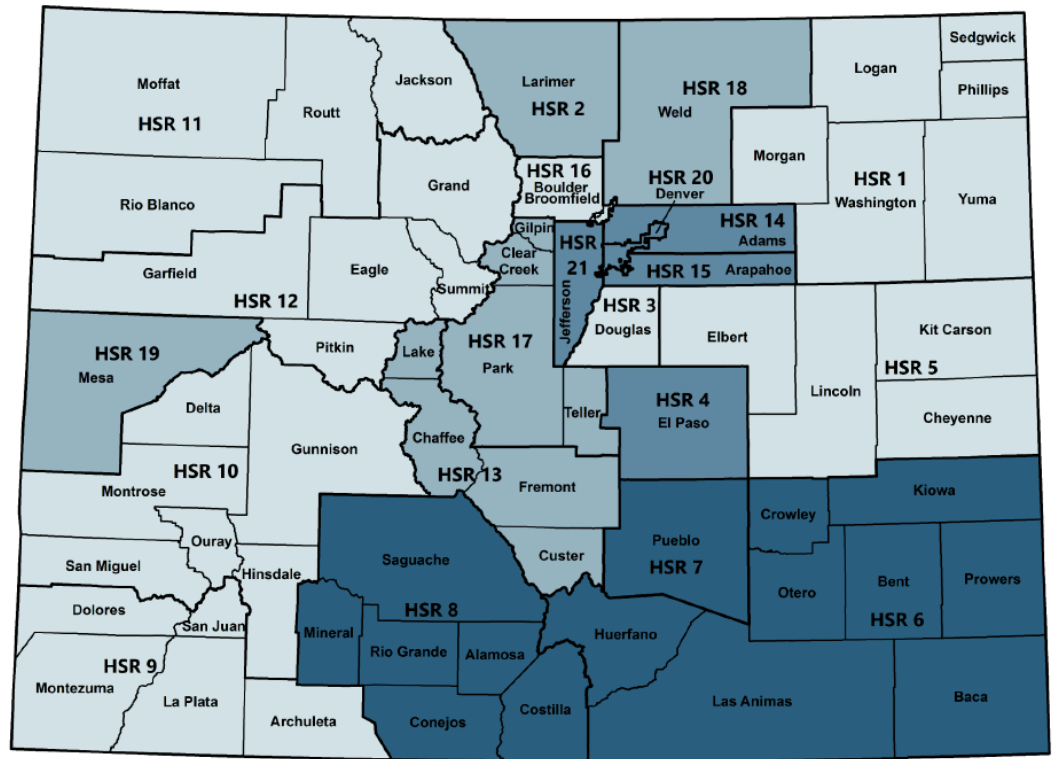
Source for both graphics: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

## Opioid-Related Overdose Death Rate by Colorado Region, 2014-2016 Average

Deaths per 100,000 people

- 2.1 to 5.5
- 5.6 to 8.0
- 8.1 to 11.7
- 11.8 to 16.0

▶ **The Point:** Overdoses as a percentage of the population are most severe in the Denver metro area, the San Luis Valley and southeast Colorado.



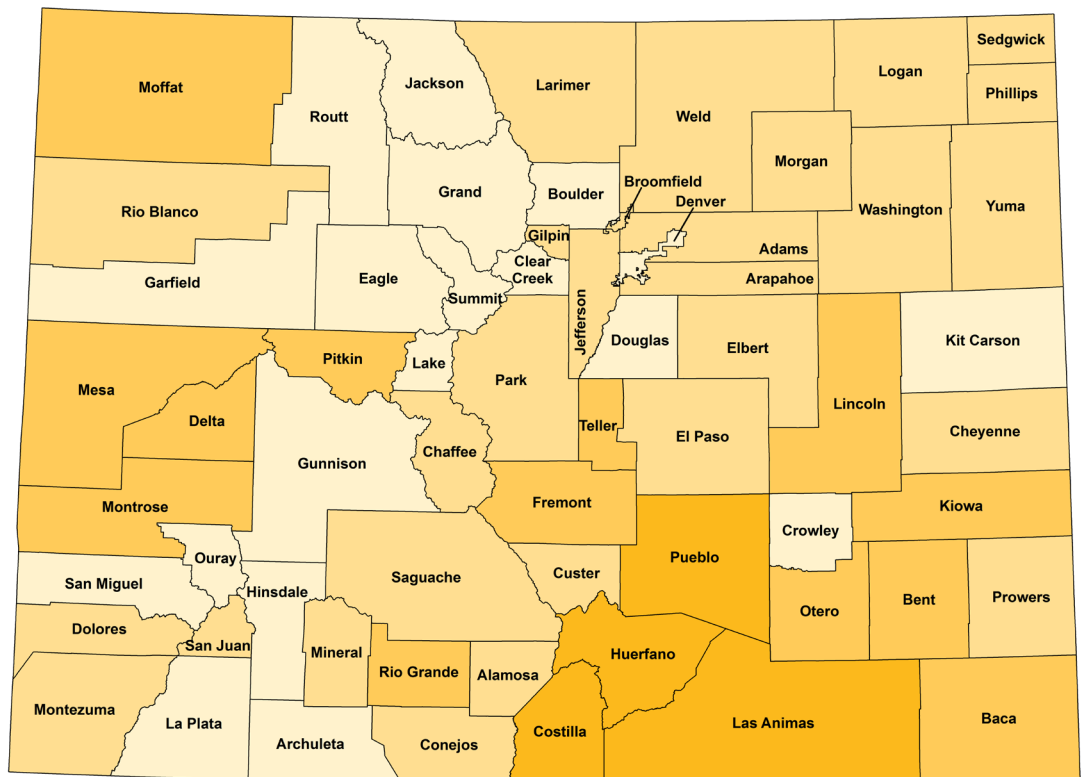
Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

## Rate of Opioid Prescriptions in Colorado Counties, 2016

Prescriptions per 100 residents

- 41.0 to 68.3
- 68.4 to 91.2
- 91.3 to 111.8
- 111.9 to 150.4

▶ **The Point:** Several counties, including some with the highest overdose death rates, have one or more opioid prescriptions per year for every resident.

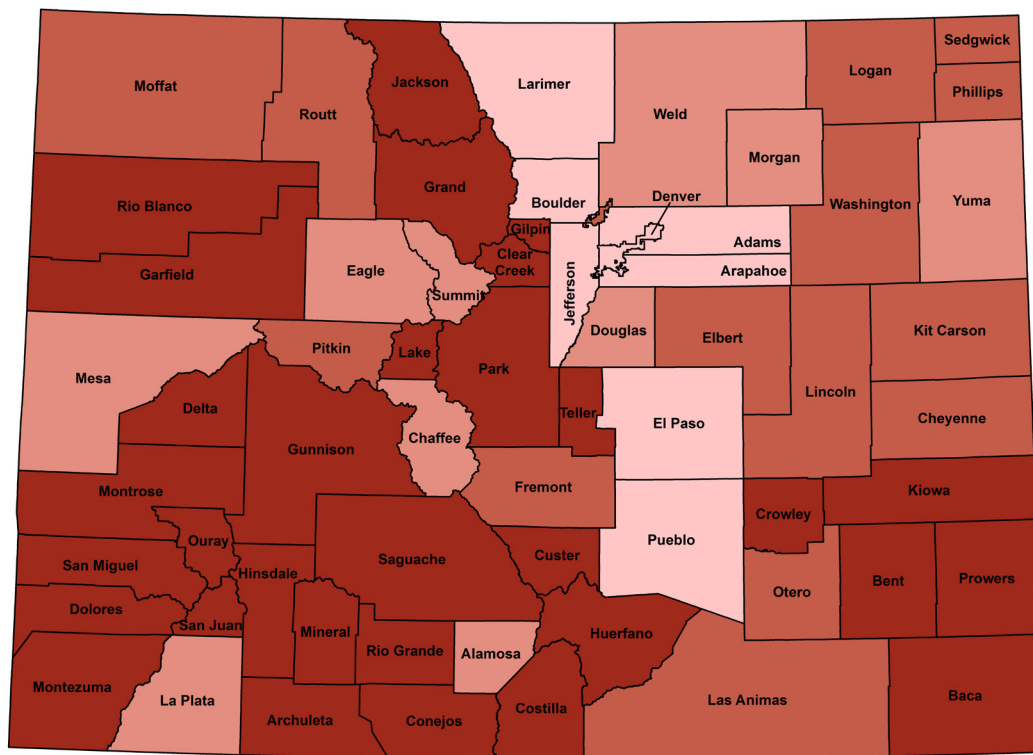


Source: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), 2016

## Number of Medication-Assisted Treatment Locations by County, April 2017

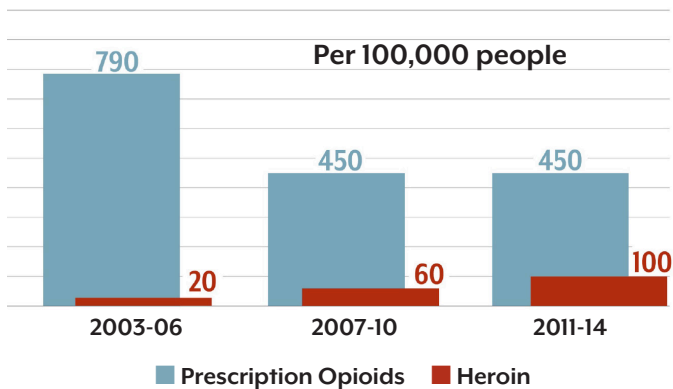
- No Treatment Locations
- 1 Treatment Location
- 2 to 10 Treatment Locations
- 11+ Treatment Locations

► **The Point:** Much of rural Colorado lacks access to the most effective opioid dependency therapy – medication-assisted treatment.

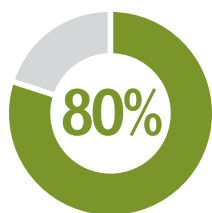


Source: Colorado Health Institute analysis of federal prescriber data

## Addiction Rates in Colorado, 2003-2014



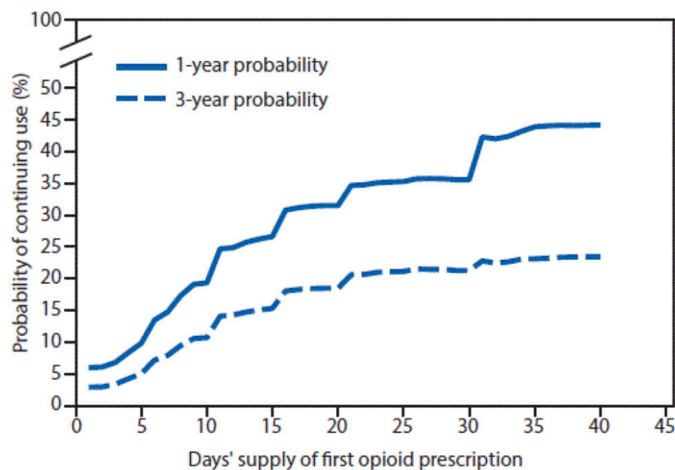
► **The Point:** It's less common now than 12 years ago for Coloradans to be dependent on prescription opioids, but the rate of heroin dependency is rising steeply.



*of heroin users reportedly started their opioid use with prescription pain relievers.*

Source for both graphics above: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

## Initial Prescription Influences Long-Term Use



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

► **The Point:** Even a five-day prescription begins to increase the likelihood of long-term opioid use by patients. A caveat: Some long-duration prescriptions are likely written for patients with chronic pain who might be expected to use opioids for a year or more.

## Evidence-Based Foundations of a Public Policy to Combat Substance Use and Opioids

### Prevention and Provider Practice

- Social resources to steer youth and adults away from substance use
- Prescriber education about the risk of opioid dependency and alternative pain management treatments
- Smaller initial supply of prescription painkillers

### Treatment

- Access to medication-assisted treatment
- Reduced stigma for those seeking treatment
- Insurance benefits for range of options, ranging from outpatient therapy to residential treatment

### Harm Reduction

- Wide availability of Naloxone (anti-overdose drug)
- Availability of clean needles
- Supervised injection facilities



## Colorado General Assembly Substance Use Legislation Package, 2018

Where does each bill fit into the three foundations outlined above?

Bill	Prevention	Treatment	Harm Reduction	Status
<b>House Bill 1003</b> More research and grants for screening and treatment	X			In Progress
<b>House Bill 1007</b> Insurance payment for substance use treatment	X	X		In Progress
<b>House Bill 1136</b> Medicaid waiver to pay for residential treatment		X		In Progress
<b>Senate Bill 22</b> Seven-day prescription limit for opioid painkillers	X			In Progress
<b>Senate Bill 24</b> Expand counselor workforce through incentives		X		In Progress
<b>Senate Bill 40</b> Permit a supervised injection facility pilot			X	Defeated February 14 in Senate committee