

VOCABULARY LIST

GRADES 6-12

Dear Teacher,

The vocabulary list on the following pages is drawn from the “Opioids and the Overdose Epidemic” student article and work sheet.

This vocabulary can be previewed with students prior to reading or reinforced with students afterward. Encourage students to incorporate these words into their writing about and discussion of the “Opioids and the Overdose Epidemic” student article and the “Opioids in America: Alarming Trends” work sheet.

The vocabulary list integrates two different tiers of vocabulary words that can be used across several content areas, such as *analyze*, *crisis*, and *precaution*, and domain-specific words, such as *epidemic*, *morphine*, and *opioid*.

Some suggestions for students to help their understanding:

- organize concept maps that include word parts, synonyms, antonyms, and examples;
- compose memory aids that explain the words or use them in a meaningful context;
- employ the words to create newspaper articles, stories, or poems.

Sources: Unless otherwise noted, definitions below are sourced or adapted from *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, National Institute on Drug Abuse, and *Scholastic Children's Dictionary*

HEADS UP
The CDC reports that last year 47,000 people died from drug overdoses in the United States.

OPIOIDS AND THE OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

America is facing a national epidemic. More people die from drug overdoses in the U.S. than from any other cause. In fact, more people die from drug overdoses than from all other causes of death combined.

Overdose deaths are a group of conditions that occur when someone takes too much of a drug, usually an opioid, and their breathing stops. Overdose deaths can be prevented by taking steps such as using a naloxone kit, not mixing substances, and not taking more than the prescribed amount.

Overdose deaths are a leading cause of death in the U.S. In 2017, more than 47,000 people died from drug overdoses, up from 33,000 in 2010. Overdose deaths are the leading cause of death among young people in the U.S.

OVERDOSE DEATHS BY THE YEAR

Year	Overdose Deaths
2010	33,000
2011	35,000
2012	37,000
2013	39,000
2014	41,000
2015	43,000
2016	45,000
2017	47,000

OPPIOID MISUSE BY THE DAY

Category	Number
Prescription opioids	3,000
Illicit opioids	3,000

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

- **An increase in prescription opioids:** Between 2000 and 2017, the number of opioid prescriptions in the United States increased from 1.5 billion to 2.5 billion. This increase is due to the growing use of opioids for pain relief.
- **A rise in heroin use:** Heroin use has increased significantly in the U.S. since 2000. This is due to the growing availability of heroin and the increasing use of heroin for pain relief.
- **A rise in fentanyl use:** Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is often used for pain relief. It is also used in the production of heroin. Fentanyl use has increased significantly in the U.S. since 2000.

SAFETY TIPS

- **Never take any drug that you do not know or do not understand.** If you are unsure about a drug, do not take it.
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A LIFESAVING DRUG

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It is a lifesaving drug that can be used to prevent death from an opioid overdose. Naloxone is available in a nasal spray, an injection, and a tablet. It is important to have naloxone on hand in case of an opioid overdose.

Supplement for: “Opioids and the Overdose Epidemic”

- Student Article: [scholastic.com/headsup/opioid-overdose-epidemic](https://www.scholastic.com/headsup/opioid-overdose-epidemic)
- Teacher’s Guide (includes work sheet): [scholastic.com/headsup/teachers/opioid-overdose-epidemic](https://www.scholastic.com/headsup/teachers/opioid-overdose-epidemic)

- **addicted** (*adjective*): having a compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior, such as drug use, that continues despite negative consequences
- **addictive** (*adjective*): something, such as a drug, that causes changes to the brain that result in compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior despite negative consequences
- **administer** (*verb*): to provide or supply something, such as medication
- **analyze** (*verb*): to study or examine something closely or carefully in order to understand it
- **bystander** (*noun*): a person who is present but not taking part in a situation
- **chemical** (*noun*): a substance, such as an element or a mix of elements (compound), that can occur naturally or be made by a chemical process
- **codeine** (*noun*): an opioid drug that is used as a painkiller and is commonly prescribed by doctors for mild to moderate pain or cough suppression
- **crisis** (*noun*): a situation that has reached an unstable point and that has a high chance of having a negative outcome
- **dispense** (*verb*): to prepare and give out something, such as a medication
- **dramatically** (*adverb*): done in a way that attracts attention because of an extreme appearance or effect
- **epidemic** (*noun*): an increase in the number of people affected by a disease or condition far above what is normally expected in a population
- **factor** (*noun*): something that causes a result
- **fentanyl** (*noun*): an opioid drug made in laboratories that is much stronger (50 to 100 times) than other legal opioids. It is prescribed only to treat very severe pain.
- **heroin** (*noun*): an illegal opioid drug that has no medical use
- **hydrocodone** (*noun*): an opioid drug that is used as a painkiller and prescribed by doctors for moderate to severe pain
- **illegal** (*adjective*): against the law
- **impact** (*verb*): to have an effect on something or to cause a result
- **increase** (*verb*): to become larger in size, number, or amount
- **medication** (*noun*): a chemical or substance that is used to treat a disease or medical condition
- **methadone** (*noun*): an opioid drug made in laboratories that is commonly used to treat addiction to heroin and other opioids
- **misuse** (*verb*): to use something in a way that is unintended or harmful, such as misuse of a prescription drug
- **modify** (*verb*): to change something slightly
- **morphine** (*noun*): an opioid drug that is used as a painkiller and is prescribed by doctors for severe pain
- **naloxone** (*noun*): an emergency medication used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose and restore breathing. If it is used quickly enough, naloxone can prevent a person from dying of an overdose.
- **opioid** (*noun*): one of a group of drugs that produce relaxation, pleasure, and pain relief. Opioids can be addictive and potentially deadly due to overdoses.
- **overdose** (*noun*): a lethal or toxic amount of a drug; (*verb*): to take a lethal or toxic amount of a drug.
- **oxycodone** (*noun*): an opioid drug that is used as a painkiller and prescribed by doctors for severe pain. It is most commonly prescribed for patients recovering from surgery.
- **Oxycontin**[®] (*noun*): a brand-name version of the drug oxycodone
- **painkiller** (*noun*): a medication used to treat or reduce pain
- **personnel** (*noun*): a group of people who work for a particular company or in a particular field
- **population** (*noun*): the number of people who live in one place or belong in a certain category
- **potential** (*adjective*): possible, but not yet actual

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- **precaution** (*noun*): an action taken to avoid a dangerous situation or to lead to a positive result
- **prescribe** (*verb*): to write or give medical instructions, such as regarding the use of certain medications
- **prescription drug** (*noun*): a medication that must be ordered by a doctor before it can be dispensed
- **pure** (*adjective*): unmixed with other materials
- **quadruple** (*verb*): to become four times as large in size or number
- **reduce** (*verb*): to make smaller in size, amount, or number
- **report** (*verb*): to announce officially; to describe or explain something that has happened
- **restore** (*verb*): to put back into use or bring back into existence
- **reverse** (*verb*): to turn around completely in direction or position; to go backward
- **risk** (*noun*): the possibility of loss or injury; danger
- **roughly** (*adverb*): approximately, not exactly
- **statistics** (*noun*): a collection of data or facts in the form of numbers
- **supply** (*verb*): to provide something that is needed or wanted
- **Vicodin®** (*noun*): a brand-name version of the drug hydrocodone