

## MAJOR TRENDS IN OPIOID USE AMONG SENIORS



Older adults are often prescribed opioids to cope with persistent or ongoing pain rather than alternative pain therapies

**1 IN 3**

Medicare Part D beneficiaries received a prescription opioid in 2017



Opioids have a stronger impact on older adults because the body metabolizes drugs more slowly as someone ages



Across the U.S., older adults have the fastest growing rate of: opioid use, opioid-related hospital visits, and opioid-related deaths

## IMPORTANT SIGNS OF OPIOID MISUSE

### **Less functional while on opioids**

An older adult may become less mobile or unable to keep up daily hygiene

### **Opioid use is dominating one's life**

Getting and taking opioids may become the focus

### **Increased confusion**

This might look like over-sedation or extreme drowsiness

### **Medication is not lasting as long as it should**

An older adult may be taking more opioids than what was prescribed

## RESOURCES

### Recovery Hotline

For help finding recovery resources including a referral for behavioral health or medicine to treat opioid use disorder:

**1-866-789-1511**

**Call 24/7/365 or text M-F 9 am-9 pm**

**[warecoveryhelpline.org](http://warecoveryhelpline.org)**

### Take Back Your Meds

Any medicine that is no longer prescribed should be safely disposed of. To find a safe disposal nearby:

**Text MEDS to 667873**

**[takebackyourmeds.org](http://takebackyourmeds.org)**

### Community Living Connections

Information and support service for older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers:

**1-844-348-5464**

**[communitylivingconnections.org](http://communitylivingconnections.org)**

### Overdose Prevention

Helping individuals and communities in WA respond to and prevent opioid overdose including how to get naloxone, the overdose reversal medication:

**[stopoverdose.org](http://stopoverdose.org)**

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For more information, visit: **[kingcounty.gov/overdose](http://kingcounty.gov/overdose)** or **[agingkingcounty.org](http://agingkingcounty.org)**.