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.
**RECOVERY 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

**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

**Community Living Connections**
Information and support service for older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers:

1-844-348-5464  
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

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