

Addiction is a chronic, often relapsing brain disease. It causes compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences to the addicted person, as well as the people around that person. The abuse of drugs -- even prescription drugs -- leads to changes in the structure and function of the brain.

- More than 10 Utahans die every week from an overdose
- Drug poisoning deaths have outpaced deaths due to firearms, falls and motor vehicle crashes in Utah
- Utah ranks 4th highest in the nation for drug overdose deaths
- Heroin use more than doubled among young adults in the last decade.
- The number of young children and teens hospitalized for opioid painkiller overdoses has almost tripled in recent years
- 46,000 die from drug overdose -more than cars and guns. Of the 46,000, ½ die due to opioid abuse
- One in five high school seniors reports misusing prescription drugs at least once in their lifetime
- 1.4 million people in the US abused prescription pills for the first time in 2014
- 99% of opioid prescriptions in the WORLD are prescribed in the US, which is enough prescriptions pills for every adult in the US
- Nearly all people who use heroin also use at least one other drug
- Over 50% of individuals who are arrested for major crimes, including homicide, theft, and assault are under the influence of illicit drugs. Reported nonmedical use of prescription opiates in 2014
- Each day, 44 people in the U.S. die from an overdose of prescription painkillers.
- In 1960 more than 80% of opioid abusers got hooked on heroin first. In the 2000s, 75% of opioid abusers started with prescription opioids.
- More than 93% of those identified as needing treatment for dependence or misuse of an illicit drug believes they do not need help.
- There are on average 129 drug overdose deaths per day in the United States. In 2014, sixty-one percent of those deaths are related to pharmaceutical opioids or heroin.
- 6.4 million Americans indicated misusing prescription opioids in 2015.