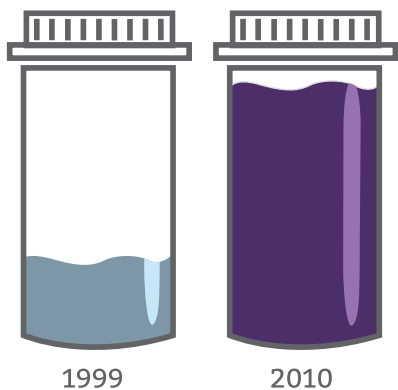


# Prescription Drug Statistics

The unprecedented rise in overdose deaths in the US parallels a 300% increase since 1999 in the sale of these strong painkillers.<sup>1</sup>



100 people die from drug overdoses every day in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

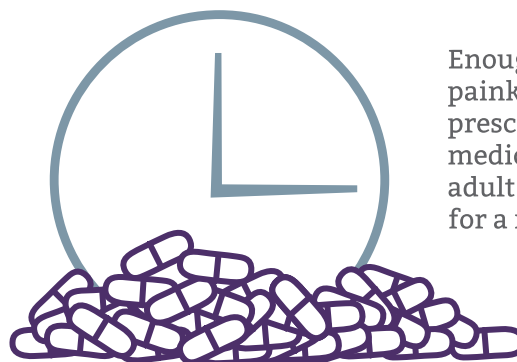
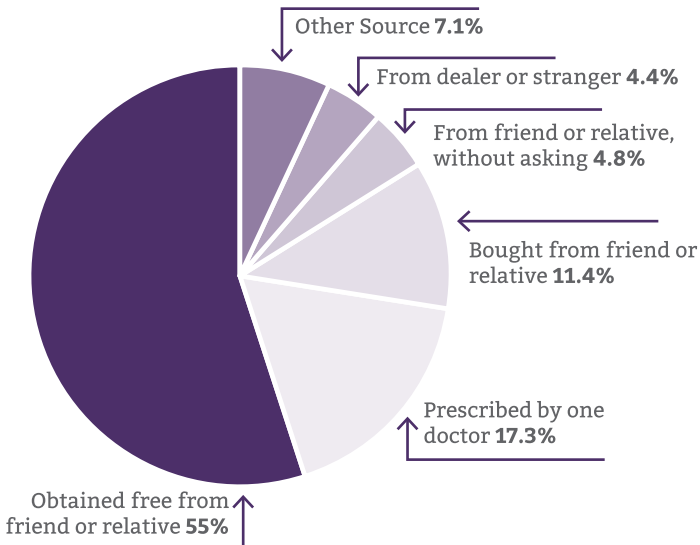


Nearly 15,000 people die every year of overdoses involving prescription painkillers.<sup>1</sup>



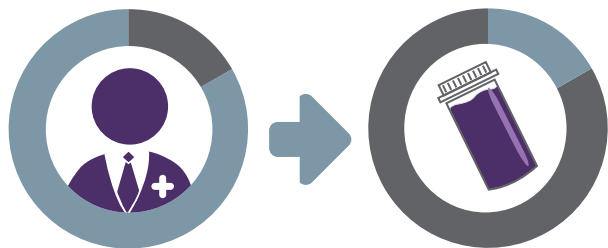
More than 12 million people reported using prescription painkillers nonmedically in 2010, that is, using them without a prescription or for the feeling they cause.<sup>3</sup>

Most of the time, prescription drugs involved in overdoses come from valid prescriptions; however, most people who misuse prescription painkillers are using drugs prescribed to treat someone else.<sup>3</sup>



Enough prescription painkillers were prescribed in 2010 to medicate every American adult around-the-clock for a month.<sup>1</sup>

More than three out of four people who misuse prescription painkillers use drugs prescribed to someone else.<sup>3</sup>



Roughly 20% of prescribers prescribe 80% of all prescription painkillers.<sup>4</sup>



Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs healthcare insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care costs.<sup>2</sup>



**ADVANCED PAIN MANAGEMENT**  
we know your pain

<sup>1</sup> CDC. Vital Signs: Overdoses of Prescription Opioid Pain Relievers—United States, 1999–2008. MMWR 2011; 60: 1–6 <sup>2</sup> <https://oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k10Results.htm#2.16> <sup>3</sup> Blumenschein K, Fink JL, Freeman PR, Kirsh KL, Steinke DT, Talbert J. Independent evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting Program (KASPER). Lexington (KY): Institute for Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy; 2010. Dhalla IA, Mamdani MM, Gomes T, Juurlink DN. Clustering of opioid prescribing and opioid-related mortality among family physicians in Ontario. Canadian Family Med. 2011;57:e92–e96. Swedlow A, Ireland J, Johnson G. Prescribing patterns of schedule II opioids in California Workers' Compensation. Cal. Workers' Compensation Update. 2011 Mar;1–12. Available from URL: <http://www.cwci.org/research.htm>