

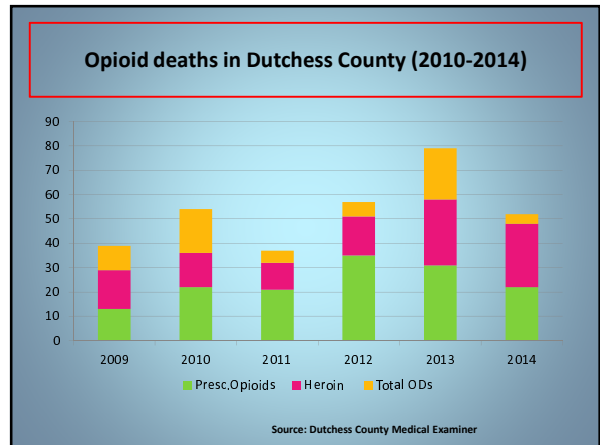
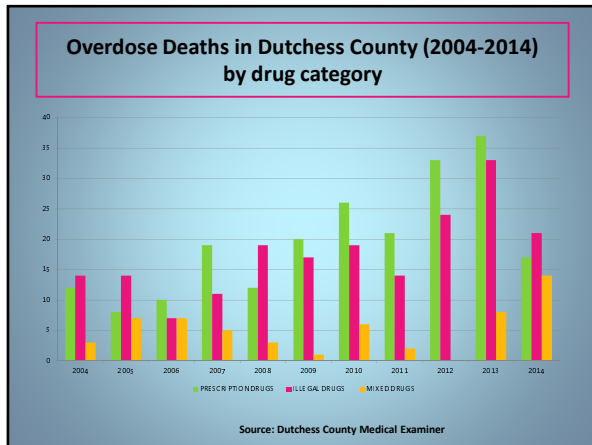
## PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS AND HEROIN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Public Health Implications

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### Overview

- Overdose is the leading cause of accidental death since 2009, surpassing motor vehicle deaths
- 279 Dutchess County residents died of drug overdoses between 2010 and 2014
- Heroin deaths in Dutchess County doubled between 2011 and 2014
- In 2014 there were 52 fatal overdoses (>90% + for opioids; 50% + for heroin)




## WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?


SEMI-SYNTHETIC/SYNTHETIC

- **HEROIN**
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab)
- Oxycodone (Percodan, **Oxycontin**)
- Fentanyl (Duragesic, China white)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- Methadone
- Meperidine (Demerol)

NATURALLY OCCURRING

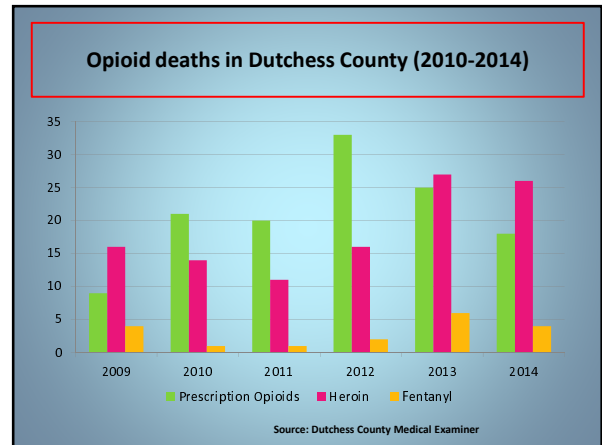
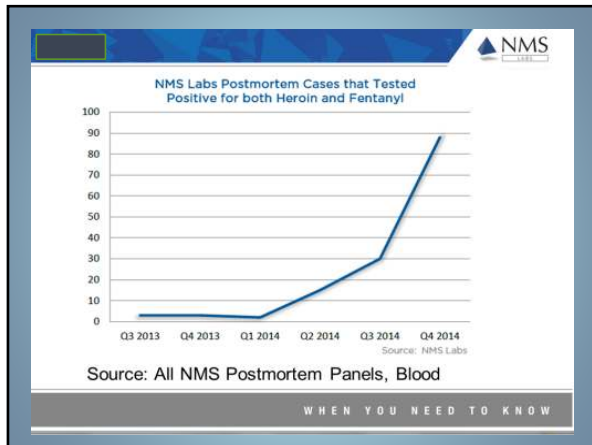
**OPIUM POPPY**




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**RISK OF OVERDOSE**

- MIXING DRUGS
- DECREASED TOLERANCE
- LACK OF A SAFETY NET
- CONTAMINANTS



### HOW DO OPIOIDS WORK?

- They bind to receptors in the brain
- They change the way the body experiences and perceives pain
- They are highly addictive – the experience is “pleasurable”
- They suppress the urge to breathe

### Opioids: immediate and long-term health risks?

- Death by overdose
- Permanent brain damage
- Infections
  - Abscesses at injection sites
  - Infectious endocarditis/myocarditis
  - Osteomyelitis
  - Pneumonia
  - HIV/Hepatitis: risk of infecting others

**Other complications of opioid use and addiction**

- Toxic reactions to contaminants
- Trauma (MVA's, falls, operating machinery)
- Mental illness & suicide
- Violent behavior and criminal acts
- Vulnerability to sexual violence
- Increased risk for STDs
- Impact to pregnant women & infants
- Loss of educational and professional opportunities
- Homelessness, financial ruin
- Loss of support systems (family, friends, mentors)

**Concluding remarks**

- We can no longer remain silent
- An accidental overdose can happen to anyone
- Addiction is a disease with broad public health implications
- Addiction and dependence can be treated
- Recovery is possible
- Prevention is key

**Speaking out**

22 y/o lost his battle against heroin.

At the funeral, his parents spoke out & made an impassioned plea for drug addiction to no longer be swept under the rug. Six weeks before his death this boy had attended the funeral of another heroin victim and told his mother:

“every kid in this room I went to high school with is a heroin user”

**Dutchess County Substance Abuse Webpage**



[www.DutchessNY.gov/Health](http://www.DutchessNY.gov/Health)