

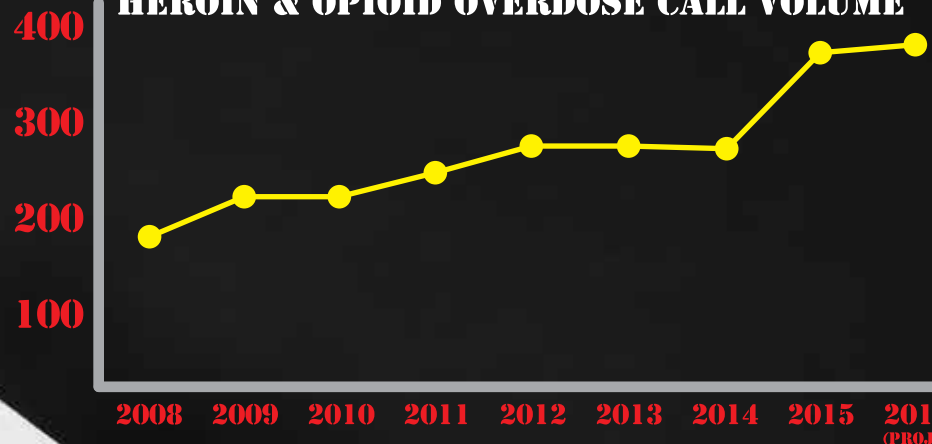
# COMMUNITY IN CRISIS: HEROIN & OPIOIDS IN ST. CHARLES COUNTY

If you watch a newscast, pick up a newspaper or scroll through social media, it's difficult not to see a story about the growing heroin and prescription opioid (narcotic pain medication) epidemic. Across the nation, big cities and small towns alike are struggling to deal with this growing problem. Unfortunately, these drugs have found their way into our community, and show no signs of slowing. SCCAD Paramedics are frequently asked how serious the problem is in St. Charles County; the quick answer is: **very**.

Getting a handle on this epidemic will require close coordination between law enforcement, government officials, healthcare providers and, most importantly, families in our community. Have the discussion with your family, be aware the warning signs and know where to turn for help.



**ST. CHARLES COUNTY AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
HEROIN & OPIOID OVERDOSE CALL VOLUME**



**3/4**

of heroin users started with **prescription opioids\***



## OPIOID PAINKILLERS

are often taken from parents or grandparents following surgery or dental work.

many cities offer **DRUG TAKE-BACK** drop boxes - use them to dispose of unused pills.



## HEROIN CAN BE:

- injected as liquid
- injected as a pill
- snorted as powder

## PAIN MEDS

should be stored in a locked cabinet & monitored closely.



If you believe a friend or loved one needs help, the St. Louis chapter of the National Council for Alcohol & Drug Abuse offers, counseling, resources and much more. They can be reached at 314-962-3456, or online at [ncada-stl.org](http://ncada-stl.org)

\* Health News from NPR, July 2015, CDC Study

SCCAD is a proud member of

**CRUSH**

Community Resources  
United to Stop Heroin

