THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ACCIDENTAL OPIOID OVERDOSE

238M PRESCRIPTIONS for opioid medications were filled in 2011, up from 82M in 2001.

DEATH RATE

DRUG POISONING has now surpassed AUTOMOBILE COLLISIONS as the leading cause of accidental death in the US, driven largely by prescription opioids.

In 2010, there were 16,651 DEATHS CAUSED BY OPIOID OVERDOSE, more than 13,000 of which were unintentional.

UP TO 60% OF OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS occur in medical users.

THAT'S ONE PERSON EVERY 36 MINUTES.
Opioid medications have a relatively narrow therapeutic window, meaning that even small changes – such as a single extra dose or the addition of a small amount of alcohol – CAN CAUSE A POTENTIALLY FATAL OVERDOSE.

Some risk factors include:

- High dosage of opioids
- Taking certain medications in combination with an opioid
- Having history of respiratory conditions (such as asthma, COPD or sleep apnea)

In the event of an opioid overdose, seek emergency medical attention.

Some signs include:

- Very slow or absent breathing
- Loss of consciousness
- Extremely small pupils