

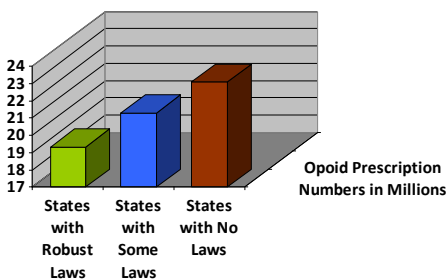
# Cannabis. The safer choice.



CANNA-PATIENT  
RESOURCE CONNECTION

Opiate addiction and accidental overdoses resulting in death are a huge issue in the United States. According to the CDC, "[Around 68% of the more than 70,200 drug overdose deaths in 2017 involved an opioid.](#)" Recently, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) told reporters that new options for pain killers are at [least a decade away](#) leaving legitimate chronic pain patients with few options. Study after study suggests, states with robust cannabis laws have sharp decreases in the number of opiate related prescriptions and opiate related deaths.

**Patients need help now. The safer option should be the first option.**



"Findings. This [longitudinal analysis](#) of Medicare Part D found that prescriptions filled for all opioids decreased by 2.11 million daily doses per year from an average of 23.08 million daily doses per year when a state instituted any medical cannabis law. Prescriptions for all opioids decreased by 3.742 million daily doses per year when medical cannabis dispensaries opened."

<https://jamanetwork.com/.../jama.../article-abstract/2676999>



A study by the VA shows how Veterans lives are interwoven with the opiate crisis, "Conclusion: Baseline PTSD increases the risk of developing OUD after exposure to opioid painkillers." **Give those who have served the freedom to choose the safer option first, before they become a statistic.**

[https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/rq\\_docs/V30N1.pdf](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/publications/rq_docs/V30N1.pdf)

## More information:

\*University of Michigan: Study on opiate reduction: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/.../abs/pii/S1526590016005678>

Colorado's reduction in opiate rates: <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/.../AJPH.2017.304059>