

# Understanding Opioids

**Duration:** 45 Minutes

**Prerequisite:** None

## Objectives

1. Define what opioids are, what they are used for, and their risks
2. Describe the journey from prescription drug abuse to street drugs
3. Identify and understand the risks of heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil
4. Recognize the signs of opioid abuse and overdose

## Materials

KWL Chart  
 Article printouts OR access to a device  
 Poster paper  
 Markers  
 Note Taking sheets

**Notes** (differentiation, student groupings, additional questions, etc.):

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	STRUCTURE	DURATION
<b>Opening</b>	<p><b>KWL Chart</b></p> <p>“Today, we’re going to focus on learning about what exactly opioids are. Before we get to that, you should have a KWL chart in front of you. Turn to someone next to you or work individually to fill out the K- what you already know about opioids, and W- what you want to know. We’ll come back to the L at the end of the lesson.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give learners two minutes to work on their chart and then ask them to share and create a class KWL chart.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Brainstorm</b> with a partner or individually</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> with the class</p>	8 mins
<b>Activity</b>	<p><b>Jigsaw</b></p> <p>Break learners into groups of four. This will be their jigsaw group. Each student in the group will be assigned a different topic to read about and take notes. They will then meet with their expert/topic groups to discuss and prepare to teach their jigsaw groups about their topic. Students will then return to their jigsaw groups and rotate through teaching each topic area. Everyone will be responsible for taking notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic 1: Overview of Opioids</li> <li>• Topic 2: Heroin</li> <li>• Topic 3: Fentanyl</li> </ul>	<p><b>Learn</b> in a small group</p> <p><b>Share</b> in a small group</p>	30 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	STRUCTURE	DURATION
<b>Closing</b>	<p>“Let’s take a few minutes to jot down what we’ve learned in the L column of your KWL chart.”</p> <p>“Now we have some concrete facts about what opioids are. This will help us as we learn about making smart decisions when we encounter opioids.”</p>	<b>Formalize learning</b> with the whole group	5 mins
<b>Evaluation</b>	At the end of the lesson, allow learners to post any lingering questions and address those before the next lesson. A quiz would be appropriate for this lesson as well.	<b>Assess</b> individually	2 mins

**Learners needing support:**

**Learners ready for extensions:**

**Notes for next time:**

## Resources for the Jigsaw Activity

For an explanation of this strategy, go here: <https://youtu.be/euhtXUgBEts>.

*Note: There are three articles for each topic. It's best to assign one article per learner and evenly distribute the articles through your learners. For example, if there are 6 students assigned to Topic 1, two will read article A, two will read article B, and two will read article C. Learners will learn about the content of the other articles in their expert groups to create a deeper understanding of their assigned topic.*

### Topic 1: Overview of Opioids

- A. What Is an Opioid: <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/what-opioid>
- B. From Rx to Heroin: <https://drugfree.org/article/rx-to-heroin/>
- C. See how deadly street opioids like 'elephant tranquilizer' have become: <http://wapo.st/2z86Eyb>

### Topic 2: Heroin

- A. Heroin: <https://drugfree.org/drug/drug-heroin/>
- B. Today's Heroin Epidemic: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/index.html>
- C. Signs of Heroin Use: <http://www.rehabcenter.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Signs-Of-Heroin-Use-Infographic.pdf>

### Topic 3: Fentanyl

- A. Drug Info - Fentanyl: <https://www.justthinktwice.gov/drug-fact/fentanyl>
- B. Synthetic Fentanyl Deaths Rise in Americans Opioid Epidemic: <https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/americas-heroin-epidemic/synthetic-fentanyl-deaths-rise-americans-opioid-epidemic-n814956>
- C. Fentanyl Overdose: <https://drugabuse.com/library/fentanyl-overdose/>

### Topic 4: Carfentanil

- A. Officer Safety Alert: [https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq092216\\_attach.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq092216_attach.pdf)
- B. Drugs Linked to Ohio Overdoses Can Kill in Doses Smaller than a Snowflake: [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/us/ohio-cincinnati-overdoses-carfentanil-heroin.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/us/ohio-cincinnati-overdoses-carfentanil-heroin.html?_r=0)
- C. Long Term Effects of Heroin Addiction: <http://images.addictionblog.org/cherrycake/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Long-Term-Effects-of-Heroin-Addiction-640x3178.png>