

Opioid Impacts:

- ICU admission for newborn baby drug withdrawal increased 930% from 2004 to 2014.
- Use of heroin, fentanyl, and super-potent fentanyl analogs are skyrocketing and replacing prescription opioids as first-use drugs.
- Our EMS, foster care, medical examiner, criminal justice, and prison systems are overwhelmed.
- State and County funds are being drained, and can only pay for a few of those who need treatment.
- All of this costs NC \$1.3 Billion per YEAR per the CDC!



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF NORTH CAROLINA

Our Health Care League Action Team (HCLAT) is advocating for health coverage legislation in North Carolina following our research into the opioid epidemic and other health care issues within the state.

Our statewide team engages in research, community education, and advocacy such as lobby days at the NCGA, OpEd and LTE submissions.

Learn more about our work:

<http://bit.ly/HCLAT>

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Paid for by League of Women Voters of NC



www.LWVNC.org

NORTH CAROLINA OPIOID NUMBERS

In 2013

2 people died every day from an opioid overdose.

By 2015

3 people died every day from an opioid overdose.

In 2016

4 people died every day from an opioid overdose.



**SOLVING THE
OPIOID CRISIS
REQUIRES
HEALTH CARE
COVERAGE NOW**

CAROLINA CARES

A BI-PARTISAN HOUSE BILL PROPOSED IN THE 2017 SESSION

NC House Bill 662 (Carolina Cares) proposes an affordable health insurance-like program for working North Carolinians who are not eligible for Medicaid coverage, earn too little to qualify for subsidized private insurance coverage through the marketplace, or do not have access to employer coverage.

CAROLINA CARES WILL:

- Connect uninsured North Carolinians with an affordable health care option.
- Pay for rehab, medication and long-term treatment for the many people with OUD who currently can't get coverage.
- Reduce inefficient health care spending.
- Reduce health care expenses for all of us by reducing the cost of uncompensated care for uninsured people.
- Be fully funded by participant contributions, federal funds, and state health-care related assessments... so there will be no cost to taxpayers and the state budget will not be affected.

HOW MANY WILL DIE
IN 2018?

2020?

BEYOND?

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) is a chronic disease:

Effective treatment takes a long time - years or maybe even a lifetime.

As many as half the people with OUD have no access to health insurance.



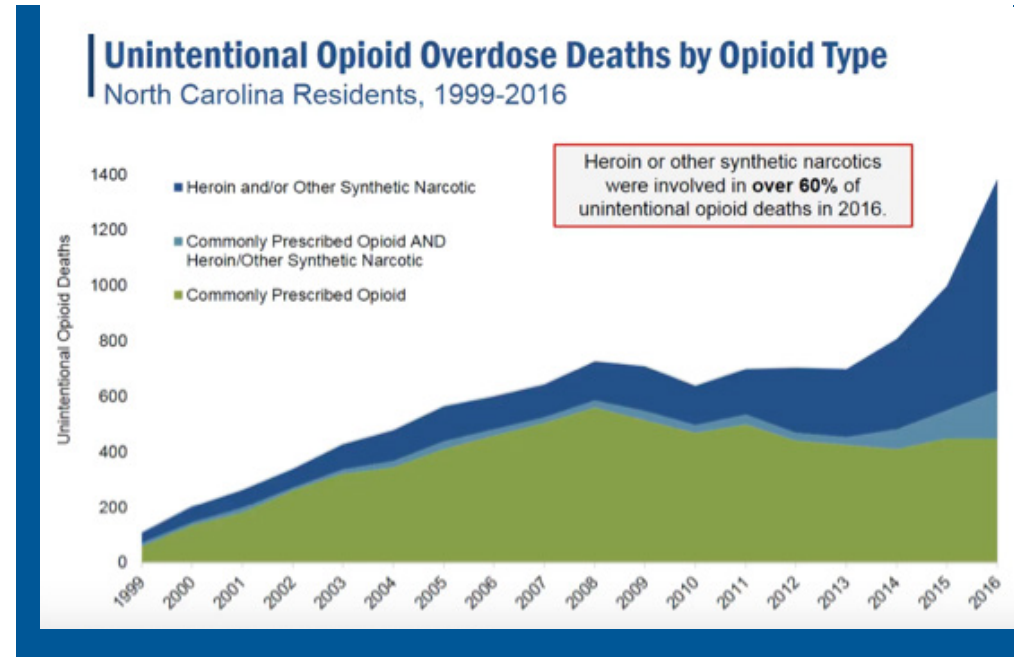
They can't be accepted into rehab programs, or pay for medication and long-term treatment.

Many have given up hope of ever recovering.

And many have chronic medical conditions that must be treated as they recover from OUD.

To combat the opioid epidemic, people with OUD need treatment all the way to complete recovery.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER – WE HAVE TO ACT NOW TO STOP THIS EPIDEMIC



Speak up TODAY... help put an end to this growing epidemic impacting so many people in North Carolina!

▶ WHAT NC NEEDS !

- Stopping the opioid epidemic requires good health insurance coverage.
- It's an indispensable part of the solution, and we can't stop this epidemic without it.
- "Band-aid" short-term funds are not up to the job.

▶ WHAT YOU CAN DO !

- Call or email your state legislators today.
- Tell them to ask the leaders of the NC Senate and House to conduct a hearing on legislation (e.g., "Carolina Cares") that will provide health care coverage.
- Ask them to make this happen during the 2018 Short Session, which begins May 16.