## Women and Opioids in Illinois

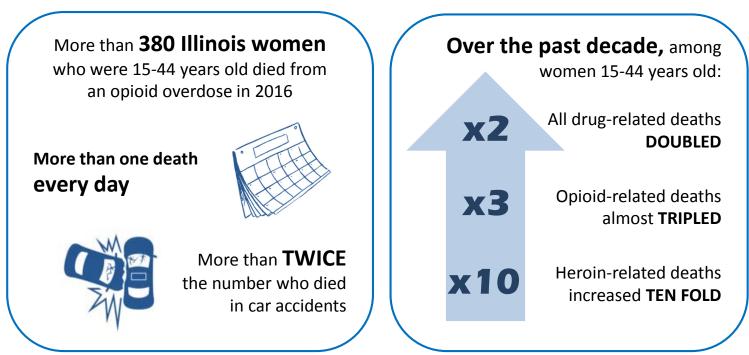
# The opioid use epidemic is the most significant public health and safety crisis in Illinois

### What are Opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs that work in the brain to reduce pain and cause feelings of relaxation. **Opioids can be addictive and dangerous**.

### **Examples of Opioids:**

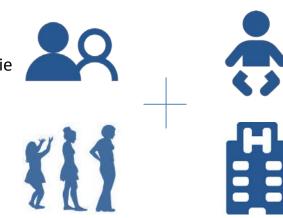
- Heroin
- **Prescription pain medications**, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, or codeine
- Treatments for drug addiction, such as methadone or buprenorphine



Women of childbearing age need appropriate opioid use disorder treatment to prevent health problems for themselves and their infants

White women are **more than twice as likely** as non-white women to die from an opioid overdose

Women ages 40-44 are three times as likely as women 15-19 to die from an opioid overdose



Drug withdrawal syndrome in infants **increased 52%** from 2011 to 2016

Nearly **300 women are hospitalized** each year for opioid-related problems

## While women across Illinois are affected, the opioid crisis has hit some communities harder than others

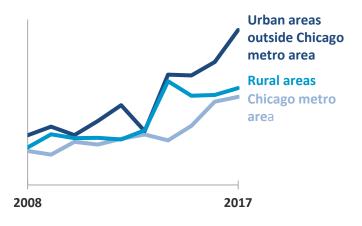
Among Illinois women age 15-44:

Women living in **Cook County** are the most likely to be hospitalized due to <u>heroin</u> use





Women living in **rural counties** are the most likely to be hospitalized due to use of <u>non-heroin opioids</u> (including prescription medications) The rate of women dying from opioid use is increasing fastest in **urban areas** outside the Chicago metropolitan area



## **Resources for Women and Families**

## What to do?

#### If you are not pregnant and using opioids

- Use effective birth control until you've stopped taking the opioid or have discussed plans for a healthy pregnancy with your provider
- Talk to your health care provider about taking a safer pain medicine or an alternative nonmedication strategy for pain control

### If you are pregnant and using opioids

- Go to prenatal care and talk to your health care provider about all opioids, medicines, or other drugs you use
- Don't start or stop using any opioid until you talk to your health care provider
- Make sure every health care provider knows you are pregnant before they prescribe any medication
- Talk to your health care provider about taking a safer pain medicine or an alternative nonmedication strategy for pain control

## **Need Assistance?**

## For help finding opioid disorder treatment:



OR SAMHSA Treatment Hotline: 800-662-HELP (4357)

For help finding birth control or women's health services: Illinois Women's Health Line: 888-522-1282

For help applying for Medicaid, WIC, or food stamps: Health Benefits Hotline: 800-843-6154

### **Questions?**

Contact the Illinois Department of Public Health Office of Women's Health & Family Services Maternal and Child Health (Title V) Program DPH.MCH@Illinois.gov

