Everyone is at risk
Opiate addiction does not discriminate. It has spread rapidly due to false perceptions. High school students are not immune.

Opiate addiction can occur quickly
Individuals first become addicted by abusing pain pills. Prescription drugs are easily accessible.

A life-consuming routine
This revolves around seeking opiates emerges once a person is addicted. Best described as Chasing the Dragon

Increasing tolerance
Opiates can often lead to more costly and dangerous addiction in terms of quantity, substance type and method of use. The dynamic of opiate addiction can cause people taking greater and greater risks

Legal Consequences
Results from the lengths users will go to support their habit. The grip of this addiction can lead law-abiding people to cross legal boundaries. It effects everyone.

Health Consequences
Bloodborne pathogens, infections, permanent injury due to overdoses as well as other health issues are extremely dangerous.

Withdrawal
Significant challenge to breaking the cycle of abuse. Addicted persons often use to avoid experiencing these symptoms

Overdoses are common
Not always associated with abuse of large quantity. Can occur at any point in the cycle of abuse.

Death
Tragic consequence of opiate use. The victims include not only the deceased but the family and friends left in the wake of losing someone they love.

Saying NO
The primary strategy to staying safe. Peers need to support each other and help counter pressures placed on young people.

Help
Is available to those who need it. Not generally something that can be overcome alone. There are resources for everyone.
### Terms/Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Oxycodone</strong></th>
<th><strong>Heroin</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tolerance</strong></th>
<th><strong>Banging</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Withdrawal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dope</strong></td>
<td><strong>Chasing the Dragon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Opiates/Opioids</strong></td>
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</table>

**Banging**
Slang for a procedure involving the injection of a solution containing heroin or prescription opioids directly into the bloodstream.

**Chasing the Dragon**
Expression given to the pursuit of the original or ultimate but unattainable high.

**Dope**
Slang for heroin.

**Heroin**
An opioid drug that is synthesized from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the opium poppy.

**Opiates/Opioids**
Derived from compounds found in the opium poppy plant or synthetic drugs that mimic these compounds.

**Oxycodone**
A semi-synthetic narcotic analgesic, a popular drug of abuse.

**Tolerance**
A state in which a person no longer responds to a drug and a higher does is required to achieve the same effect.

**Withdrawal**
A wide range of symptoms that occur after stopping or reducing opiate drugs after heavy or prolonged use. Symptoms include: agitation, anxiety, sweating, body aches, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

### Statistics

Statistics represent the widespread epidemic.

**Complete the below:**

Approximately **One in five** high school seniors report misusing prescription drugs at least once.

Most first-time users of painkillers obtain them from **Friend or relative**

Nearly **All people** who use heroin also use at least one other drug

More than **10 million people** 12 years and older report nonmedical use of prescription opioids.
What did the opiate-addicted individuals in the film have in common prior to becoming addicted?

The addicted persons in the film had normal and, in some cases, even privileged lives.

**everyone is at risk** if not informed.

Some students may identify that most persons used marijuana or other drugs prior to abusing opiates.

What were the ways the people in the film got hooked on opiates?

Using other drugs and self-medicating; often after legitimate prescriptions.

After hearing the real stories of the addicted people, do you believe there is support for the claim that “minor” drugs act as a gateway to stronger, more lethal drugs and addiction?

Show a prevalence of marijuana use prior to opiates

Nearly all that use heroin also use at least one other drug

Impaired judgement from abuse of drugs.

What did you learn about how fast someone can become addicted? How would you respond to:

*It’s only one pill... you can’t get addicted.*

The interviewees described becoming addicted quickly and needing more opiates.

“I feel I became addicted by the day”

People taking prescription painkillers can become addicted with just one prescription.

**Opiates addiction can occur quickly**
Question 6

How do the people in the film describe their daily routine once opiate addiction sets in?

Why did Cody say he kept taking opiates to “stay well”?

You cannot maintain an opiate addiction and a normal life for very long

It’s a never-ending vicious cycle. The needle was my boss

All explained it as a life-consuming routine

Cory meant: the need to take the drug to keep from going through withdrawal

Question 7

What are the similarities and the differences between prescription opiates and heroin?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both are opiates and highly addictive</td>
<td>Heroin is cut with harmful substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abused in similar manners</td>
<td>Strength of heroin is unpredictable,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily accessible</td>
<td>Heroin is cheaper / no medical use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference in the mind of an addict</td>
<td>Prescription opiates can be used for legitimate purposes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 8

What were the main reasons users switched from prescription pain medication to heroin?

Cost: Heroin is a cheaper substitute

Access to heroin was easy

Question 9

What advice did we get from the interviewees at the end of the film?

“You are not uncool for saying NO”

“It’s not worth it, wish I could do it over/ I would do it different”

“There is help out there, you’ve just got to take it”

“I have been there and done that, I wouldn’t recommend it”

Question 10

Why do you think the FBI and DEA are putting this film out to high school students specifically?

The importance of awareness/to reach people before they get hooked

How a drug culture can create and environment that puts students at risk

Help students discover that they can help each other resist temptation

They have an obligation to stand up and take control of their own culture. Their voice matters