

# Introduction to the Opioid Crisis

**Duration:** 45 Minutes

**Prerequisite:** None

## Objectives

1. Understand the scope of the opioid crisis
2. Understand who opioid addiction impacts and how
3. Recognize why young adults start using opioids
4. Describe the negative effects of using opioids

## Materials

The Opioid Epidemic in the US<sup>1</sup>  
 Opioids on the Quad<sup>2</sup>  
 Poster paper (sticky or tape)  
 Markers  
 Stickers (optional)

1. <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/sites/default/files/inline-images/opioids-infographic-640x495.jpg>

2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/30/education/edlife/opioids-college-recovery-addiction.html>

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

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	STRUCTURE	DURATION
<b>Opening</b>	Discuss The Opioid Epidemic in the US: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you find surprising?</li> <li>• What did you already know?</li> </ul>	<b>Read</b> independently <b>Discuss</b> with a partner <b>Share</b> out with the class	4 mins
<b>New Learning</b>	Read “Opioids on the Quad”, use note taking skills (highlights, notations, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What stood out to you about the data or facts in this article?</li> <li>• What stood out to you about the people in this article?</li> </ul>	<b>Read</b> as a class, small group, partners, or individually. <b>Discuss</b> as a class	12 mins
<b>Activity</b>	<p><i>Note: Learners would benefit from seeing example personas. These can be found through an image search.</i></p> <p><b>At-risk personas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic details</li> <li>• Biography</li> <li>• Personality traits</li> <li>• Motivations and goals</li> <li>• Frustrations</li> <li>• Quote</li> </ul> <p><b>Gallery walk (2 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners may use stickers to mark personality traits they can identify with as they view the persona posters to further cement their connection to the topic.</li> </ul>	<b>Create</b> in small groups	17 mins

SECTION	DESCRIPTION	STRUCTURE	DURATION
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do these people have in common</li> <li>• How are they different from each other?</li> <li>• Can you relate to any of these personas in any way?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “I really want to get good grades...”</li> <li>- “I sometimes do things my friends want to do even though I don’t...”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Discuss</b> as a class	10 mins
<b>Closing</b>	<p>“Great work today! Today we established that the opioid crisis is real and impacts us. We looked at example stories and made personas to really understand the risk factors for opioid use. I’m going to keep these personas up as we learn more about drug misuse and addiction. We may even come back and change or add things as we go along.”</p>	<b>Formalize</b> learning with the whole group	1 mins
<b>Evaluation</b>	<p><b>Exit ticket: 3, 2, 1</b></p> <p>3 things I learned are...</p> <p>2 questions I still have are...</p> <p>1 thing that stuck with me is...</p>	<b>Assess</b> individually	1 mins

**Learners needing support:**

**Learners ready for extensions:**

**Notes for next time:**