

# TOOLBOX TALKS

The Upside of Safety



## Substance Abuse and Opioid Painkiller Use

Over the last decade, overdose deaths have increased significantly across the United States. 79% of adult binge drinkers/heavy drinkers are employed either full or part time. In addition, 66% of illicit drug users are employed full or part time.

### What is addiction?

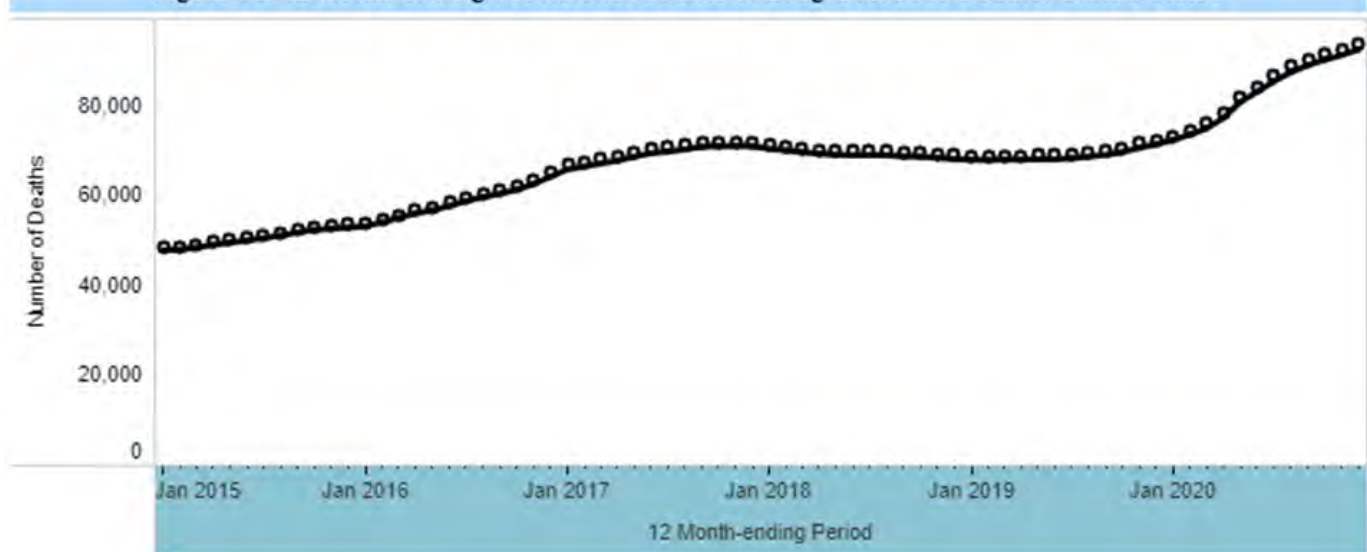
- Addiction is a disease that affects a person's brain and behavior.
- When drugs are misused, their pleasurable effect eventually makes a person want to keep using them.
- Over time, a person's brain changes in certain ways so that they develop a powerful urge to use the drug.

### How could this impact us?

Substance abuse could lead to:

- Higher turnover
- More injuries
- More skipped workdays
- Theft
- Poor decision making
- Slower reaction times
- Difficulty following directions

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: United States



### What can we do?

- Implement Drug-Free Workplace Policies
  - This includes: written policies, drug testing, reasonable suspicion training.
- Lookout for one another on the job site
  - Report to your supervisor if you suspect someone is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We want to get the person the help they need and prevent accidents.

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## ✓ SAFETY CHECK

Have you read your company's drug free workplace policy?

Are you aware of your company's employees assistance program?

Do you know your company's drug testing policy?

Are you aware of the warning signs of addiction?

Company:

Location:

Presenter:

Date:

## ATTENDANCE SHEET

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