It's never a good idea to misuse opioids.

Overdose and death is a very real risk.

BUT IF YOU MISUSE OPIOIDS, staying alive may depend on knowing these overdose risk factors.

LOW TOLERANCE
When your body isn't used to opioids, misusing opioids is very risky.

You can have low tolerance if you rarely use or have never used opioids.

You can also have low tolerance if you try to quit opioids and relapse.

MIXING DRUGS
Mixing other drugs with opioids is dangerous.

Mixing these drugs with opioids is especially likely to cause an overdose.

- Alcohol
- "Benzos" (Xanax, Valium, Klonopin)

FENTANYL
Fentanyl is a white powder or pill that is often sold as heroin or other prescription opioids.

Fentanyl is 50-100 times stronger than heroin.

It's almost impossible to tell the difference between fentanyl and other opioids.

If you unknowingly take fentanyl, what you consider a normal dose will likely cause an overdose.

USING ALONE
Using alone is extremely risky.

It can be hard to admit your use to others for many reasons. But if possible...

It is important to try to put together a support system of people who know you use and who you can rely on for support or in the case of an emergency.

Is misusing prescription opioids different than using heroin?

NO. Misused prescription opioids are simply "heroin in pill form" and come with many of the same risks.
OPIOID OVERDOSE: WHAT TO DO TO SAVE A LIFE

STEP 01
LOOK FOR SYMPTOMS
Blue lips or skin
GASping sounds
Little or no breathing
Unresponsive to yelling or touch

STEP 02
IF YOU SEE SYMPTOMS
CALL 911

STEP 03
PROVIDE CPR
While you wait for the ambulance, you can help get oxygen to the person’s brain with CPR.

STEP 04
IF AVAILABLE, USENALOXONE
Naloxone can reverse an opioid overdose.
You can get it from a doctor or pharmacist.

STEP 05
WAIT FOR HELP
Emergency medical care is always necessary.
(even if you use naloxone)

WHAT DRUGS ARE OPIOIDS?
Examples: Heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, oxycodone, codeine, hydrocodone, morphine, methadone, Demerol, Percocet, Vicodin