**Background**

The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Scientist Category was established in 1945 for doctoral-level officers with scientific training backgrounds (e.g., biomedical, health, behavioral, natural, physical, and social sciences). In addition to collaborating with other officers and civilians to research and disseminate scientific findings on a variety of topics, Scientist officers play key roles in responding to the national opioid overdose epidemic. They have led or participated in multiple local opioid-related epidemiological investigations, partnering with several states and tribal regions, alongside other officers and civilian colleagues (e.g., investigations of fentanyl overdose in Ohio and of HIV infection among people who inject drugs in Massachusetts). Scientist officers are contributing expertise to CDC’s Opioid Rapid Response Teams (ORRTs), developed in partnership between the USPHS, CDC, and other federal partners. The ORRTs provide specialized surge support to communities responding to events such as spikes in opioid overdose deaths or closure of a clinic.

**Spotlight on Scientist Officers Working on the Opioid Overdose Epidemic**

**Scientists by the Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;300 officers</td>
<td>working in:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 agencies</td>
<td>31 states and 14 countries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Surgeon General’s Postcard on Opioids**

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT OPIOID MISUSE?**

**BE SAFE**

Understand the signs of opioid misuse and seek professional help if you or a loved one is struggling. Keep opioids out of reach of children and pets.

**KNOW ADDICTION**

Long-term use of opioids can cause addiction. Addiction is a disease that requires medical treatment. To learn more, visit:

- [Preventing, managing and treating addiction](https://www.health.gov/prediabetes/)
- [Opioid Use Disorder](https://www.drugabuse.gov)

**BE PREPARED**

- Wear a mask when you leave home, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Stay connected with family and friends. Support is crucial.
- Stay physically active. Exercise can help reduce stress.

**Summary**

Scientists by the Numbers.的工作正在发生，科学家们正积极应对全美的阿片类药物过量危机。科学家们在多个领域中发挥着关键作用，包括但不限于：

- **Opioid-related work:** CDC has engaged scientists to support response and mitigation efforts at local, state, and national levels. Scientists have contributed to projects ranging from surveillance and research on opioid overdoses to public health outreach and education.

**Acknowledgments**

SciPAC Visibility subcommittee
SciPAC State of the Scientist Survey

**Contact Info**

Dr. Julie O’Donnell
CDC Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention
404-498-5005
irh8@cdc.gov