

# LET'S HEAL OUR OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Henderson County  
North Carolina



## ***Opioid addiction is devastating North Carolina families***

North Carolina's rate of opioid deaths is 36% above the U.S. average: 12,000 North Carolinians died from opioid overdoses from 1999 – 2016, with 1,953 deaths in 2017 alone.

An estimated 450,000 North Carolinians struggle with opioid addiction – 1 out of 23.

Wilmington, N.C. was ranked #1 in a 2016 study of opioid abuse in U.S. cities.

20% of North Carolina high school students report experimenting with prescription drugs.

*Henderson County families are hit hard by the opioid epidemic.*

*The County Sheriff's Department estimates 3 – 4 deaths monthly from drug overdoses, and links 80 – 85% of crimes in Henderson County to drugs.*

## ***Opioid addiction is a disaster for our economy***

Opioid abuse costs the U.S. economy almost \$56 billion each year.

Opioid-related deaths occur most frequently among 24 – 54 year-olds - prime employment years.

Employer healthcare expense for opioid abusers is almost twice as much as for non-abusers.

**HENDERSON COUNTY**

DEMOCRATS

## Henderson County Democratic Party

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## *Expanding Medicaid can help us in the fight against opioid addiction*

Leading doctors, judges and law enforcement officials agree that drug addiction is a treatable disease.

*Yet 4 out of 5 Americans suffering from drug addiction don't receive treatment because they lack health insurance.*

Expanding Medicaid in North Carolina would bring health insurance to over half a million people who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance (the "coverage gap"). 150,000 of these North Carolinians suffer from opioid addiction and/or mental illness.

## *It's time to support our families:*

- ✓ Expand Medicaid now.
- ✓ Vote for NC Democrats who will support our families.
- ✓ Call 911 if someone is suffering an overdose – then follow the dispatcher's instructions.

### Sources:

1. [www.wilmingtonnc.gov/home/showdocument?id=5561](http://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/home/showdocument?id=5561)
2. <http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com/content/79/3/157.full>
3. League of Women Voters of Henderson County, NC
4. <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2019/03/25/pastors-say-to-address-the-opioid-crisis-expand-medicaid/>
5. <https://www.kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-in-addressing-opioid-epidemic/>
6. <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article231396013.html>