



## Doctor warns of opioid epidemic in West Texas

By [Julia Thatcher](#) | Posted: Thu 11:24 PM, Mar 23, 2017 | Updated: Fri 11:22 AM, Mar 24, 2017

**WEST TEXAS** -- One West Texas doctor says the face of drug abuse is changing.



Drug users today include mothers and teens right here in the Permian Basin, but it's the seemingly innocent way it all starts that has medical experts on alert.

“Three out of every four heroin users started because of an opioid prescription from a doctor,” said Dr. Sudip Bose, an emergency room physician.

He explains that people who are prescribed pain killers have the risk of getting addicted, opening the door to abusing more serious drugs.

“Its quadrupled in the last decade and the demographics that’s gone up in is demographics that were not taking heroin before,” said Dr. Bose.

It could be anyone, from the student athlete or the mom down the street.

“This is a medicine cabinet disease, this is what might be left over in your medicine cabinet when you have strong narcotics after an old injury and this is what's causing an epidemic across America,” said Dr. Bose.

“So don't take those medicines unless you're supposed to take those medicines, don't share those medicines.”

Sometimes pain can be ok, “pain is a normal part of life and if you have an injury that requires these stronger medicines there's going to be a pain when you get off these medicines but that's a lot better than becoming addicted,” said Dr. Bose.

<http://www.cbs7.com/content/news/416995004.html>