

# PAIN-KILLERS

# DON'T

# EXIST.

Long-term pain medications don't kill pain, THEY MASK IT.

#PainkillersDontExist

## PROLONGED USE CAN LEAVE LASTING DAMAGE, INCLUDING ADDICTION.



It's estimated that **7.1 million adults** in England take prescribed opioid or gabapentinoid pain medication<sup>1</sup>.

The number of prescriptions in England and Wales for opioid pain medications has risen dramatically from more than 14 million in 2008 to 23 million in 2018<sup>2</sup> – with **the North East being the biggest culprit**<sup>3</sup>.

Across County Durham over **55,000 prescriptions** for opioids and gabapentinoids are dispensed every month, with an estimated 8,000 patients a month on a risky combination of the two classes<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Public Health England, 2019

<sup>2</sup> Source: Department of Health, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Source: Faculty of Pain Medicine, Royal College of Anaesthetists, 2019

<sup>4</sup> Source: BSA EPACT2, 2019