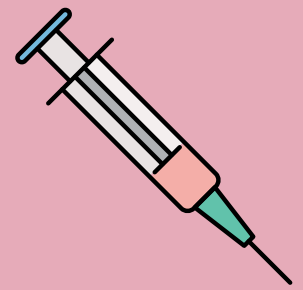


COMBATTING DRUG OVERDOSES IN THE U.S.



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THE FACTS

1. Since 2010, there have been 400,000 opioid-related deaths in the United States¹
2. Injection of fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioids leads not only to higher rates of overdoses, but also HIV and Hepatitis B/C⁸
3. Fentanyl is the most commonly-used drug seen in overdoses in the current wave²
4. Heroin deaths have increased by over five times since 2010⁸
5. Clean needle exchanges allow for safe consumption of such drugs¹

TERMS TO KNOW

FENTANYL

A synthetic opioid that has been increasing in use. While it can be used to treat severe pain, most overdoses come from illegally made fentanyl¹

HEROIN

Form of opioid most commonly injected. Currently illegal in the United States.¹

PRESCRIPTION OPIOID

Prescribed medications used to treat severe pain, including oxycodone, hydrocodone, and methadone¹

THE EPIDEMIC IN NUMBERS:



number of opioid addicts in the U.S. in 2018⁸



approximate overdoses per day in 2018⁸



% increase in Hepatitis C cases from 2010-2016⁸

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

"ADDICTS ARE UNDESERVING OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, THEIR ADDICTION IS THEIR OWN FAULT"

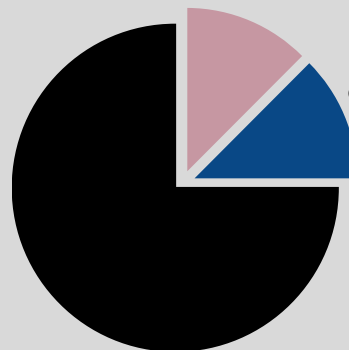
most opioid addictions are the result of over-prescription from providers due to pharmaceutical companies lying about the actual addictive effects of drugs such as hydrocodone and methadone.¹



4 out of 5 Americans won't associate with someone with a drug use disorder⁷

"GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF DRUG ADDICTION IS A WASTE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS"

the epidemic is already costing taxpayers money: every dollar invested in treating the epidemic would save six dollars that would instead be used treating HIV at hospitals²



44% of Americans believe that opioid addiction indicates a lack of willpower or discipline⁴

32% of Americans believe that opioid addiction is a result of a character defect or bad parenting⁴

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

IMPLEMENTATION OF CLEAN INJECTION SITES



1. Clean injection sites are locations where addicts can administer doses safely, under the supervision of trained medical staff ⁵
2. Many countries, including Canada, Australia, and the Netherlands, have already implemented similar policies, with marked success. ⁵
3. Additionally, these are shown to increase participation in drug treatment and rehabilitation programs. ⁵
4. Long-term costs associated with drug use (ambulance, ER, treatment, etc.) decrease as a result of such programs. ⁶

SAFE NEEDLE AND NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION



1. Naloxone is a nasal spray that has been shown to reverse the effects of drug overdoses. ⁴
2. Many police officers are already trained in using Naloxone, however it is difficult for addicts to access them without fearing repercussions of the law. ⁶
3. Some states have taken the extra step of providing clean needles and naloxone kits for free at hospitals and other health clinics. ⁶
4. This has also been shown to decrease HIV and hepatitis rates in states where it has been implemented (including North Carolina) ⁶



CASE STUDY: INDIANA HIV OUTBREAKS ³



from 2011-2015 there was a massive HIV outbreak among drug users in Scott County, Indiana



Governor Mike Pence delayed signing a clean-exchange bill, due to a **MORAL OPPOSITION** to the solution



public health officials believe quicker action would have lead to a **~75%** decrease in the death toll



it was only after the bill was put into effect that the epidemic was brought under control



the CDC warned that over 200 counties are at risk for similar outbreaks if binding legislation is not adopted soon

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