

The Opioid Epidemic: The Need for Health Educators

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Igniting Change and Innovation: The Impact of Health Education

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Protecting Health, Saving Lives—*Millions at a Time*

Defining the Problem



63,600

66%

116



U.S. Opioid Prescriptions: Still High Despite Recent Declines

Too many opioid prescriptions for too many days at too high a dose.



TOO MANY DAYS



Average prescription days supply

INCREASED
33%

from 2006 to 2015

TOO MANY PRESCRIPTIONS



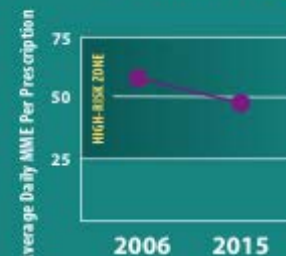
In 2015, there were enough prescriptions for every American to be medicated around the clock for three weeks.

(640 MME per person, which equals 5 mg of hydrocodone every 4 hours)

NATIONWIDE INCONSISTENCIES

The total amount of opioids prescribed (per person for the year 2015) varied widely from county to county.

TOO HIGH A DOSE



A dose of **50 MME or more** per day doubles the risk of opioid overdose death, compared to 20 MME or less.

Average daily MME per person declined nationwide, but is still too high.



1,319 MME

Average of highest 25% of US counties in 2015



203 MME

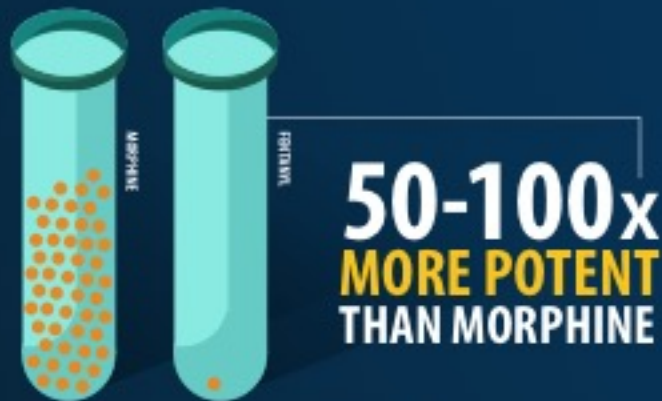
Average of lowest 25% of US counties in 2015



FENTANYL: Overdoses On The Rise



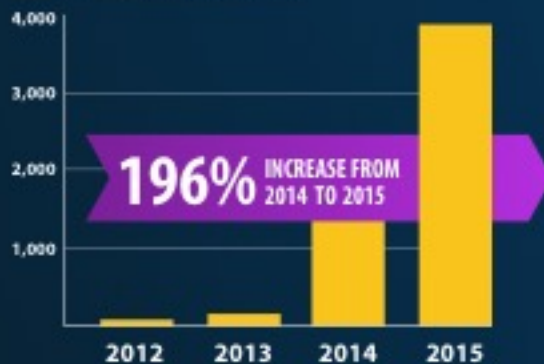
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



SYNTHETIC OPIOID DEATHS ACROSS THE U.S.



Ohio Drug Submissions Testing Positive for Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl



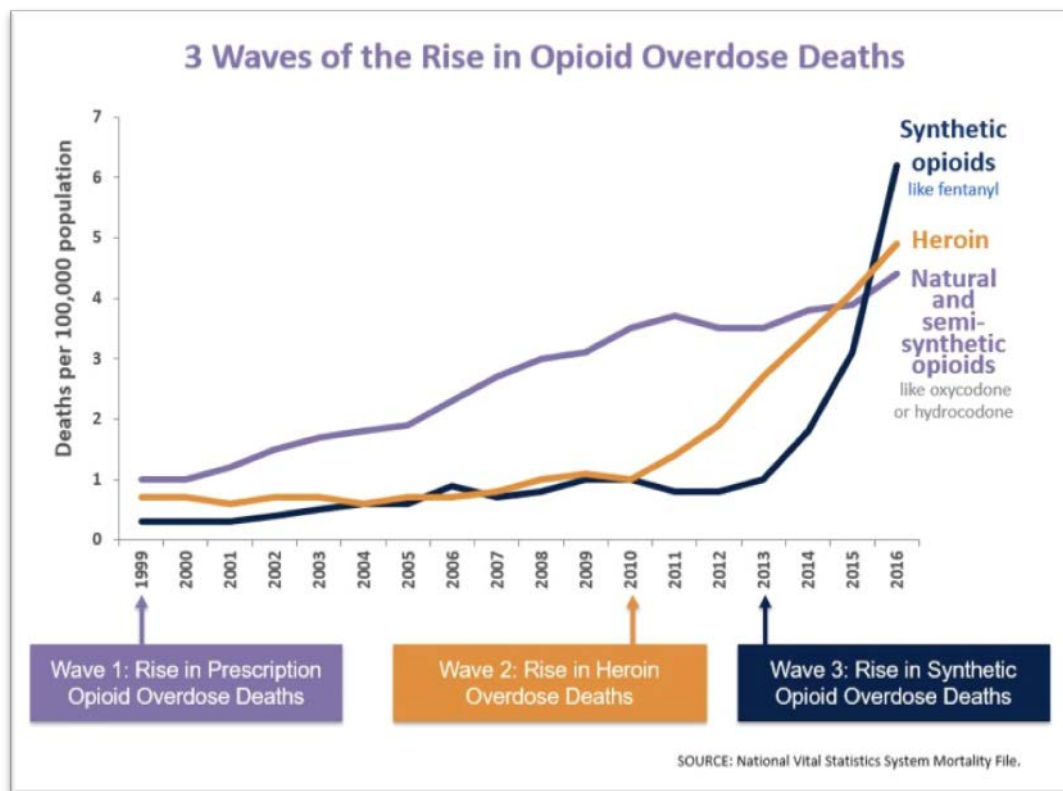
ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Although prescription rates have fallen, overdoses associated with fentanyl have risen dramatically, contributing to a sharp spike in synthetic opioid deaths.



A Brief Review of the Epidemiology

- Key Points
 - Trend
 - Types of Drugs
 - Intentionality of Deaths
 - Other observations
- 2016 Data
 - 64,000 deaths
 - Increases in heroin and fentanyl



Many Ways to Define the Problem

- Supply: Manufacture
- Supply: Prescribing
- Supply: Illicit Drug Network

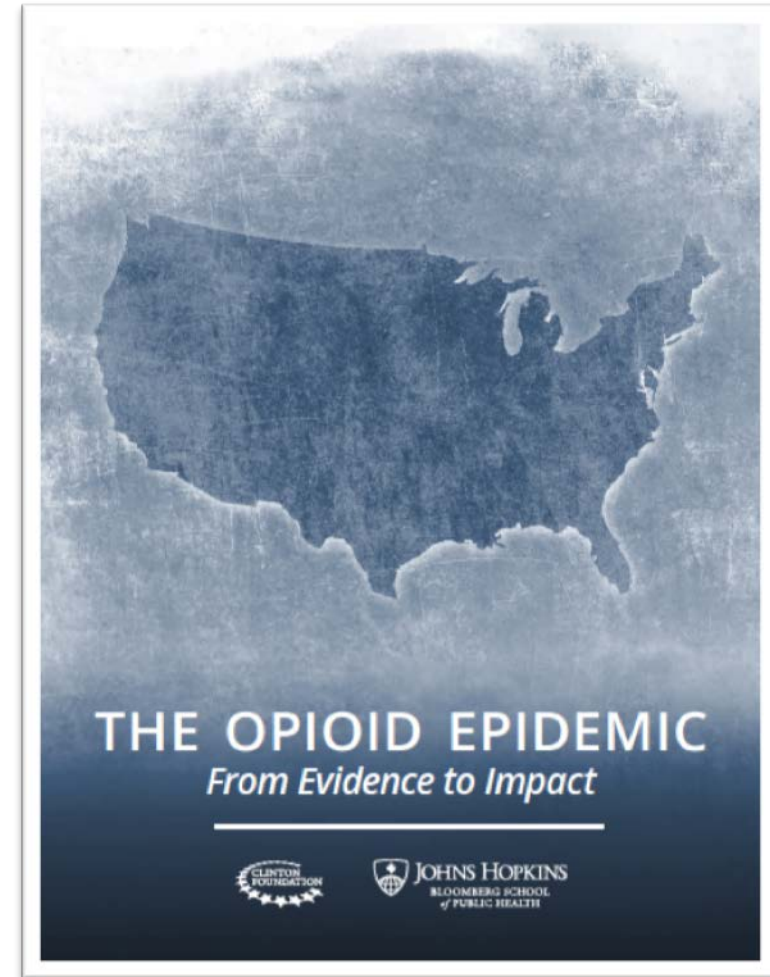
- Demand: Medicating Diseases of Despair
- Demand: Risk Taking among Youth, Others



Assessing the Evidence



1. Optimizing PDMPs
2. Standardizing Clinical Guidelines
3. Engaging PBMs and Pharmacies
4. Implementing Innovative Engineering Strategies
5. Engaging Patients and the Public
6. Improving Surveillance
7. Treating Opioid Use Disorders
8. Improving Naloxone Access and Use
9. Expanding Harm Reduction Strategies
10. Combatting Stigma



Select Policy Responses



Current Policy Activity

Federal Proposals

- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA 2.0)
- Representative Cummings Senator Warren proposal
- Surgeon General's Advisory on Naloxone

Select State and Local Proposals: Harm Reduction

- Syringe exchange
- Naloxone distribution
- Supervised consumption sites



A Need for Health Education



Considering Policy Environment

A Challenge:

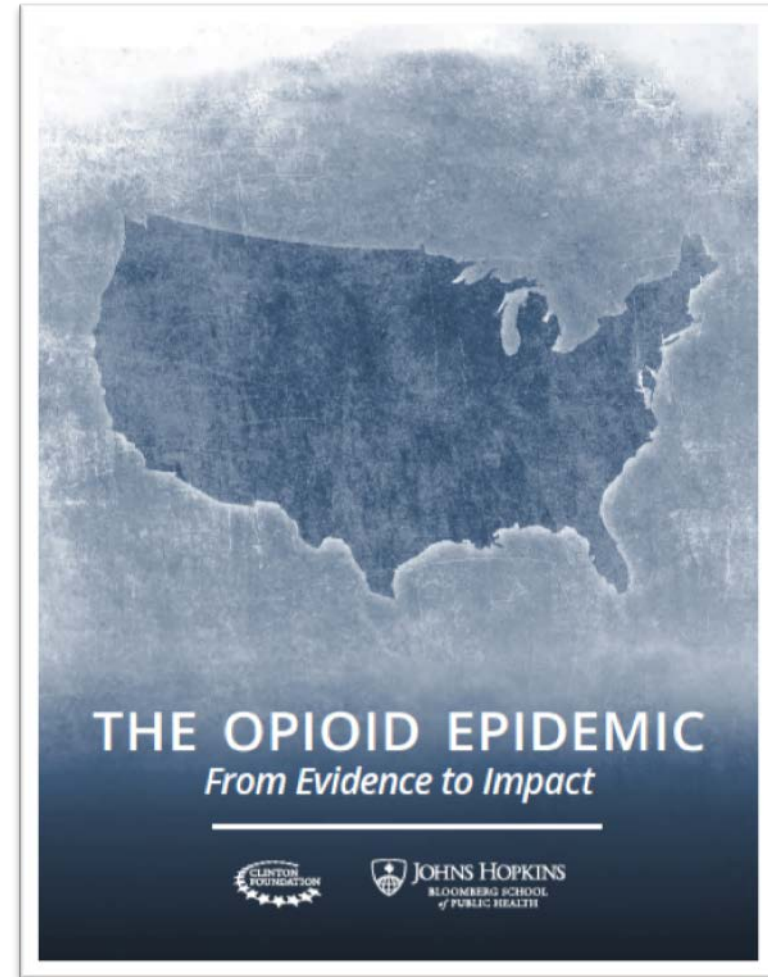
Shifting the frame from criminal to medical

Responding to the Challenge:

Education and Communication



1. Optimizing PDMPs
2. Standardizing Clinical Guidelines
3. Engaging PBMs and Pharmacies
4. Implementing Innovative Engineering Strategies
5. Engaging Patients and the Public
6. Improving Surveillance
7. Treating Opioid Use Disorders
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THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS

IN 2016...



116

People died every day from opioid-related drug overdoses



11.5 m

People misused prescription opioids¹



42,249

People died from overdosing on opioids²



2.1 million

People misused prescription opioids for the first time¹



2.1 million

People had an opioid use disorder¹



17,087

Deaths attributed to overdosing on commonly prescribed opioids²



948,000

People used heroin¹



19,413

Deaths attributed to overdosing on synthetic opioids other than methadone²



170,000

People used heroin for the first time¹



15,469

Deaths attributed to overdosing on heroin²



504 billion

In economic costs³

Sources: ¹ 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, ² Mortality in the United States, 2016 NCHS Data Brief No. 293, December 2017, ³ CEA Report: The underestimated cost of the opioid crisis, 2017

Updated January 2018. For more information, visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/opioids/>

