



The United States Opioid Epidemic

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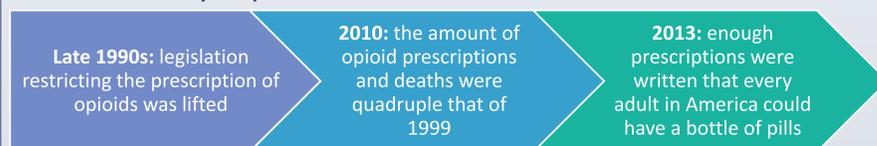


Introduction

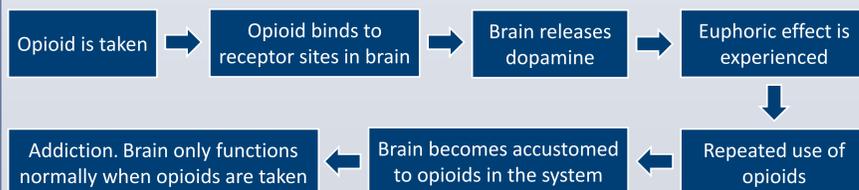
Opioid addiction and death among individuals in the United States is a rising problem. In 2015 alone, a total of 33,091 people died as a result of opioids, representing a 300% increase since 1999. Opioid overdose deaths have now surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of accidental death. While other areas of the world are experiencing similar problems, it is most concentrated in the United States, where 80% of the world's opioids are consumed. The opioid epidemic also has an impact on local communities, such as Rochester, New York. This has led to calls for the development and implementation of strategies to fight the opioid epidemic at both the national and local levels

The Problem

Increased Availability of Opioids



Addiction



Increased Heroin Use

- 3 of 4 heroin users started out abusing prescription opioids



- Heroin risks include sharing needles, injecting in private, and the mixing of heroin and fentanyl (an opioid with strong effects intended or severe pain) without the buyer knowing
- Fentanyl has been a significant factor in the increase of overdose deaths

Lack of Treatment

- Due to lack of funding, only about half of addicts who need treatment receive it
- Insurance companies do not always cover treatment
- There are not enough treatment centers to meet the demand
- Treatment centers that do exist can only treat a few hundred addicts at one time

Demographics



Although these are the biggest risk factors, heroin use is increasing for both men and women and adults of almost all ages. Overdose deaths among women grew more than five times from 1999 to 2010.

The Problem in Rochester

- The opioid epidemic is affecting the Rochester, NY area
- In 2014, there were a total of 60 opioid related deaths in Monroe County, a 76% increase from 2010 and a 200% increase from 2003
- It is challenging to obtain reliable data on opioid deaths in Rochester
 - Variation in the numbers presented by various sources
 - No precise method for obtaining data on opioid deaths

Opioid Deaths and Death Rates in New York State Counties

County	Number of Opioid Deaths	Rate per 100,000
Albany	23	7.5
Broome	17	8.6
Erie	78	8.4
Monroe	60	8.0
Onondaga	37	7.9

- Rates of opioid deaths were calculated using data on opioid deaths from the NY State Department of Health and 2014 census estimates by county
- Some argue that the opioid problem in Rochester is not as bad as it is in other NY cities
 - There is no certainty of this without reliable, standardized data
- Based on the data that is available, Monroe County is similar to other counties in terms of the rate of opioid deaths and is not significantly better off than other counties

Possible Solutions

Local Solution

The Monroe County Opioid Task Force

- Involves multi-sector cooperation



Primary efforts:

- Eliminating insurance barriers to treatment
- Educating the public
- Supporting the passage of opioid legislation

Pain Management Education

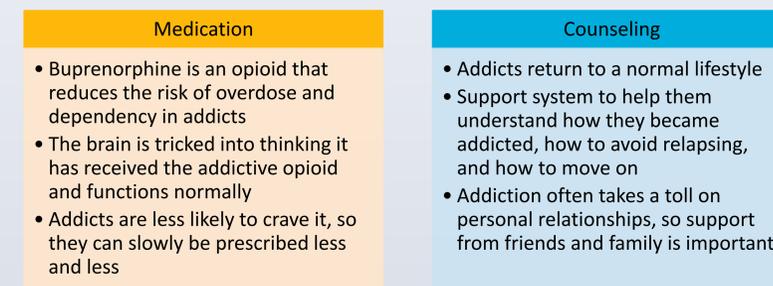
- Most opioid addicts started out on prescription pain relievers
- Prescriptions are sometimes written for unnecessary circumstances
 - For pain that does not warrant opioid pain relief
 - For longer durations than necessary
- Healthcare providers would be required to attend training to learn which types of pain warrant opioids
- Monitoring systems could track patient medical history and dosages prescribed by doctors

Increased Availability of Narcan

- Narcan is a drug administered to individuals who have overdosed in order to save them
- Many police officers now carry Narcan
- By making Narcan available without a prescription, family and friends of addicts could save their loved ones from death

Expansion of Treatment

- More successful treatment is needed so all addicts can receive it
- Successful treatment usually incorporates both the use of medication and counseling



Supervised Injection Sites

- Supervised injection sites are safe locations where addicts can go to inject heroin
- Clean needles and medical staff are available
- Narcan is on hand in case of overdose
- Addicts are not forced to inject in private where no one is around to administer Narcan

Conclusion

- The opioid epidemic is a serious problem that requires sophisticated solutions
- Better education and monitoring of healthcare providers, increased availability of drugs that prevent overdose, expansion of treatment and supervised injection sites could all potentially reduce opioid addiction and prevent overdose deaths
- Local communities are beginning to examine these options in hopes of eventually fighting the problem on a national level

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