

THE FINAL FIX

USEFUL FACTS & FIGURES

- **Every day, more than 130 people in the United States die after overdosing on opioids.**
- **In 2017, the Trump administration declared a “public health emergency”, calling the epidemic “worst drug crisis in American history”. But the declaration did not come with additional funding to treat or prevent drug addiction.**
- **“Over the past 2 or 3 years there has been an increase in fatalities from the use of psychostimulant drugs. The number of deaths from methamphetamine has increased five-fold over a period of six years. Similarly, deaths from cocaine are going up. The reality is that people are now dying not just from opioids, but from mixtures of drugs and stimulant drugs. We do not have effective medications to treat methamphetamine addiction as we do for opioid use disorders. We also don’t have an overdose reversal as we have with naloxone. So, in that respect, it is more challenging.”**
- **Dr Nora Volkow, Director of NIH’s National Institute on Drug Abuse – 21st April 2020**
- **In 2019, multiple opioid-related lawsuits have been filed against the giant pharmaceutical companies by states, counties, cities and tribes. (CDC)**

- **More than 67,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2018, making it a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Of those deaths, almost 70% involved a prescription or illicit opioid. (CDC)**
- **Opioids were involved in 47,600 overdose deaths in 2017 (67.8% of all drug overdose deaths). (CDC) 19.7 million adult Americans misused opioids in 2018, including 9.9 million prescription pain reliever abusers and 808,000 heroin users. (CDC)**
- **Most people who die from opioid overdoses are aged 25-55. (NPR)**
- **Fentanyl is up to 100 times more powerful than morphine. Just a small dose can be deadly. (CDC)**
- **Individuals who are addicted to prescription opioids are 40 times more likely to become addicted to heroin. (CDC)**
- **According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 19.7 million American adults (aged 12 and older) battled a substance use disorder in 2017.1**
- **In 2017, 8.5 million American adults suffered from both a mental health disorder and a substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorders.1**
- **In 2017, more than 47,000 Americans died as a result of an opioid overdose, including prescription opioids, heroin, and illicitly manufactured fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid.**
- **The opioid death rate reached its recent peak of 14.9 deaths per 100,000 people in 2017, with little sign of true progress since then.**

- **The rising overdose numbers make the drug epidemic deadlier than gun violence, car crashes or Aids, which have never killed as many people in a single year.**
- **Roughly 21 to 29 percent of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse them.**
- **Between 8 and 12 percent develop an opioid use disorder.**
- **An estimated 4 to 6 percent who misuse prescription opioids transition to heroin.**
- **About 80 percent of people who use heroin first misused prescription opioids.**
- **Opioid overdoses increased 30 percent from July 2016 through September 2017 in 52 areas in 45 states.**
- **The Midwestern region saw opioid overdoses increase 70% from July 2016 to September 2017.**
- **Opioid overdoses in large cities increased by 54 percent in 16 states.**
- **The highest death rates came in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.**
- **Across the country deaths have continued to rise, despite efforts to tackle the spread of opioid addiction through education, treatment and law enforcement measures.**
- **The CDC's statistics are preliminary, because some deaths are still under investigation.**

- **A majority of the deaths – nearly 49,000 – was caused by opioids. The biggest driver was the dangerous synthetic opioid fentanyl, which killed more than 29,000 people, followed by heroin and other drugs.**
- **Fentanyl is 80-100 times stronger than morphine.**
- **Fentanyl was the cause of death for the singer Prince in 2016.**
- **Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed by states, counties and cities against opioid manufacturers including Purdue Pharmaceuticals LP, Endo International plc, Mallinckrodt and Johnson & Johnson, seeking to hold them responsible for contributing to the epidemic.**

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