The Opioid Overdose Epidemic
CDC RESPONSE

Congressional Briefing

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Rapid Increase in Drug Overdose Death - Rates by County

2003

2013

2008

2017

SOURCE: NCHS Data Visualization Gallery
Three Waves of the Opioid Overdose Epidemic in the United States

**Wave 1**
Prescription opioid deaths climb in the late 1990s

**Wave 2**
Heroin deaths rise in 2010

**Wave 3**
Synthetic opioid deaths – illicit fentanyl and analogs - skyrocket in 2013

Almost 400,000 people have died from an opioid overdose since 1999

**SOURCE:** National Vital Statistics System Mortality File
Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Cocaine and Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential in the US

Kariisa, Scholl, Wilson, Seth, Hoots  May 2019

Death Rates
Percent Increase from 2010 - 2017
- Cocaine Overall 231
- Cocaine without ANY Opioids 83
- Psychostimulant Overall 433
- Psychostimulant without ANY Opioids 300

Deaths
Percent of Deaths 2017
- Cocaine with ANY Opioid 72.7
- Psychostimulant with ANY Opioid 50.4

Opioid Deaths Nested in a Broadening Drug Overdose Epidemic...
Number of opioid overdose deaths by opioid type in 25 states from January to June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Opioid deaths with information on involved opioids, Jan–Jun 2018, no. (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total opioid overdose deaths</td>
<td>13,415 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid drug class or drug involved in opioid deaths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any prescription opioid</td>
<td>3,853 (28.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any illicit opioid</td>
<td>11,124 (82.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any suspected IMF</td>
<td>9,105 (67.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any suspected heroin</td>
<td>5,281 (39.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any fentanyl analog</td>
<td>2,676 (20.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any U-series</td>
<td>63 (0.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common mutually exclusive combinations of opioids involved in opioid deaths</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid combinations co-involving IMF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF with no other illicit opioids</td>
<td>4,320 (32.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF with heroin</td>
<td>2,566 (19.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF with fentanyl analogs</td>
<td>1,172 (8.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF with heroin and fentanyl analogs</td>
<td>1,008 (7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit opioid combinations not co-involving IMF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin with no other illicit opioid</td>
<td>1,534 (11.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl analogs with no other illicit opioid</td>
<td>312 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription opioid with no illicit opioid</td>
<td>2,291 (17.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other combinations of opioids</td>
<td>212 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: IMF is illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Refer to source for other footnotes.
An Everybody Problem

The opioid overdose epidemic is impacting most populations in America now

From 2016 to 2017

- Opioid overdose deaths increased among males and females and among persons aged ≥25 years, non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics.
- The largest relative change occurred among blacks (25%), and the largest absolute rate increase was among males aged 25–44 years (4.6 per 100,000).
- The largest relative change among age groups was for persons aged ≥65 years (17%).
- Counties in medium metro areas experienced the largest absolute rate increase (1.9 per 100,000).

Source: Scholl, Seth, Kariisa, Wilson, Baldwin (2019)
Drug overdose deaths increasing across America from 2013 to 2017

- The number of opioid deaths in the United States almost doubled from 25,052 to 47,600
- A total of 35 states had a statistically significant increase in their drug overdose death rate.
- WV had the highest absolute rate at both time points.
- DC, WV, OH, PA, NH, MD and ME had the largest absolute rate increase – each over 20 deaths per 100,000 people
- The death rate over doubled in 10 areas – ND, DC, ME, MD, NH, PA, OH, NJ, FL, MA.
- For context, there were 8,050 opioid deaths in 1999.

Source: Scholl, Seth, Kariisa, Wilson, Baldwin (2019); NCHS Data Brief 329 (2019)
2019
How We Got Here?

1. Pain Being Designated The Fifth Vital Sign
2. Under Appreciation of Addictive Potential of Prescription Opioids
3. Aggressive Marketing of Prescription Opioids to Clinicians
4. Clinicians Who Ran Pill Mills that Profited from Over Prescribing
5. Sophisticated Actions of Drug Traffickers to Open New Heroin Markets
6. Potency and Ease of Making, Trafficking, and Profiting from Illicit Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs

UNITED STATES
OPIOID OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC
CDC North Star

Reduce opioid overdose deaths and related harms right now AND address the drivers that put individuals at risk for substance misuse, abuse and overdose.
CDC’s Approach to Opioid Overdose Prevention

- Conduct surveillance and research
- Empower consumers to make safe choices
- Partner with public safety
- Build state, local, and tribal capacity
- Support providers, health systems, and payers
Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

- Integrates previous funding into one announcement
- $300M per year for 3 years
- Seamless integration of data and prevention programs
- 66 jurisdictions funded, including 47 states and 16 hard-hit cities and counties
Getting more timely, comprehensive, localized, and actionable data

- **Morbidity**: ED data with greater coverage (>75% of visits)
  - Suspected all drug, opioid, heroin, stimulant overdoses required.
  - Leverage both syndromic and hospital billing data.

- **Mortality**: SUDORs will collect data on all drug overdoses
  - More funding to medical examiners/coroners
  - Preliminary counts of opioid-involved deaths based on clinical and scene evidence (OPTIONAL)

- **Innovative Projects**
  
  Such as:
  - Tracking linkage to care
  - Local health surveillance
  - Data linkage
CDC’s Overarching Goal for PDMPs
Maximize and Enhance the Use

- Increase the timeliness and comprehensiveness of data
- Incentivize health care providers to use the PDMP
- Actively manage PDMP data to monitor practice
- Integrate PDMP data into clinical workflow
- Provide clinical decision support for clinicians
- Leverage PDMPs for public health surveillance

Example Prevention Strategy
OD2A
Integrating State and Community Action

20 Percent of Funds Must Go To Local Level
To Spur Innovation and Ensure Support
Reaches Hardest Hit Communities