Drug-Related Mortality, 2006-2015

Data Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Cause of Death Files, 2006-2015 (pooled)
U.S. Total Drug, Suicide, and Alcohol Deaths, 1999-2015

Data: CDC Wonder Multiple Cause of Death Files; https://wonder.cdc.gov/
Chart: Shannon Monnat, smm67@psu.edu

157,655 total US deaths in 2015
1,932,325 total US deaths 1999-2015

691 total RI deaths in 2015
7,604 total RI deaths 1999-2015

States with Highest Rates in 1999-2001
Deaths per 100,000 Population (age-adjusted)

- District of Columbia
- New Mexico
- Maryland
- Nevada
- Arizona
- Utah
- Connecticut
- New Jersey
- Washington
- Pennsylvania

States with Highest Rates in 2013-2015
Deaths per 100,000 Population (age-adjusted)

- West Virginia
- Kentucky
- Ohio
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- New Mexico
- Pennsylvania
- Massachusetts
- Delaware
- Michigan

Data Source: CDC Wonder Underlying Cause of Death Files, 1999-2015
Chart: Shannon Monnat, smm67@psu.edu
Excludes intentional drug-overdoses which are included in the suicide category
Rhode Island Drug, Alcohol, and Suicide Mortality Rates, 1999-2015

Deaths per 100,000 Population

1999: 4.4
2000: 6.6
2001: 9.1
2002: 11.9
2003: 11.2
2004: 11.9
2005: 15.0
2006: 17.8
2007: 19.0
2008: 18.2
2009: 16.0
2010: 14.0
2011: 12.0
2012: 10.0
2013: 9.0
2014: 8.0
2015: 26.9

Data: CDC Wonder Multiple Cause of Death Files; https://wonder.cdc.gov/
Chart: Shannon Monnat, smmonnat@Maxwell.syr.edu
Opioids are Largest Contributor to Drug-Related Deaths (when Specific Drug is Identified)

Percentage^ of all Drug-Related Deaths Involving Specific Drugs

Data Source: CDC Wonder Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2015
Chart: Shannon Monnat, smm67@psu.edu

*sum of all drug-specific deaths adds to more than 100% because multiple drugs can be involved in a death
Figures include intentional drug overdoses

^Opioid analgesics are natural or semi-synthetic opioids (e.g., oxycodone, hydrocodone)
Synthetic opioids include fentanyl

*synthetic opioids include fentanyl
Heroin is Involved in More Young Adult Overdoses, Prescription Opioids are Involved in More Middle/Older Age Overdoses

Data Source: CDC Wonder Multiple Cause of Death Files; Chart: Shannon Monnat, smm67@psu.edu
Note: Deaths involving other drugs and unknown drug classifications not show in chart; multiple drugs can be involved in a death
*Synthetic opioids include fentanyl
Percentage of all deaths involving opioids has increased for both males and females across all age groups.

**Data Source:** CDC WONDER, Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2015
Substantial Demographic Variation

**FIGURE 1. MORTALITY FROM DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND SUICIDE VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY BY RACE AND SEX (AGES 25–54)**

![Bar chart showing mortality rates from drugs, alcohol, and suicide by race, sex, and age group from 2000-2014.](image)


[http://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1291&context=carsey](http://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1291&context=carsey)
FIGURE 2. SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF DEATHS ARE DUE TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND SUICIDE, 2010–2014

Percentage of all deaths caused by drugs, alcohol, or suicide

- **Age 25–34**
- **Age 35–44**
- **Age 45–54**

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<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Blue: Age 25–34
- Purple: Age 35–44
- Light Blue: Age 45–54

Source: CDC Underlying Cause of Death files
How Did We Get Here?

The Spark
Why are Opioids so Addictive?

“A drug is a drug is a drug... ...and then there are opioids.”

– Fred Holmquist

Director at Dan Anderson Renewal Center for Addiction Treatment and Recovery

Prescription Opioids Include:

• Fentanyl (Duragesic®)
• Hydrocodone (Vicodin®)
• Oxycodone (OxyContin®)
• Oxymorphone (Opana®)
• Propoxyphene (Darvon®)
• Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®)
• Meperidine (Demerol®)
• Diphenoxylate (Lomotil®)
Pain as the Fifth Vital Sign & the Introduction of OxyContin
The Marketing of OxyContin

- Targeted the highest opioid prescribers across the country.
- Bonus systems for sales reps ranged from $15,000 to nearly $240,000 ($40 million total in 2001).
- Distributed 34,000 “starter” coupons.
- Branded promotional items for physicians (stuffed toys, hats, CDs, tools).

The Pain Revolution – Opioid Prescriptions Surge

- 2 million Americans abuse or are dependent on Rx opioids.
- Approximately 25% of non-cancer patients who receive Rx opioids long-term struggle with addiction.
Kentucky sues 'hillbilly heroin' maker

Updated 10/4/2007 2:16 PM | Comment

America’s pill-popping capital

Welcome to Kermit, W.Va. -- ground zero of the prescription drug epidemic

EVELYN NIEVES

Mingo County serves as West Virginia's drug den

Posted: Nov 22, 2013 3:40 PM EST
Updated: Dec 22, 2013 3:40 PM EST
How Did We Get Here?

The Kindling
Mortality Rates are Higher in Counties with More Economic, Family, and Social Distress

Mean County-Level Drug, Alcohol, and Suicide Mortality Rate (2006-15)

- Poverty Rate
- Disability Rate
- Percent Unemployed
- Uninsured Rate
- Single Parent Families
- Percent w/ < 4-year College Degree

- Counties with Lowest Distress (Q1)
- Counties with Highest Distress (Q4)
What’s Going on with Whites?

Non-College Educated Whites are Far Less Positive about their Relative Standard of Living than are Blacks and Hispanics

“There is no group of Americans more pessimistic than working-class whites.” – J.D. Vance, Hillbilly Elegy

“This was not new; it had been happening for fifteen years. And there was more to it than drugs. This scourge was...connected to the conflation of big forces: economics and marketing, poverty and prosperity. Forgotten places of America acted like the canaries in those now-shuttered Appalachian coal mines. Just no one in the country listened much until more respectable types sounded the same alarm.” – Sam Quinones

“Reflects social conditions that prevailed decades prior, but dynamics playing out now.” - Jenn Beam Dowd, 10/03/17
“Years of decline in the blue-collar economy manifested themselves in the material prospects of Middletown’s residents. The Great Recession, and the not-great recovery that followed, has hastened Middletown’s downward trajectory. But there was something almost spiritual about the cynicism of the community at large, something that went much deeper than a short-term recession.” – J.D. Vance, Hillbilly Elegy

“Since 1980, virtually all those I talked with felt on shaky economic ground. It was a story of unfairness and anxiety, stagnation and slippage—a story in which shame was the companion to need.” – Arlie Hochschild
Landscapes of Despair – Luzerne County, PA

- Manufacturing jobs declined from 42,000 to 19,000 since 1980 (55% decline).
- Median household income has remained stagnant since 1980.
- Above average poverty, unemployment, and disability rates
- Chronic out-migration of young adults
- Over past 15 years, drug overdoses tripled and suicides by causes other than drugs doubled.
Disconnection, Dislocation, and Lack of Meaning

VENTURE • MENTAL HEALTH

Chronic Loneliness Is a Modern-Day Epidemic
Long-term Demographic Implications

The Lonely Women of the Rust Belt - The Atlantic

'All the Men Here Are Either on Drugs or Unemployed'

The disappearance of manufacturing and the rise of opioid abuse has hit men in the Rust Belt hard. That's meant women are left to pick up the pieces.

ALANA SEMUEL | MAY 9, 2017 | BUSINESS

BPEA ARTICLE

Where have all the workers gone? An inquiry into the decline of the U.S. labor force participation rate

Alan B. Krueger - Thursday, September 7, 2017

Hiring Hurdle: Finding Workers Who Can Pass a Drug Test

By JACKIE CALMES MAY 17, 2016

The opioid crisis is straining the nation’s foster-care systems

White Deaths Exceed Births in One-Third of U.S. States

November 29, 2016

By: Rogelio Saenz, Kenneth M. Johnson
Where do we go from here?

• We can’t Narcan our way out of this!
• We can’t treat our way out of this.
• The problem is bigger than opioids
• No single solution
Sole Emphasis on the Medical Model as THE Fix is a Downstream Approach!

“There I am standing by the shore of a swiftly flowing river and I hear the cry of a drowning man. So I jump into the river, put my arms around him, pull him to shore and apply artificial respiration. Just when he begins to breathe, there is another cry for help. So I jump into the river, reach him, pull him to shore, apply artificial respiration, and then just as he begins to breathe, another cry for help. So back in the river again, reaching, pulling, applying, breathing, and then another yell. Again and again, without end, goes the sequence. You know, I am so busy jumping in, pulling them to shore, applying artificial respiration, that I have no time to see who is upstream pushing them all in.”

Where do we go from here?

Individual’s opportunities, choices, behaviors, health, and well-being do not manifest in a vacuum. They exist within the context of larger social structures: family, the economy, educational institutions, health care systems, political systems, and community.
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The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of these organizations.

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