

Opioid Addiction

The vast scope of opioid abuse in America has made this one of the largest public health issues today. The focus of our project is on solutions to improve the lives of those affected, not on blame.

The Scale of the Issue; According to the CDC...

- From 1999 to 2017, more than 700,000 people have died from a drug overdose.
- Around 68% of the more than 70,200 drug overdose deaths in 2017 involved an opioid.
- In 2017, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioids and illegal opioids like heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl) was 6 times higher than in 1999.
- On average, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.



Understanding the Issue

An important thing to keep in mind when addressing this issue is that the individuals struggling with addiction are its greatest victims. This is a social and medical issue where the objective is providing help to those negatively affected, not a crime and punishment issue targeting the victims.

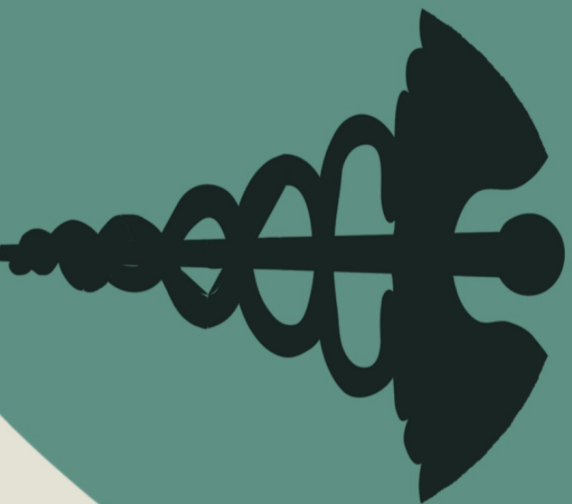
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www.loremipsumdolorsit

What you can do

The national hotline for help with addiction is: 1-844-289-0879.

The goal of this project and those who wish to address the issue at an individual level is to educate, communicate with, and encourage those who have been affected by addiction.



Further Information

For those who wish to do further research information can be found online at several places including the CDC, The National Institute on Drug Abuse, The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, the White House website, and the Virginia Department of health. The links to these resources can be found below in the order listed.

- *<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>
- *<https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>
- *<https://drugfree.org/article/action-plan-in-the-face-of-the-opioid-epidemic/>
- *<https://www.whitehouse.gov/opioids/>
- *<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/opioid-data/>

Nobody is past the point of recovering

“My brain felt like it was rewired. My body, mind and soul. It’s a day at a time. I can do anything for a day. Once I bought into that and made some other friends, things started to change for me.”

— Jim Pietrowski, 57,
Pennsylvania

“There was a push factor, which was the misery and the self-hatred and the depression and the cops, and then there was a pull factor, which was this amazing hope from this community of people who I knew understood me in a way nobody else in the world could.”

— Matt Statman, 48, Michigan

Sinha, S., Lieberman, Z., Davis, L., Harlan, J., & Taylor, R. (2018, December 19).

Heroin Addiction Explained: How Opioids Hijack the Brain. Retrieved December 2, 2019, from

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/us/addiction-heroin-opioids.html>.