



Timeline of the Opioid Epidemic in America



A Brief History of the Events Leading to One of America's Biggest Public Health Crises

1995

Recognizing + Treating Pain

American Pain Society Quality of Care Committee creates concept of pain as 5th vital sign, adopted by Veterans Health Administration [1]

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves pain killer OxyContin as a safe alternative to combination opioids [2]



2000

Identifying Pain

Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) encourages adoption of a 10-point scale for pain [4]



2004

Undertreating Pain

Federation of State Medical Boards recommends sanctioning doctors who undertreat pain [3]



2009

Retracting Recommendations + Growing Concerns

JCAHO removes requirement to assess all patients for pain [4]

U.S. patients consume 99% of world's hydrocodone and 81% of oxycodone [6,8]



2013

A New Problem

Over 27,000 babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) [10]



1998

Opioid Prescribing

Federation of State Medical Boards releases policy assuring doctors would not face regulatory action for prescribing narcotics, even in large quantities, for medical treatment [3]



2002

Increases in Opioids

In 5 years, prescriptions increase
- Oxycodone by 402%
- Morphine by 73%
- Hydromorphone by 96% [5,6]



2007

Legal Action

Purdue Pharma sued by FDA, fined \$634.5 million for misleading advertisements, misrepresenting risk of addictive properties of OxyContin [6,7]



2011

Identifying the Problem

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declares overdoses due to painkillers reached epidemic levels [9]



2014

Greater Urgency Develops

Opioid overdose deaths increase 200% from 2000 [8]



2015



Fighting NAS and Opioids

"Protecting Our Infants Act" passed to direct CDC and Department of Health and Human Services to develop strategies for combating NAS [11]

2016



Changing Pain Treatment

CDC guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain with new emphasis on exercise, behavioral treatments, and over-the-counter pain relievers [8]

2017



Quantifying the Problem

CDC releases 2016 data
- 116 people died every day from opioid-related drug overdoses
- 11.5 million people misused prescription opioids [13]

2/2018



Continued Efforts

"Public Health Emergency" designation renewed by Department of Health and Human Services, \$6 billion of new funding for prevention of and law enforcement against opioid abuse approved [11]

10/2018



A Legislative Win

"Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act" passed including polices developed to address multifaceted impacts of opioids on families and communities and provisions focused on maternal-child health [11]



2016

Domino Effect

American Medical Association drops pain as 5th vital sign [12]



2016

More Legislative Support

"Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act" passed to address multiple aspects of the opioid crisis [11]



2017

Public Health Emergency

President Trump declares opioid epidemic a 90 day "Public Health Emergency" but stops short of declaring "National State of Emergency" [14,15]



4/2018

Working Towards Change

Multiple bills introduced to Congressional committees to finalize reporting related to the "Protecting Out Infants Act" and mandate development of educational materials, guidelines, and recommendations from the Department of Health and Human Services [11]



Now

The Battle Continues

Americans including mothers, fathers, infants, families, and communities still struggle daily with ripple effects of the opioid epidemic

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