The Opioid Epidemic:
Rx Pain Relievers, Heroin and Synthetics

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Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illicit drug heroin as well as the licit prescription pain relievers oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, fentanyl and others.

Opioids are chemically related and interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the brain and nervous system to produce pleasurable effects and relieve pain.
Drug Deaths in America are Rising Faster than Ever – New York Times, June 5, 2017

Preliminary data suggests drug deaths in 2016 could range from 59,000-65,000 in US

52,404 drug deaths in 2015 (record)

33,091 from Opioids

*Estimate based on preliminary data
Opioid Crisis in US

- Public health officials have called the current opioid epidemic the worst drug crisis in American history, killing more than 33,000 people in 2015. Overdose deaths were nearly equal to the number of deaths from car crashes. In 2015, for the first time, deaths from heroin alone surpassed gun homicides.

New York Times, Inside a Killer Drug Epidemic: A Look at America’s Opioid Crisis, Jan. 6, 2017
52,404 lethal drug overdose deaths in 2015

- **33,091** were from opioids
- **20,101** – prescription pain relievers
- **12,990** – heroin

American Society of Addiction Medicine, Opioid Addiction 2016 Facts and Figures
This Generation’s AIDS Crisis?

- At its peak in 1995, the AIDS epidemic claimed 51,000 US lives

- Again, 52,404 drug deaths in 2015

- More projected in 2016
  - Majority from Opioids
Opioids drive continued increase in drug overdose deaths

Drug overdose deaths increase for 11th consecutive year

**Drugs Deaths on the Rise in the US**

- 6,100 in 1980
- 16,849 in 1999 (4,030 opioid analgesics)
- 36,500 in 2008
- 38,329 in 2010 (16,651 opioid analgesics)
- 43,982 in 2013 (16,235 opioid analgesics)
- 47,055 in 2014 (18,893 opioid analgesics)
- 52,404 in 2015 (33,091 opioid analgesics)

In 2012 the number-one cause of death in 17 US states was prescription drug abuse  
(Source: American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians)
Overdoses now leading cause of death of Americans under 50


- 790 AZ residents dead from opioid overdoses in 2016
Overdoses now leading cause of death of Americans under 50
Last week in AZ...

- 191 opioid overdoses
- 15 deaths
- 18 babies exposed
- 102 Narcan doses (overdose reversal drug)

Arizona Department of Health Services, June 26, 2017
AZ Statewide Opioid Health Emergency Declaration and Order
June 13, 2017

- Requires state health officials (doctors, pharmacists, hospitals, ambulance firms, medical examiners) to report opioid overdoses within 24 hours

- Law enforcement and social service agencies included

- Order also requires reporting of births involving opioid exposure and use of naloxone
Rx Drug Use – An Epidemic

“Prescription drug abuse is the nation's fastest-growing drug problem”

White House Office on National Drug Policy

Between 2000 and 2014, the rate of overdose deaths involving opioids in the United States increased 200 percent

Overdose deaths on opioid pain relievers surpassed deaths from heroin and cocaine for the first time in 2008
At least **HALF** of all opioid overdose deaths involve a **prescription opioid**.

Almost **2 million** Americans abused or were dependent on prescription opioids in 2014.

US loves Rx
The United States has 5% of the world’s population & consumes 80% of the global opioid supply
Rx by the #s

- As many as 1 in 4 people who receive prescription opioids long term for non-cancer pain in primary care settings struggles with addiction.

- Every day, over 1,000 people are treated in emergency departments for misusing prescription opioids.
Some History…

- In 1995, FDA approved OxyContin

- In 2001, the Joint Commission rolled out its Pain Management Standards, which helped grow the idea of pain as a "fifth vital sign." (BP, HR, respiratory rate, temp)
  - It required healthcare providers to ask every patient about their pain, given the perception at the time was that pain was undertreated

- Since that time, the U.S. has experienced a surge in opioid prescriptions -- and, subsequently, an increase in overdoses and deaths tied to these painkillers.

- In the Joint Commission’s monograph, published in 2001, the organization noted that “in general, patients in pain do not become addicted to opioids.”
The maker of the powerful painkiller OxyContin and three of its current and former executives pleaded guilty to misleading the public about the drug's risk of addiction. Purdue Pharma, its president, top lawyer and former chief medical officer will pay $634.5 million in fines for claiming the drug was less addictive and less subject to abuse than other pain medications. The OxyContin Clan: The $14 Billion Newcomer to Forbes 2015 List of Richest U.S. Families.
Opioid side effects, even when taken as directed

- **Tolerance**—you may need to take more of a medication for the same pain relief
- **Physical dependence**—symptoms of withdrawal when the medication is stopped
- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Constipation

- Nausea, vomiting, and dry mouth
- Sleepiness and dizziness
- Confusion
- Depression
- Low levels of testosterone that can result in lower sex drive, energy, and strength
- Itching and sweating
Opioids Act on Many Places in the Brain and Nervous System

- Opioids can **depress breathing** by changing neurochemical activity in the brain stem, where automatic body functions such as breathing and heart rate are controlled.

- Opioids can increase feelings of **pleasure** by altering activity in the limbic system, which controls emotions.

- Opioids can **block pain** messages transmitted through the spinal cord from the body.
Signs of Use

- “On the nod”
- Tired
- “Doped out” “Dope sick”
- Cold, clammy skin
- Short, shallow breath
- “pinpoint” pupils
Accidental Rx Overdoses
Football Player Found Dead

Zach Hemmila

NEW AT 11

WILDCATS' STARTING CENTER FOUND DEAD
BODY FOUND SUNDAY; COACHES NOTIFIED TEAM THIS MORNING

TAKING ACTION

August, 2016
Teacher, supplier face drug allegations

LAKE HAVASU CITY - A kindergarten teacher was arrested Friday and charged with assorted drug crimes following a month-long multi-agency undercover operation.

There is no evidence to suggest Stefanie Courson, 42, a kindergarten teacher at Havasupai Elementary School, sold drugs at the school or that "other employees or students are involved," according to Lake Havasu City Police spokesman Sgt. Troy Stirling.

Following a tip from a caller who told police Courson was selling drugs, members of the Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement Team mounted an operation. MAGNET consists of detectives from every law enforcement agency in the county, including the Arizona Department of Public Safety and prosecutors with the Mohave County Attorney's Office.
The number of prescriptions written for opioid pain relievers in the U.S. has risen from around 76 million a year in 1991 to nearly 207 million a year in 2013.

In August, 2015, the FDA granted approval to Purdue Pharma to prescribe the powerful and often abused opioid OxyContin for patients as young as 11.
New CDC Guidelines for Opioids

- Provides recommendations to primary care providers about appropriate prescribing of opioids to improve pain management and patient safety.

- Recommendations focus on the use of opioids in treating chronic pain (i.e., pain lasting longer than three months or past the time of normal tissue healing) in patients 18 years and older.

- Guidelines not intended for patients who are in active cancer treatment, palliative care, or end-of-life care.
Why New Guidelines?

- Improving the way opioids are prescribed through clinical practice guidelines can ensure patients have access to safer, more effective treatment while reducing the number of people who suffer from opioid use disorder or overdose from these drugs.

- CDC aims to save lives and prevent prescription opioid overdoses by equipping providers with the knowledge, tools, and guidance they need.
Goals

- Must improve safety of prescribing
- Reduce harms such as opioid use disorder or overdose
Hydrocodone

Heath Ledger died of accidental overdose
28-year-old actor had oxycodone, anti-anxiety, sleep aids in his system

NEW YORK - Heath Ledger died of an accidental overdose of painkillers, sleeping pills, anti-anxiety medication and other prescription drugs, the New York City medical examiner said Wednesday.

The cause of death was "acute intoxication by the combined effects of oxycodone, hydrocodone, diazepam, temazepam, alprazolam and doxylamine," spokeswoman Ellen Borakove said in a statement.

The drugs are the generic names for the painkiller OxyContin, the anti-anxiety drugs Valium and Xanax, and the sleep aids Restoril and Unicom. Hydrocodone is another name for ibuprofen.
Oxycodone

- OxyContin most recognized and abused form
- Prescribed to relieve pain
- Twice as strong as morphine
- Time released (8-12 hours)
  - Pills crushed and snorted or cooked down and injected to break down time release component
- Strong, heroin-like, euphoric effects
- Expensive
  - Dollars to milligrams: 10, 20, 40, 50 (ex)
- Other variations: Percocet and Percodan
**Oxymorphone**

“Opana”

- Powerful semi-synthetic opioid analgesic (painkiller)
- $25-$30 a pill
- Strategic goal of Endo Pharmaceuticals was to market Opana to become the #2 painkiller for treating severe and long term pain after OxyContin
- Doctors begin prescribing it over OxyContin
- Injecting Opana – according to FDA “abuse deterrent” coating makes it easier to inject
  - Increased HIV/AIDS cases as a result
Zohydro ER
FDA approved

- High dose hydrocodone narcotic painkiller
- Zohydro contains as much as 50 mg of hydrocodone
- Manufactured as a powder in a capsule, rather than a pill – easy to abuse
- 10 times more powerful than Vicodin
- US presently consumes 99% of the world's hydrocodone
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ACPA.net

MedReturn, LLC is committed to providing a safe, secure and environmentally friendly way to help law enforcement agencies and communities collect unwanted or expired household medication, including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and unused pharmaceuticals.

1-877-218-0990

AZ drop box locations
Why go from Rx to Heroin?

- Cheaper
- Same effects
- Addiction drives behavior
Heroin

- Pure heroin is a white powder with a bitter taste that predominantly originates in South America, Afghanistan and Southeast Asia
  - South American heroin has become the most prevalent type available in the US
    - Particularly in the Northeast, South and Midwest

- “Black tar” heroin is sticky like roofing tar or hard like coal and is predominantly produced in Mexico and sold in U.S. areas west of the Mississippi River
  - Dark color from crude processing methods leaving behind impurities
Heroin

- Illegal, highly addictive drug processed from morphine, a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of certain varieties of poppy plants
- Most widely abused illicit narcotic in US
- Physical tolerance build up is fast
  - Use to avoid pain of withdrawal “getting sick” seek to “get well”
- Purity levels vary – too much pure heroin can result in respiratory arrest and death
  - Overdose is a daily possibility
Heroin Purity

- In 1980s = 3.6% pure
- 1990 = 18% pure
- 1998 = 41% pure
- Today = 60-90% ???
- No longer have to inject heroin to feel the effect. Purity so high effects felt by snorting or smoking
- 1996-1998 – 19 young people die of heroin overdoses in Plano, Texas
  - Purity levels ranged up to 75%
“Doda” or “Dode” – Poppy Husk / Pod Tea

- Doda (aka Dode) is a **powder made by crushing opium poppy husks**
- Typically prepared as an herbal tea or added to water or tea
- Effects: **euphoria, drowsiness, warming & flushing, pupillary constriction**; higher doses can lead to nausea, itching, vomiting, respiratory arrest leading to death
- Openly sold in foreign countries & on the Internet
- "the poor man's heroin" because it's a narcotic derived from the same plant: the opium poppy
In AZ... Heroin mimics Oxy

Heroin in the Heartland – CBS News 60 Minutes
Heroin-Related Overdose Deaths

- Heroin-related overdose deaths have more than quadrupled since 2010

- From 2014 to 2015, heroin overdose death rates increased by 20.6%, with nearly 13,000 people dying in 2015

- In 2015, males aged 25-44 had the highest heroin death rate at 13.2 per 100,000, which was an increase of 22.2% from 2014

Centers for Disease Control, December 2016
Many States Don’t Have Accurate Heroin Overdose Figures

Join Together – May 12, 2015

- Heroin deaths underreported
- Determining exactly how many people die of heroin overdoses is difficult to pinpoint because many states do not require reporting of specific details on drug overdoses
- Information that is available is usually at least two years old
- If everybody’s classified as multi-drug toxicity, you have no idea what’s killing people
**Who is using Heroin?**

### Heroin Use Has INCREASED Among Most Demographic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2002-2004*</th>
<th>2011-2013*</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEX</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AGE, YEARS</strong></td>
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<td>12-17</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>109%</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 or older</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td><strong>RACE/ETHNICITY</strong></td>
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<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>114%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<td><strong>ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<td>$20,000–$49,999</td>
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<td>4.2</td>
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<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private or other</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Annual average rate of heroin use (per 1,000 people in each group)

Source: CDC
Heroin use is part of a larger substance abuse problem.

Nearly all people who used heroin also used at least 1 other drug.

Most used at least 3 other drugs.

Heroin is a highly addictive opioid drug with a high risk of overdose and death for users.

People who are addicted to...

- Alcohol are 2x more likely to be addicted to heroin.
- Marijuana are 3x more likely to be addicted to heroin.
- Cocaine are 15x more likely to be addicted to heroin.
- Rx Opioid Painkillers are 40x more likely to be addicted to heroin.

Withdrawal

- **Symptoms**
  - Restlessness
  - Muscle and bone pain
  - Insomnia
  - Diarrhea and vomiting
  - Cold flashes with goose bumps (“cold turkey”) and kicking movements (“kicking the habit”)
  - Users also experience severe craving for the drug during withdrawal, which can precipitate continued abuse and/or relapse
America’s Heroin Epidemic:
http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/americas-heroin-epidemic
6 Celebrities who struggled with Heroin use
Ohio couple slumped over in front seat of vehicle due to heroin overdoses while 4 year old toddler sits in back seat

September 9, 2016
Heroin use on the rise...

- Toddler cries in store aisle as mother overdoses on heroin
- Sept. 22, 2016
Heroin Headlines

- Parents Found Dead After Child Tells School She Couldn't Wake Them Up - Oct 5, 2016, 1:00 PM ET

- Two residents were found dead in their home Monday evening after their 7-year-old daughter told a school employee that she was unable to wake them that morning, according to the Allegheny County Police Department.

- The girl told a school bus monitor that she did not want to go home because her parents "had not moved" for more than two days and had been "changing colors," according to Lt. Andrew Schurman of the Allegheny County Police Department.
Drug overdoses killed at least 43 since Memorial Day Weekend, Cuyahoga County

Posted on June 7, 2017 at 2:27 PM – Cleveland, OH

- Twenty-nine men and 14 women died in the 13-day period from May 26 to Wednesday, according to data released Wednesday by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office.

- The statistics released Wednesday do not say how many of the 43 overdoses were caused by opioids, such as heroin and fentanyl, or other drugs such as cocaine.

- The victims ranged in age from 21 to 68.
Heroin
A Bad Batch?

- Heroin laced fentanyl
  - Fentanyl up to 100 times stronger than morphine
- 22 people died within a week in Pennsylvania (Feb. 2014)
- 28 more people in Philadelphia died after using heroin laced with the painkiller fentanyl between March 3 and April 20, the city announced May 12th, 2014
  - 22 to 53 years of age
- Sold as “Theraflu” or “Bud Ice”
- The Dangers of Fentanyl-Laced Heroin - ABC News
- Actor’s Overdose Death Sheds New Light On Fentanyl-Laced Heroin Issue « CBS Pittsburgh
What is Fentanyl?

- Narcotic
  - It can treat severe pain.
- Potent
  - Up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine
- Controlled substance
  - High risk for addiction and dependence. Can cause respiratory distress and death when taken in high doses or when combined with other substances, especially alcohol.
Desmethyl Fentanyl
derivative of the painkiller Fentanyl

- Dangerous new street drug 40 times stronger than heroin
- Police also seized 1,500 kilograms of ingredients that could produce at least 3 million more pills
  - “They were making one pill a second”
- The effects could be fatal
“Super Pill”
March, 2016

- “Super Pill” is designed to look like regular painkillers, but contains fentanyl
- ORLANDO, Fla. — A deadly new drug that has the potential to kill someone in just minutes has made its way to Central Florida, law enforcement officials say
Fentanyl on the Rise
April, 2016

- The federal Drug Enforcement Administration issued a public safety alert Friday warning that fentanyl-related overdoses are “occurring at an alarming rate” and urging the public to take only drugs prescribed by a physician and from a reputable pharmacy.
- Some people believe they are buying Norco, a less potent opiate, but it is fentanyl.
- 12 deaths and 52 overdoses in a week in N. California.
Remembering Prince

- Died April 21, 2016
- Age 57
- Accidental opioid fentanyl overdose
- The music icon suffered from hip pain throughout his career
Fentanyl Crisis: Ohio Cop Accidentally Overdoses During Drug Call

- Ohio police officer accidentally overdoses on fentanyl after traffic stop
- Exposed to fentanyl on a call... used safety precautions
- When back at station, brushed off powder off of his shoulder and was face down on ground within hour
- Needed 4 doses of Narcan to be revived until at hospital
Fentanyl Is Also Dangerous For Law Enforcement Officers And Dogs

What is Naloxone/Narcan?

- Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. It is an opioid antagonist—meaning that it binds to opioid receptors and can reverse and block the effects of other opioids. It can very quickly restore normal respiration to a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped as a result of overdosing with heroin or prescription opioid pain medications.
Carfentanil

- 100 times stronger than fentanyl
- Much stronger than heroin
- Carfentanil is used to sedate elephants
- It can be dangerous to even touch it without gloves
- More Narcan needed
  - 3-4 doses vs 1 dose for heroin
- In July, 2016 in Ohio, 176 overdoses in six days
  - Currently 20 to 25 overdoses a day
- First Responders = more overdoses, more Narcan, more time spent on each call
Carfentanil

- West Virginia – June 6, 2017
- What appears to be a Roxicodone pill... after analysis in lab turned out to be highly concentrated carfentanil
- The chemist advised that mere skin contact with the pill could prove fatal to anyone who does not have a high opioid tolerance
W-18

- First developed in a Canadian lab in 1984, promising and potent — intended to relieve pain in a less addictive way
- Synthetic opioid was the most powerful in a series of about 30 compounds concocted at the University of Alberta
- Chinese chemist found it, and in labs halfway around the world started developing the drug for consumers in search of a cheap and legal high — one experts say is 100 times more potent than fentanyl and 10,000 stronger than morphine
W-18

- More than 2.5 pounds of W-18 was discovered in the home of a Florida man, who was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison after he pleaded guilty to smuggling fentanyl from China, reported the Sun Sentinel.
  - He faced no charges for possessing the W-18, however, because it’s not yet illegal in the U.S.
- Currently no tests to detect the drug in a person’s blood or urine
  - makes it difficult for doctors to help someone who might be overdosing
Fentanyl laced spice in AZ

- **Deadly Combo: spice and fentanyl**
- Minimal amounts are deadly
- Hard to detect
Drug Seizures Containing Fentanyl

- The DEA lists China as the main source for fentanyl in the US with two major ways that it reaches consumers:
  - Purchased directly through the “dark web” and delivered by mail
  - Manufactured in Mexico with precursors imported from China, and then smuggled into the US
Hostage Crisis in Moscow Theatre

Fentanyl?

- On October 23, 2002, about 50 Chechen rebels storm a Moscow theater, taking up to 700 people hostage during a sold-out performance of a popular musical.

- After a 57-hour-standoff Russian special forces raided the theater on the morning of October 26. Later revealed that they had *pumped a powerful narcotic gas into the building*:
  - Knocking nearly all of the terrorists and hostages unconscious before breaking into the walls and roof and through sewage tunnels.

- Most of the guerrillas and 120 hostages were killed during the raid.

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/hostage-crisis-in-moscow-theater
Fentanyl

- Different molecules
- Hard to detect
  - In medical setting used in IVs
  - Street stuff – all forms, online recipes and potent
- Multiple doses of Narcan needed to revive
- Multiple forms of fentanyl
- Chemical warfare concerns
U-47700 a.k.a. Pink, U4

- Synthetic opioid obtained online as “RC”
- 80 deaths cited as U-47700 overdoses in 9 months
  - Drug banned in a dozen states
  - In Park City, Utah case, two 13-year-old children died
- Created in a lab by 20th-century pharmaceutical giant Upjohn
- New opioid blend more potent than morphine but supposedly less addictive
  - Intended to treat severe pain associated with cancer, surgery, or injury, but was never tested on humans
Gone too early...

Ryan Ainsworth and Grant Seaver
Teen Deaths - Pink
“Grey Death”

- Deadly combination of opioids
- Heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil and U₄
- Looks like concrete mix
- Deaths in Alabama, Georgia, Ohio and California
Opioid Dealers Embrace the Dark Web to Send Deadly Drugs by Mail – The New York Times, June 10, 2017

- Silk Road – online market started in 2011. Dismantled in 2013 when founder arrested and site taken down

- No cash – Bitcoin exchange

- Dark web has enabled distribution channels that previously didn’t exist

- AlphaBay (leading dark net market) has more than 21,000 listings for opioids and 4,000 for fentanyl
Dark Web Dealers

Like online auctioneers on eBay, drug dealers are using sites on the so-called dark web, like AlphaBay, to sell synthetic opioids to thousands of anonymous customers. Below are some popular vendors, with their AlphaBay screen names and sales figures from the site.  

**BTH-Overdose**
- a.k.a. Blime-Sub
- Vladimirov Babadjov
- Age at arrest: 31
  - San Francisco

**Popular product:** Fentanyl HCL 98% PURE
- (2,422 sales)

Review:
“Best dope I’ve ever had. Worth the price by far. Be careful if you shoot.”

**Fentmaster**
- Chukwuemeka Okparaekere
- Age at arrest: 28
  - Kearny, N.J.

**Popular product:** RX Grade acetyl fentanyl spray
- (7,746 sales)

Review:
“just get my face burning and no buzz no warmth. nothing I like about fentanyl.”

**NarcoBoss**
- Unknown
- Still in operation
  - United States

**Popular product:** 2 Grams China White Synthetic Heroin Fentanyl Mix
- (6,333 sales)

Review:
“Not quite sure what this is...knock out powder....quick shipping though.”

**Pharma-Master**
- Aaron Shamo
- Age at arrest: 26
  - Cottonwood Heights, Utah

**Popular product:** Fentanyl - Roxy Oxycodone - 30mg X100
- (8,332 sales)

Review:
“Real Product. Fast discreet shipping.”

Sales figures as of June 9. | The identities of BTH-Overdose, Fentmaster and Owlcity were provided in court documents. Mr. Shamo’s AlphaBay screen name was not given in the indictment, but he has been widely identified as Pharma-Master by users of the site based on details from the indictment.
Treatment Gap

In 2013, an estimated 22.7 million Americans (8.6 percent) needed treatment for a problem related to drugs or alcohol, but only about 2.5 million people (0.9 percent) received treatment at a specialty facility.

https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/nationwide-trends
Fighting Back

- CDC guidelines
  - Recognize and understand the mistakes
- Be in the Know – educate and inform
- Proper disposal of pills
- Identify the signs of use
- Narcan administered
- Know your treatment and intervention resources
Prescription Drug Addiction
An American Epidemic

No blaming, shaming, or guilting.
You are not the problem.

Education and Support vs. “Intense Therapy”

- Opened in 2012
- Medically Monitored
- Integrated Treatment
- Individual and Family
- Education, Counseling, & Psychosocial Support
- Board Certified Addictionologists & Medical Staff
National Resources

- https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/

SAMHSA’s National Helpline
1-800-662-HELP (4357)
1-800-487-4889 (TTY)

Free and confidential information in English and Spanish for individuals and family members facing substance abuse and mental health issues. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
ACCESS TO CARE LINE 24/7

- Statewide access to all CBI services
- Average 700+ calls per day
- Dispatches Outreach Teams
- Transfer patients from Hospital ERs
- Telephone Access to Medical Practitioners 877-931-9142
Thank You!

Stephanie Siete
Public Information Officer

Access to Care - 24/7
877.931.9142

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