

# "JUST DOUBLE THE DOSE"

Stefan Louiswen Gryniewski

Global Studies Major

Dr. Joan Clark Dillman

University of Washington Tacoma



# THE LIE THAT STARTED IT ALL

- Purdue Pharma creates a new drug Oxycodone and markets it as a "non-addictive opioid".
- The FDA colludes with Purdue Pharma to proliferate this lie about Oxycodone.
- Illegal pain clinics spring up all over the country, causing millions of Americans to become addicted to opioids.
- The government cracks down on opioid prescriptions in 2011, making access nearly impossible, and creating a thriving illegal market in pills.
- This leads prices of prescription painkillers on the street to soar, forcing many addicts to switch to using heroin instead,
- Around 2015, Fentanyl from China is introduced to cartels in Mexico, and is added to heroin and other drugs, causing overdose rates to reach unprecedented levels.
- Today Fentanyl is the main cause of overdose deaths in the US and is found in almost all street drugs from heroin, to pressed Xanax, even in Methamphetamine.

# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- The Global interconnectedness of the opioid epidemic in the US are practically limitless.
- Aghan and Burmese growers of poppies supply morphine to cartels used to make heroin.
- Illegal drug labs in China supply the same cartels with Fentanyl to cut the heroin and other drugs.
- These drugs are smuggled into the US, the world's leading consumer of illegal drugs to this day.
- The cartels cause violence and danger in Mexico and South America, while the poppy fields provide economic means to millions in Asia, all down to the street dealers in the US who make a living selling these drugs,
- The opioid epidemic is not an American problem, it is a worldwide problems of epic proportions and consequences.

# INTERVENTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

- The vilification of the addicts in the US has failed, many states still do not have adequate treatment options and many jobs and sober living facilities do not except people enrolled in Methadone or Suboxone programs, this must change immediately.
- Secondly the criminalization of addicts has also failed to solve the problem, instead of locking up addicts for possession of drugs or paraphernalia, they should be offered treatment options paid for by the state, some states are started to adopt these approaches, but the majority still have not.
- Education about drug addiction as a disease not unlike diabetes, instead of a moral failure, must be taught in all schools of medicine and science in the US.
- Finally, clean injection sites and HIV testing facilities, such as needle exchanges, should be available nationwide, not just in select cities like Seattle, as this would greatly reduce drug-related deaths and diseases.

QUESTION,  
FRAMEWORK,  
METHODOLOGY,  
RESULTS, AND THE  
BACK TO GLOBAL  
FRAMEWORK

- My question is: How can we reform the for-profit healthcare and pharmaceutical industry in our country to be beneficial to Americans rather than predatory?
- My framework is that the political and economic clout of these giants of industry must be reduced and controlled, so they cannot remain as they have been, above the law. The benefit of all Americans at the expense of a small handful of billionaires is hardly an absurd request.
- The methodology is that the for-profit nature of pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, and its historically untouchable nature has led to the suffering and deaths of millions of Americans, which is especially heinous considering the Healthcare industry is based on the wellbeing of Americans.
- Free healthcare for all, enforced integrity and transparency of drug companies, and much stricter regulations around drug testing and sales practices could have prevented the epidemic we face as a nation today, the results of my proposals would have saved millions of lives.
- The opioid epidemic has incredible global reach and interconnectedness, as China works with cartels from Mexico, who also work with poppy growers in the Middle East, all to bring drugs into the US, and this web of involvement in drugs leads to the deaths and suffering of millions in all these regions.