

Painkiller.edited.docx

by

Submission date: 20-Sep-2021 02:47PM (UTC-0600)

Submission ID: 1653267408

File name: Painkiller.edited.docx (12.14K)

Word count: 415

Character count: 2248

¹Painkiller: Inside the Opioid Crisis Documentary Opinion

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¹ **Painkiller: Inside the Opioid Crisis Documentary Opinion**

The opioid crisis is contentious, emotional, and heart-wrenching, as depicted in "Painkiller." Whether it is advocates, caregivers, addiction consultants, law enforcement agencies, technocrats, practitioners, or relatives directly impacted by this nation's opioid crisis, there appears to be a clear consensus: Our approach to addressing addictive behavior is incorrect, and we must adjust it, or more lives will be lost, and more families will be eviscerated. There is not a single individual questioned in the documentary who has a different view.

The most serious issue we face is the stigma associated with opioid addiction and a lack of knowledge of addiction or how to address it. The war against drugs has been a complete failure because it was ill-conceived and we are not going to prosecute our way out of this mess. We need to reconsider the approach, which includes reconsidering what constitutes drug and substance addiction. It includes investigating the underlying causes of addiction, including whether people are struggling from emotional and physical distress and are self-medicating with different substances.

Huge pharmaceutical companies are also to blame to some degree since they mislead the masses regarding the addictive capabilities of opioids. The opioid crisis is a national issue, but the documentary focused on Vancouver, the most visible effect. Fentanyl, which is 100 times more lethal than heroin, led to the demise of 4,000 individuals in 2017 and another 1,035 in the early months of 2018. These statistics should concern people because this is an issue that leads to death. It is even startling that 11% of these deaths occurred in the streets, whereas most happened in homes. The three families from Langley, B.C, Calgary, and Edmonton show a different tale. Promising young people lost their lives due to drug use. These are not homeless and

impoverished individuals but teenagers from loving families, gifted athletes, and famous peers.

From these accounts, it is evident that the opioid crisis cuts across all levels of society.

The opioid crisis is well captured in the documentary. The world is full of problems, not just the opioid crisis in Canada, but the documentary highlights it as a significant crisis that the stakeholders should address. The first step is to re-evaluate the strategy on the war against drugs, as the current methods are not achieving meaningful results when we have a crisis that is threatening to wipe out the nation's next generation.

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