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## America's Opioid Epidemic

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## **America's Opioid Epidemic**

### **Question 1**

Podcast 1 is about the Radiolab, which discusses the story of Good Samaritan. The episode is in Bath County in Kentucky, where the opioid epidemic caused severe damage. Further, it highlights the consequences of an overdose of opioid drugs, causing threats and fear hence, the urge to protect individuals' lives around the city (WNYCSTUDIOS, 2019). Secondly, NPR highlights the story of the American opioid epidemic. In this podcast, the authors state the number of deaths that resulted from opioid overdoses and how the epidemic has struck Americans for more than 150 years (NPR, 2019). You cannot overdose on fentanyl by touching it is a horror story of how the police officers are deliberately overdosing opioid by just coming into contact with fentanyl. The sudden death of Sgt evidences the overdosing act. Brett Flansburg, who died in the parking lot. Lastly, opioid overdoses and the pandemic is all about an increase in overdoses and deaths, particularly during the pandemic. Hence, the covid19 pandemic has increased the risk of a drug overdose.

### **Question 2**

Opioid drugs have existed in the US for many decades. According to Matt (2019), the use of opioid drugs in the United States dates back to 150 years ago. Heroin, an opioid drug, was to accomplish medicinal purposes. For instance, it was to be used as a pain reliever when prescribed by medical experts. The Bogs Act of 1951 is about the drug laws that convicted individuals who violate specific narcotic laws (WNYCSTUDIOS, 2019). The act also made amendments to the imports and exports of narcotic drugs. Recreational and medical drug addicts differ in the frequency and manner of drug use.

### **Question 3**

There are various drugs implicated during the current opioid epidemic. For example, heroin and fentanyl are the drugs that were the leading cause of death (Lopez, 2019). Sacklers are the families in the United States who were the cofounders and owners of pharmaceutical industries. Sacklers successfully built their drug empire by the innovation act of manufacturing painkillers directly absorbed in the bloodstream. Examples of drugs manufactured were; Ms. Contin, counterfeit pills and cocaine. The two drugs illegally manufactured were the primary cause of deaths.

#### **Question 4**

In the 1990s, there was more promotion and marketing of oxycontin drugs that made it trend in the market. The FDA group supported the marketing and advertising, making the drug gain popularity in the market (Lopez, 2019). The support was due to a belief that the drug would be less harmful and abuse potential.

#### **Question 5**

The covid19 pandemic has worsened the opioid crisis, especially to individuals struggling with opioid use disorder. The problem worsens due to the lack of specialized treatment of the individuals suffering from the disorder (Lopez, 2020). Further, people lost their jobs during the pandemic, causing anxiety and depression, hence more substance abuse involvement. Thus, it is the pandemic that triggered individuals to involve themselves in drug use, causing more addiction. Additionally, the pandemic took the attention of both media houses and medical agencies that initially focused on the opioid crisis. Therefore, the pandemic initiated the increase in the opioid crisis.

## References

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