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The Impact of Opioid Crisis in America

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In this annotated bibliography, I will review the impacts that have resulted from the use and misuse of opioids. There are adverse effects that have been experienced in the United States

since the medication which resulted in an epidemic that began in 1990. The medication aimed to relieve pain but people overdosed the drug which has resulted in severe cases including deaths. All the articles discussed herein will review as well as summarize the causes that emanate from the use as well as misuse of the opioid among the populations of America. Among the factors that will be considered when analyzing the effects include the healthcare system, the political climate, the side effects of the drug as well as how the drug affects the children and their families.

Kasarla, M. (2017). *The Opioid Epidemic and its Impact on the Health Care System*.

This article is of great importance towards addressing the subject matter of this paper because it talks about the effects of the opioid epidemic on the healthcare system. It talks of addiction in opioids as having negative effects on parents as well as their children through destruction of their lives and leading to breaking up among families. Despite this, the author states that where the drugs are used in the right manner, patients may experience some relief of their pain for example after undergoing surgical treatment of cancer.

One of the impacts outlined in this article that affect the healthcare systems include the increased cases of emergency calls by the people who overdose the opioid. There is burdening of the already overloaded system of where they are impelled to respond to the overdosed patients. Additionally, the cases of opioid overdose demand that the patients have to be treated. Consequently, the opioid epidemic results in an increment in the costs of insurance to ensure that the resources used in the treatment are covered. The article generally discusses the socioeconomic effects of the usage of opioids in the United States.

Aaron, R. & Eitan, D. (2020). *The Political Consequences of Opioid Overdoses*. PLoS ONE 15(8): e0236815.

In this article, the article describes the substantial effects the opioid epidemic has on the behavior of politics on the friends as well as the families of the pandemic's victims. In the article, an example of the effects described includes the reduction of turnout of voters during elections. This is proven by the research conducted where the turnout among the families and friends in the 2016 presidential elections is conducted. Additionally, there is the likelihood of the citizens shifting their allegiance. The authors further compare the effects of the opioid pandemic to those of covid-19 where many similarities are clearly defined.

Nolan, S., Socias, M.E. & Wood, E. *The Threat of an International Opioid Crisis*. Curr Addict Rep 5, 473–477 (2018).

The article starts by highlighting the purpose of conducting a review where it is stated that there is a need for evaluation of the potential for the expansion of the pandemic to the other countries. For this reason, the author suggests the need of summarizing the impacts of the opioid crisis in North America and how relevant this is towards the international settings. Additionally, the author talks of how opioid addiction can have an impact on the economy. Through this, the human resource managers and employers are in a position to address the burden that is likely to be experienced at the workplace as a result of opioid addiction. It is possible that overdosing on opioids is likely to affect the workability of the staff members and consequently affect the overall impact of the economy. The author suggests that employers and human resource managers can apply the knowledge to avoid the likely outcomes. They should curb the opioid addiction of the employees by educating them on the necessary measures of avoiding the addiction.

Mireles, A., Breeding, J., Hasiotis, M., & Meno A. (2018). *5 Heartbreaking Side Effects of the Opioid Crisis in America.*

The authors of the article believe that opioid is extremely affecting all individuals starting with the city dwellers to the old-aged. They state that it is because of ignorance of this problem that the effects of the addiction have extremely been experienced. One of the effects that the author state as emanating from the use of an opioid is that taking fentanyl is likely to even lead to the death of people that do not take it.

The author also states that the morgues end up lacking enough storage for bodies as a result of many deaths experienced from the overdose of the opioid. For this reason, the rising numbers of the bodies have led to the use of such means as iced trucks as well as begging for morgues. The article also notes that there is a decline in the labor force where more than 900000 workers are unavailable. This has only resulted from the addiction to the opioid. the authors have attributed the insufficient labor force in the labor market to the increased rate of opioid addiction. This addiction has led to the workers being incapacitated to execute their services efficiently out of their illnesses. This has also resulted from the many lives lost to the pandemic.

Lastly, the author has given the last effect of the opioid crisis as adding to the expenses the ministry of health incurs as a result of additional personnel to work on the opioid addicts. The increased demand for labor means that the ministry that deals with health have to fund the additional expenses to be incurred in the payment of salaries for this new labor force. This is in addition to the requirement that the ministry has to also construct additional structures which are used as facilities for monitoring the progress of these patients.

Nolan, D. & Amico, C. (2016) *How Bad is the Opioid Epidemic?*

The authors describe opioids as the worst drug in the United States. They claim that the death toll that results from the opioid crisis has gone beyond that experienced by AIDs in the 1990s. They state that research has shown that there are more than 27000 deaths that result from the overdose of the opioid as well as heroin in one year. In the article, the drug is described as deadliest from the high rise in the rate of deaths resulting from it than the other causes of death.

The drugs are pronounced to be now killing more people as compared to those killed through car accidents. The authors have in this case compared two different periods wherein 1999 the number of deaths resulting from motor vehicles was twice that resulting from an overdose of drugs. These numbers had already flipped by the beginning of 2014 where more than 41% of deaths were experienced from an overdose of drugs than car accidents. Additionally, the authors add that cocaine is no longer the leading killer among all drugs. Opioid has taken the place. As per the research carried out by the authors of the article, opioids killed 4000 people in 1999 compared to 3800 and 1960 resulting from cocaine and heroin respectively.

The authors report that the epidemic does not choose that race or color. It has hit everyone. They quote that every population group has had overdoses since 2000. The largest rate of deaths has been experienced among the whites as well as native Americans. By 2015, the death rate of whites and the Native-Americans had doubled that of the Latinos and the African-Americans. Lastly, the authors note that there are twelve states in the United States that experience more prescriptions than the number of people. For example, in 2012 there were 50 prescriptions written by the Hawaii doctors for every 100 people. Alabama used to record 140 prescriptions for every 100 people.

Dirks, A. (2018). *The Opioid Epidemic: Impact on Children and Families*.

The author states that there are effects attributed to addictions on the medications meant to relieve pain in patients. He focuses on families and children and analyzes how they are affected by the prescription and overdose of the opioid drug. For example, he notes that there are many children born to mothers who are addicted to the drug. One of the effects of the addicted usage of the opioid drug may neglect certain diets which may harm the fetus for the case of a pregnant woman. Consequently, children are born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, a condition that is associated with birth defects. These complications affect the normal growth of children where they face challenges in their growth and are unable to cope well with the normal ones.

Additionally, the parents who are opioids addicts may risk suffering from Substance Use Disorder. On average, eight million people aged below eighteen years living with people that have this disorder. Most of these people under the age of 18 years are under the age of five years. There is instability of the environment in the homes of these children. Some of the experiences that these children are exposed to as a result such condition includes violence, loss, fear, and secrecy. A child living with a parent with SUD is likely to experience chaotic life. Consequently, the child will have no peace as a result of his parent being addicted. The author further states that such parents are twice more likely to abuse their children sexually than those who are not addicted. Lastly, the children living with such parents may be denied quality parenting where the parents may engage with the recovery of the condition and end up utilizing a lot of time.

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