

Student name

Professor name

English 180

December 7th, 2017

Opioid Epidemic in Illinois

Pain is an unavoidable part of life. While everyone experiences pain, the way we choose to treat our ailments differs from person to person, coast to coast, and even continent to continent. There are many ways to alleviate discomfort, some of these methods include: pain management, therapy, but the most commonly used approach is medications. Copious amount of people who undergo surgeries or suffer from chronic pain rely on opioid pain killers to temporarily reduce the irritation caused by their illness(es). Even though extreme pain killing drugs such as oxycodone, fentanyl, and methadone can be found affective, they are also highly addictive. In fact, according to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, nearly two million Americans had become addicted to prescription

). However, this problem is not to be blamed on those prescribed the medications; but the pharmaceutical companies and doctors that pressure their clients into addictive prescription medication rather than other suitable methods. In order to see a significant reduction in opioid addiction and deaths, the amount of opioid based prescription painkillers must be reduced by having law makers hold major pharmaceutical companies and poor doctors accountable for pressuring and overprescribing their patients.

In recent years, Illinois has seen a major increase in opioid related overdoses. An official document released by the Illinois Department of Human Services reads that the state has one of

every twelve physicians received

the patient was still experiencing pain, they could return to their physician to get a refill

Works Cited

Collective Evolution, 15 Aug. 2017, www.collective-evolution.com/2017/08/15/study-reveals-big-pharma-paid-doctors-millions-of-dollars-to-push-opioids/.

www.newsweek.com/big-pharma-opioid-crisis-bribery-arrest-694154.

Industry Payments to Physicians for Opioid Products, 8 Aug. 2017, ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.303982.

f Ohio, John R. Kasich, 19 Jan. 2016, www.governor.ohio.gov/Media-Room/Press-Releases/ArticleId/314/ohio-strengthens-opioid-prescribing-guidelines-to-further-prevent-prescription-drug-abuse-and-save-lives-1-19-16.

f Addiction Medicine, 2016, <https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/opioid-addiction-disease-facts-figures.pdf>.

and the States Response, 2016, pp. 1–17.,

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/OpioidCrisisInIllinois_051617.pdf.

