

America's painkiller addiction epidemic

As sales of prescription opioid painkillers have surged – from \$3.8 billion in 2000 to \$9.6bn in 2015 – so has the number of drug-related deaths.

More than four out of ten overdose deaths involve synthetic opioids

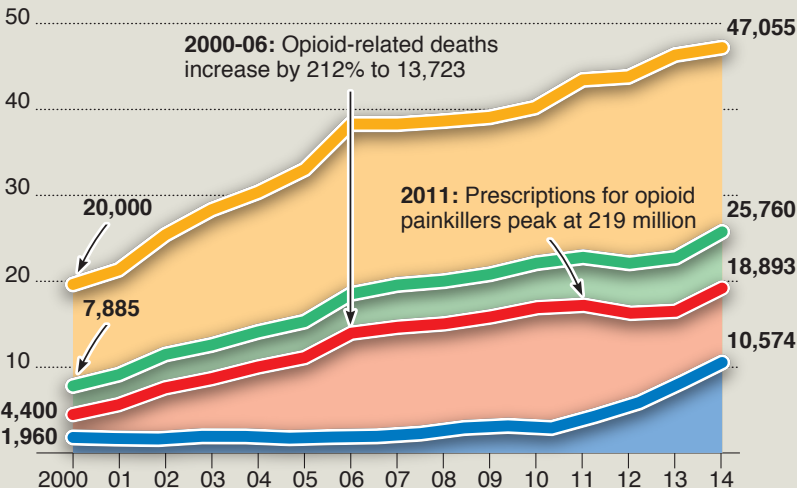
Drug overdose deaths (thousands)

All drugs

Total painkillers

Opioid painkillers

Heroin



Opioids

Include legal painkillers methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine and fentanyl

Fentanyl: 100 times more powerful than morphine, and 50 times more powerful than heroin. Illegal fentanyl is driving force behind epidemic

Apr 21, 2016: Rock legend **Prince** dies from pills laced with fentanyl

