






Uncovering the Opioid Epidemic

Student Data Collection Sheet

Think About It! Write your answers below:

<p>Understanding Opioids</p> 	<p>1. Why do you think people are dying from opioid overdoses?</p> <hr/> <p>2. What are some reasons why people use opioids?</p> <hr/> <p>3. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors drug quality and safety. Why is it important to monitor medications?</p>
<p>Opioids and CDC</p> 	<p>1. Why is fentanyl causing such a dramatic increase in drug overdose deaths?</p> <hr/> <p>2. How do 911 Good Samaritan Laws help save lives?</p> <hr/> <p>3. What responsibility do doctors have in ensuring their patients do not become addicted to the opioids prescribed to them?</p>
<p>Citizen Science</p> 	<p>1. Why should workplaces care about the health and safety of their workers?</p> <hr/> <p>2. What are the effects of opioid use disorder on the friends, family, and surrounding community of people who are affected by it?</p> <hr/> <p>3. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the support services for people with OUD were shut down. How do you think that affected rates of drug overdose?</p>

Build Empathy for People with Opioid Use Disorders (OUD)

After reading the stories and watching the videos, reflect by answering the following questions:

What are some reasons people started using opioids?

What were some of the consequences of opioid use?

*How did the people in the featured stories get treatment for their **opioid use disorders**?*

The people featured in the campaign represent a broad range of ages and identities. How did these stories change your image of what a person who uses drugs looks like?

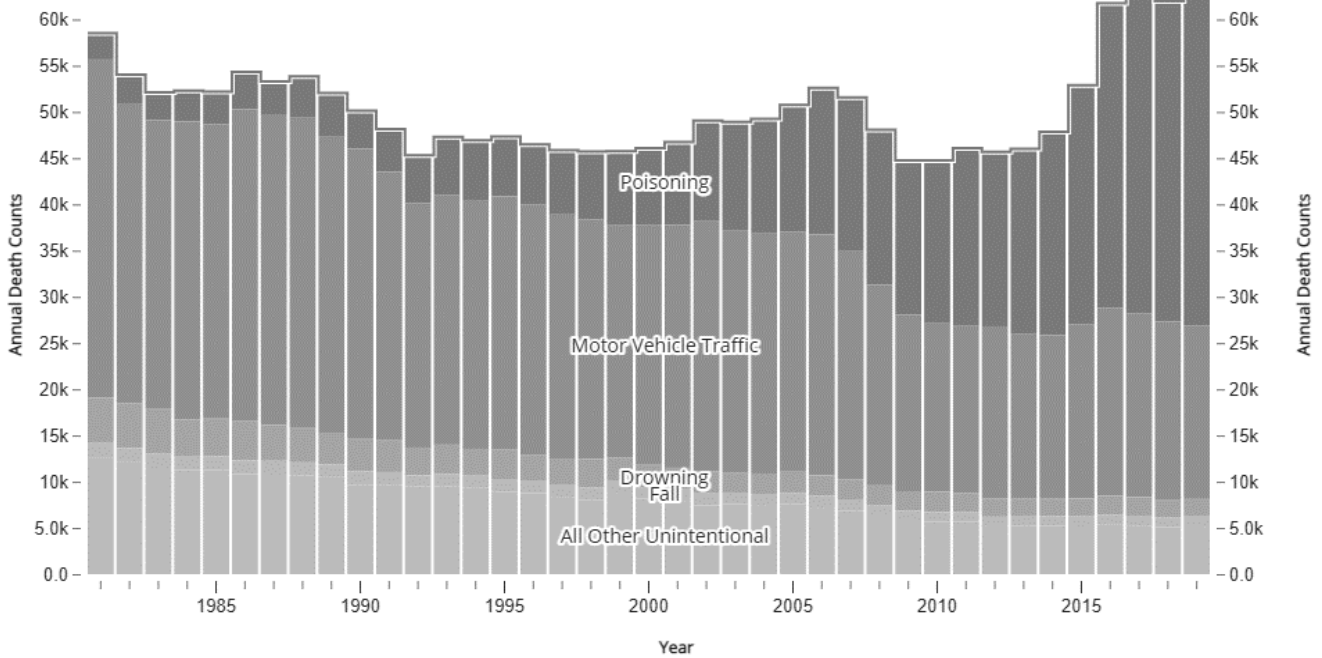
Many of the people featured denied that they had a problem with opioid addiction because they initially got a prescription from a doctor. They later express a sense of betrayal that they became addicted after trusting that their doctors were acting in their best interests. How can trusted authorities like health care practitioners, teachers, and religious leaders play a role in preventing OUD?

Some people see OUD as a moral failing rather than a medical condition. Why is it important to move past that misconception to create effective **public health** interventions that help save lives?

Design an Intervention for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Use the four steps of the public health approach to design an intervention for this epidemic.

Unintentional Injury Deaths in the U.S. for Ages 1-44 from 1981-2019



1. Surveillance: What is the problem?

What trends are you noticing in the data? Before you can solve a problem, you must be able to clearly articulate the problem.

2. Risk Factor Identification: What is the cause?

Who is being affected by drug **overdoses**? How old are they? Where do they live? What races or ethnicities are most affected? Is one sex more affected than another?

3. Intervention: What works?

For this section, you will be exploring three interventions that are known to be effective in treating and preventing **opioid use disorders**. You will evaluate the pros and cons of each in order to decide which will work best given the populations and risk factors you have identified.

You can use knowledge gained from this lesson or you can conduct further research on the internet. Just make sure you are using reputable sites to find credible information. Sources that end in .gov or .org are generally reliable as are sites from medical journals and universities.

Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT)

PROS: _____	CONS: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Syringe Services Programs

PROS: _____	CONS: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Naloxone Distribution Programs

PROS: _____

CONS: _____

Implementation: How do we do it?
Which intervention will you implement? How? Where will you get the resources? Describe your plan.



Reflections

Now that you have completed this investigation, think about what you learned from your research. Answer the questions below.

1. Describe the three types of opioids driving the **epidemic**.

2. How can the drug naloxone be part of a strategy to prevent drug **overdose** deaths?

3. Why do you think people who want to recover from OUD are unable to do so?

4. Drug manufacturers spend hundreds of millions of dollars advertising to the public and to physicians and make billions in profit as a result. What role to drug companies have in addressing the effects of their contributions to the opioid **epidemic**?

5. In recent decades, research has shown that addiction stems from neurobiological factors, not moral failings. However, public perception is slow to catch up. How do personal biases affect how patients with OUD are treated by healthcare and **public health** workers?

6. The city of San Francisco distributes about 4.5 million needles annually to intravenous drug users for harm reduction purposes. As a result, discarded needles can be found on the streets and sidewalks in many neighborhoods of the city. How would you fix this problem?
