
Opioid Epidemic Abstract

Derek J. Pavelka, Ali Al-Ghaithi, Matt Pelz, and Xuan-Ha Vandenberg

The opioid epidemic has been an issue in the United States for many years now with opioid-related overdoses increasing every year. Although medical providers have become more strict on the prescriptions written for opioids, there is still a large presence of heroin on the streets that is being used. The purpose of this research was to find which opioid is the most abused, and if it is a prescription, how often is it prescribed, and what dose is being prescribed. Each state was looked at to see which one has the most opioid-related overdoses and opioid related deaths. Certain demographics were looked at to see which demographic is most likely to abuse opioids. Recently, there has been the introduction of infamous synthetic opioid fentanyl, and the data was looked at year-by-year to see if there was a large impact with the introduction of fentanyl. This data could be extremely useful to law enforcement, health care providers, and really the general, as it shows the dangers of opioid use and how it effects many people in the United States every year.