Date: February 10, 2014

Source: The New York Times

Author: Benedict Carey

This article is about the growing popularity of prescription painkillers such as OxyContin or Vicodin as a drug used as a gateway drug to other worse and more powerful opiates, specifically heroin. Prescription drugs aren’t difficult to get access to, and many unlikely demographics become addicted when they are given a prescription to a painkiller such as OxyContin when they are seriously injured for some reason. They just say that they’re still experiencing pain and can usually get another prescription. When they have the chance to try heroin, they are already addicted to opiates and switch back and forth between pills and heroin.

I picked this article because I had just read about Philip Seymour Hoffman’s death and was interested to learn more about current problems involving heroin and other opiates.

What do you think would be the best way to keep opiate addictions stemming from prescription drugs from happening?