

# Fraudulent Prescriber Trends – Topic for Capstone Project

## Goal

In my current position at HealthFirst, I must work with large clinical claims datasets for various nuances and one such important factor is Opiate usage. Though I haven't directly worked on such data yet, I have been assigned to various projects and presentations topics related to clinical Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA). This is a wonderful opportunity to work on something that brings more value to my role at HF. *I have selected the dataset that has scope for analysis on Fraudulent Prescriber trends and hopefully vital information on opioids.* I believe this will help me in applying the knowledge gained through this DA course to real time issues at hand.

## Motivation

Nearly 841,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, 70,630 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States. The age-adjusted rate of overdose deaths increased by over 4% from 2018 (20.7 per 100,000) to 2019 (21.6 per 100,000).

- Opioids—mainly synthetic opioids (other than methadone)—are currently the main driver of drug overdose deaths. 72.9% of opioid-involved overdose deaths involve synthetic opioids.
- Opioids were involved in 49,860 overdose deaths in 2019 (70.6% of all drug overdose deaths).
- Drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants such as methamphetamine are increasing with and without synthetic opioid involvement.

*With the huge volume of fraudulent claims, Opioids constitute to a majority of it and is an epidemic that needs to fought against! As Data Analysts with the available sources and tools at hand we can put our knowledge to use in creating models not only for trend analysis but also for prevention and research.*

## Method

I intend to submit my final capstone project in the form of Colab notebook(Python code) and a Dashboard story, all to be uploaded to github.

## Data Reference

- The dataset I would be working on for this capstone project is from [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data - Prescribers](#) and contains detailed summary of Prescribers/Providers in the CMS system and their corresponding claims details by geography and type of drugs. Please note that the latest data available at CMS is 2019.
- Reference to articles on Opioid Overdose: [Opioid Statistics](#)