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Your Weekly Newsletter on Daniel's Law

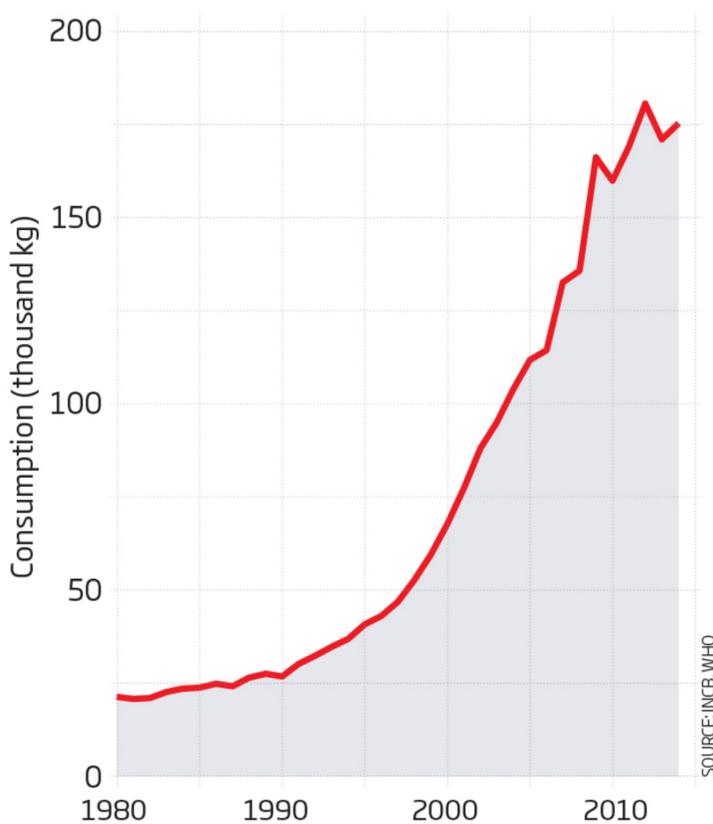
Dear All,

This is a weekly newsletter created to keep everyone up-to-date with the progress happening around Daniel's Law. This newsletter will discuss; new information about Daniel's Law as it's introduced, relevant information about the opioid crisis at the state and federal level, and it will serve as a platform for groups, like Daniel's Law, that are working on creating solutions to help resolve this nationwide health epidemic. If you would like to include information from your organization in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continuing support.

Visit our website danielsstory.org

On the up

Opioid drug use has rocketed over the past few decades, but there is no evidence they work long term



Doctors and patients need to find a new way to think about chronic pain

Only recently has the medical community wakened to how little they know about treating chronic pain.

A review conducted in 2015 by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found that there have been no long-term studies on opioid therapy as an effective treatment option regarding pain relief, quality of life, or addiction risk.

Chronic pain is defined as pain that has persisted after reasonable medical efforts have been made to relieve the pain or it's core cause.

Last year, reporters from *The Washington Post* visited three long-term opioid users—one each in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania—and made a short video about them. One man took opioids for back pain (and had stopped). One woman took them for gout, and another woman took them for rheumatoid arthritis. Those are diseases for which opioids aren't recommended. Characterized by intense inflammation, they should be treated with anti-inflammatory drugs (such as prednisone or ibuprofen) or preventive drugs (allopurinol for gout, and a long list of "disease-modifying" agents for rheumatoid arthritis). To say whether the care was inappropriate is impossible; clinical details weren't given. But there's at least a hint that these two women should never have been on opioids in the first place.

Professor Feinberg from the West Virginia University School of Medicine told the BBC that doctors were under pressure to prescribe strong painkillers - such as opioids - when they may not have been necessary. "By the time you reach middle age, it's a rare person who doesn't ache somewhere," she says. She adds that - in a country where patients rate their doctors, and low ratings can affect doctors' earnings - the score can be influenced by whether patients receive opioids.

Daniel's Law would restrict the diagnoses of chronic pain in a primary care setting. Daniel's Law states that "opioid therapy should be the last treatment option explored not the first."

The American Scholar's website wrote an article titled "Opioids and Paternalism" which examines the explosion of chronic pain and its treatment with opioid therapy. Check out the full article [here](#)