Injury Deaths Fueled by DRUG MISUSE

"Injuries are persistent public health problems. New troubling trends, like the prescription drug overdose epidemic, increasing rates of fall-related deaths and traumatic brain injuries, are serious and require immediate response." - CORINNE PEEK-ASA

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1. 144,000
   DRUG OVERDOSES

2. 41,000
   SUICIDES

3. 33,000
   MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

Drug overdoses surpassed suicides as the #1 leading cause of injury death in the U.S. in 2013.

Over 2 MILLION Americans misuse prescription drugs

Drug overdose deaths have more than DOUBLED in the past 14 years & half of them are related to PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

2000

2013

THE NUMBER OF IOWANS DYING FROM PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLER OVERDOSES JUMPED FROM 4 IN 2000 TO 77 IN 2013
THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG EPIDEMIC is also contributing to an INCREASE IN HEROIN USE

The number of new heroin users has doubled in the past 7 years.

Iowa heroin overdose deaths increased from 1 in 2003 to 20 in 2013.

Overdose Rate by State (2014)

Iowa’s overdose rate is the 4th lowest in the country at 8.8 OVERDOSE DEATHS per 100,000 residents.

West Virginia has the highest rate at 33.5 OVERDOSE DEATHS per 100,000 residents.
WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

STRENGTHEN PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS

PDMPs are state-run electronic databases used to track the prescribing and dispensing of controlled prescription drugs. Use of PDMPs should be mandated, modernized, and fully funded.

EDUCATION FOR PROVIDERS

Ensure responsible prescribing practices. Health care providers should be able to identify signs of addiction so these patients can be referred for treatment.

ACCESS TO TREATMENT

Increase access to substance abuse treatment programs.

EXPANDED TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS AND PATIENT EDUCATION

Ensure people understand the risks of misusing prescription medications, as well as how to safely store and dispose of drugs.

Sources: Trust for America's Health; Iowa Department of Public Health; University of Iowa College of Public Health
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