

## Prescription Pain Medications and Heroin Epidemic

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**Received:** December 30, 2017; **Published:** June 14, 2018



*Figure 1*

For some time, Centers For Disease Control And Prevention has been broadcasting a message: Prescription pain medications have caused an epidemic of deaths and illicit use of heroin. This CDC claim is scientifically feeble.



*Figure 2*

Science says complex psychosocial influences and irrational governmental policies have caused the increasing overdose deaths.

US has an epidemic of chronic psychiatric disorders, pain and suicide. The number of suicide victims have consistently risen in the past 10 years reaching 44,000 fatalities or 13 deaths per 100,000 population. Conservative estimates place the number of Americans with chronic pain at an all-time high of 80 million.

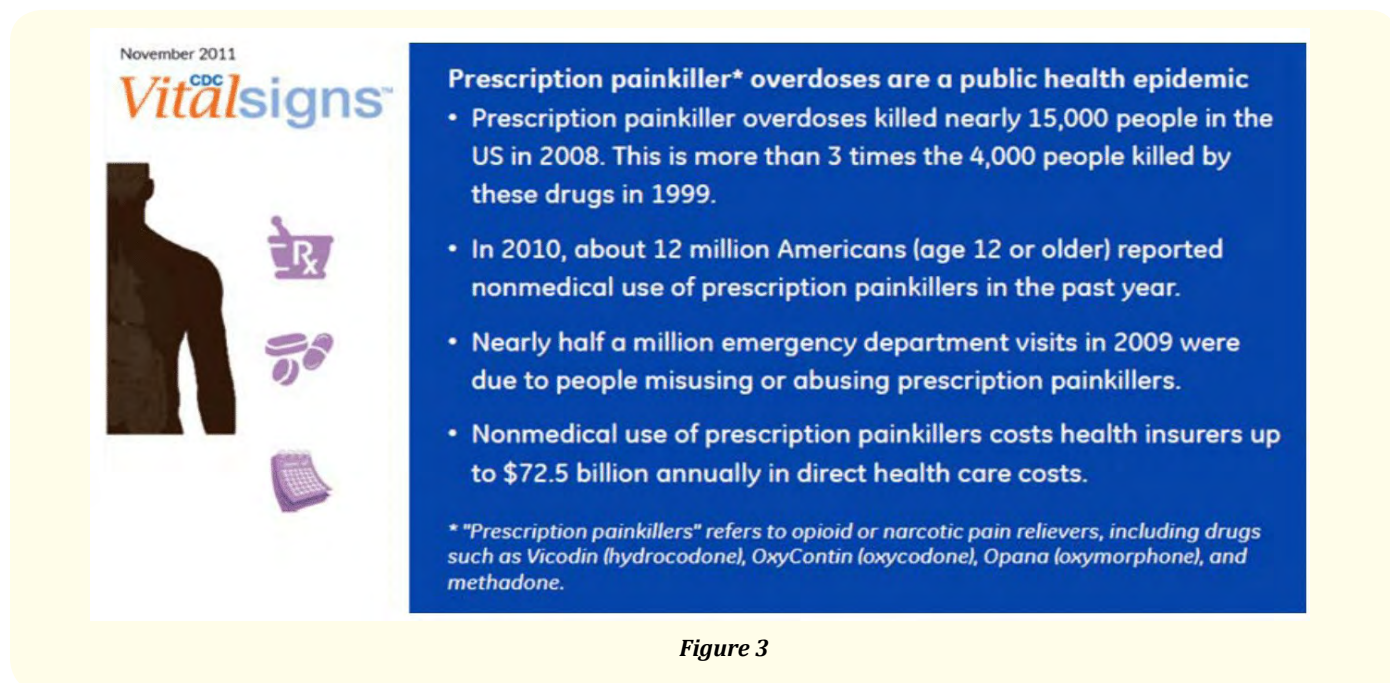


Figure 3

Millions of Americans in need of prescription medications for pain, addiction and depression have suffered immensely because of discriminatory regulations restricting easy access to treatment.

Draconian restrictions of prescription pain medications and treating pain doctors as criminals have triggered the rise in drug related fatalities.

Should we be surprised if high blood pressure related deaths surge upon regulations restricting easy access to anti- hypertensive medications?

Discrimination against people with psychiatric disorders go back to ancient times.

Today I am saddened by the reality that not only discrimination against people with mental problems remains alive, but it is vigorously promoted by CDC [1-6].

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**Volume 7 Issue 7 July 2018**

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