Pain in the Nation: Drug, Alcohol & Suicide Epidemics & the Need for a National Resilience Strategy

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April 18, 2018
New National Findings in 2016

- Death still increasing - 11%
- 142,000 deaths from drug, alcohol & suicides - record level
- Deaths could reach 2 million in next decade
Trends in Alcohol, Drug and Suicide Deaths

Annual Deaths from Alcohol, Drugs and Suicide, 1999-2016
PAIN IN THE NATION

Deaths from drugs, alcohol and suicide 1999 to 2025 (PROJECTED)

1999

PainInTheNation.org
Trends in Alcohol, Drug and Suicide

- 43 M with mental health diagnosis
- 20 M with substance use disorder (SUD)
- 8 M have both
- 2/3 have adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

Past Year Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Mental Illness among Adults Aged 18 or Older: 2015

Source: SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health
Recent Developments

- "Synthetic" opioids (Fentanyl) deaths grew most rapidly
  - Growth slows from prescription deaths
- More populations affected
  - Black deaths up by 39% & Hispanic by 24%
  - White - still highest rates
Responses to the Crisis

Some progress with focus on:

- Prescribing practices
- Overdose reversal
- Access to treatment - including MAT

Additional needs

- Prevention - "upstream"
- Increasing illicit drugs
A Path Forward: a National Resilience Strategy

- Addiction & suicide - public health issues
- Comprehensive approach needed from harm reduction to treatment to early prevention efforts
- Life conditions key-multi-sector approaches needed
- Public health can assist

Source: ASTHO