Opioid crisis

Use of opioids has become a serious issue due to high rates of overdose and abuse reported in America. The purpose of legalizing opioids was to provide pain relief to the patients of chronic diseases. However, this increased its overdose and the drug poses serious challenges for the community. Irrespective of all the measures taken by the state the rate of deaths associated with opioids overdose is five times higher compared to 1991. The death rates for the last two decades has been on a consistent rise. Facts reveal "in 2017, the age-adjusted opioid death rate reached 14.9 per 100,000 people, up from 2.9 in 1999” (Sternberg & Galvin, 2019). Due to high rates of deaths, it is critical to adopt policy measures that will eliminate its misuse. Another issue of opioids is that its use increases the likelihood of addiction.

FDA has announced changes in the health policy for handling the opioid crisis. The state declared opioid as a public emergency. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and (PDMP) National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (NASPER) contributed to limit the illegal use of opioids. Irrespective of these policy measures the rates of deaths are still increasing due to overdose.

The failure of the state to implement strict controls depicts the need for managing future challenges. This will require marinating records of the use of opioids in healthcare settings. Strict parameters are needed for assuring that the drug is sold only for emergency cases. The state needs to implement strict punishments such as the imposition of fines and imprisonments for the wrong prescription or overdose. For preventing opioids addiction it is critical to allow drug only in severe cases. Adoption of alternative pain management strategies will also provide a solution.

Reference

Sternberg, S., & Galvin, G. (2019). *America’s Deadly New Normal*. Retrieved 04 12, 2019, from https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2019-01-28/opioid-crisis-points-to-deadly-new-normal-for-america