

Public Policy Memo

1. Problem definition argument:

The community is being affected by the rise of highly potent synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.

According to the CDC, fentanyl overdoses have been proven to be the leading cause of death among Americans ages 18-45. This opioid problem developed with the overprescription of legal pain medications. The problem seems to be pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy. These illegal drugs are lethal and dangerous. Counterfeit pills resemble prescription opioids, such as oxycodone. These pills are marketed a lot of times as a (Percocet, or oxycodone) hydrocodone (marketed as Vicodin) and alprazolam (marketed as Xanax). This synthetic drug problem has intensified over time. I would argue that this synthetic drug problem deserves the highest level of government attention.

2. Policy evaluation argument:

The Affordable Care Act has three primary goals. It provides consumers with subsidies (premium credits) to make affordable health insurance available to more people in the community; it lowers cost for households with incomes 100% and 400 % poverty level; it supports innovative medical care delivery methods, that are designed to lower health care. Expand Medicaid; this will cover all adults with incomes below 138% of the FPL. In terms of its impact, not all states have expanded their Medicaid programs. The ACA's main objectives are to reform private insurance, especially for individuals and small group purchasers and to expand Medicaid to the working-class poor with an income of up to 133% of federal poverty level.

3. Policy Recommendation:

These gun safety policies have been proven to save lives. Gun policies were compared across the entire country. Each state conveys the strength of its gun laws, while comparing the laws to the rate of gun violence. States with stronger gun laws have seen less gun violence. There are 14 states that have failed to put basic protections into place. These "national failures" have triple the rate of gun deaths. There have been a wide range of interventions implemented, such as blocking gun access to individuals who pose a threat with a firearm. Another primary focus would be limiting gun violence in public by increasing the number of police officers. Others disagree and are advocating an increase in police accountability to protect civil rights.