

Federal Initiatives for Prescription Opioids and Heroin



NIHCM Webinar on Opioid Abuse in the United States:
An Urgent Public Health Crisis

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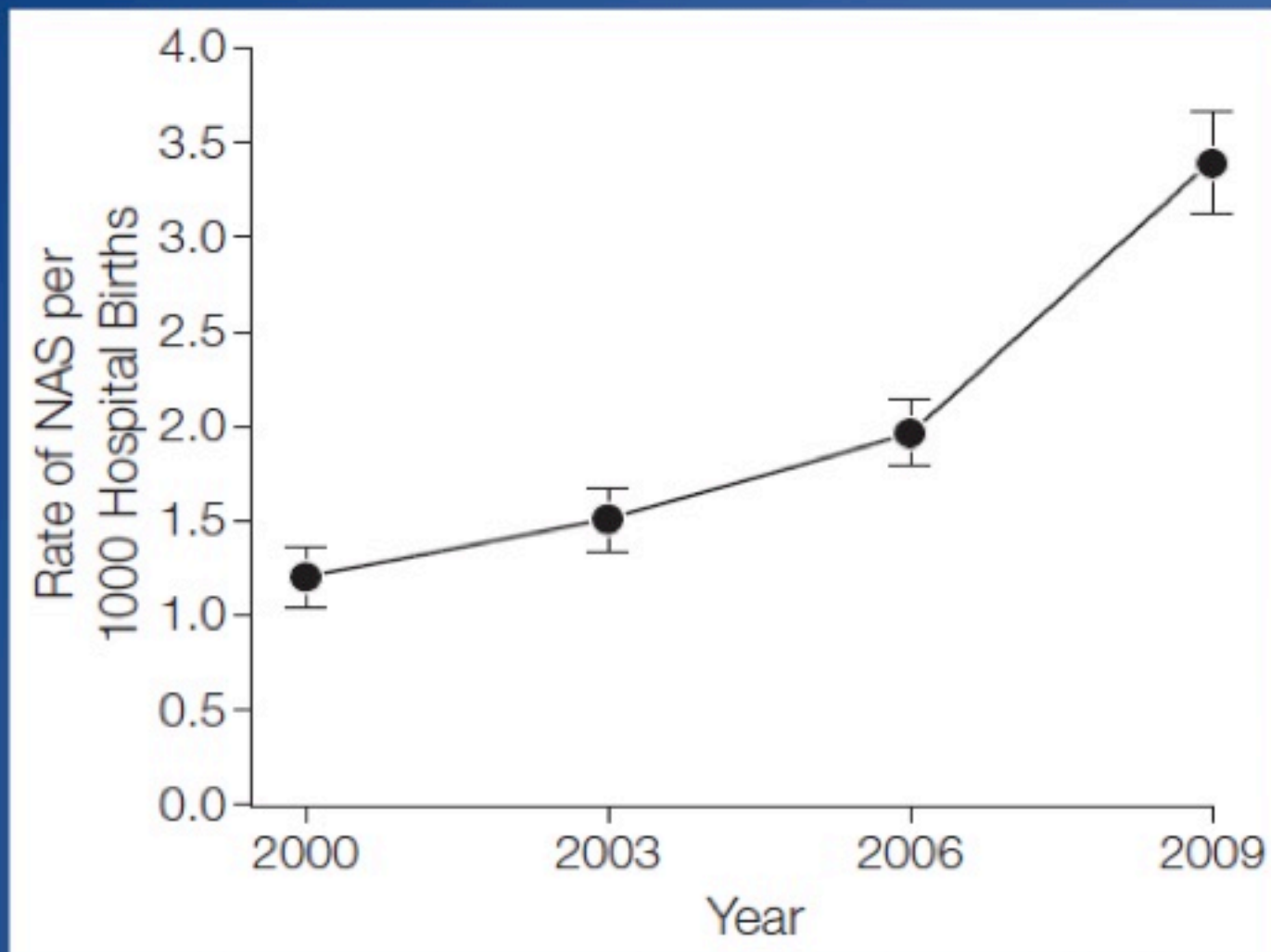


In 1999, there was one drug overdose death every 30 minutes.



In 2013, there was one drug overdose death every 12 minutes.

Change in NAS, 2000-2009



Source: Patrick SW, et. al. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Associated Healthcare Expenditures – United States, 2000-2009. *JAMA*. 2012 May 9;307(18):1934-40.

Change in NAS 2009-2012

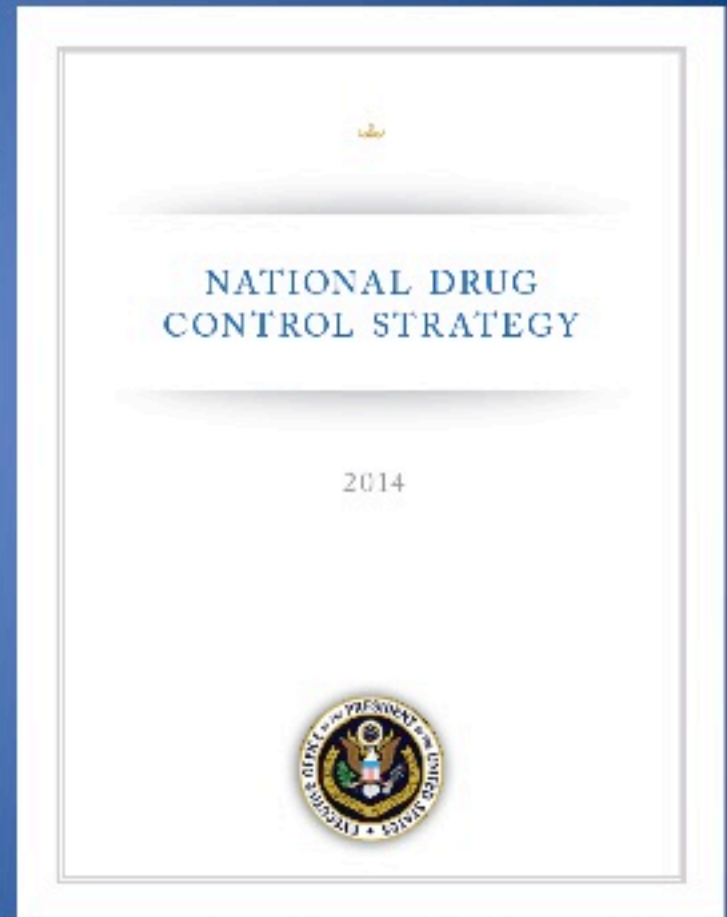
- From 2009 to 2012, NAS incidence increased from 3.4 to 5.8 per 1,000 hospital births
- On average, this is one infant born every 20 minutes in the U.S. with the syndrome
- Highest prevalence in Southern states, followed by New England
- Aggregate inflation-adjusted national hospital charges grew from \$732M to \$1.5B
- More than 80% of these were attributed to state Medicaid programs.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

- Component of the Executive Office of the President
- Coordinates drug-control activities and related funding across the Federal Government
- Produces the annual *National Drug Control Strategy*

National Drug Control Strategy

- **The U.S. President's science-based plan to reform drug policy:**
 - 1) Prevent drug use before it ever begins through education
 - 2) Expand access to treatment for Americans struggling with addiction
 - 3) Reform our criminal justice system
 - 4) Support Americans in recovery
- **Signature initiatives:**
 - Prescription Drug Abuse
 - Prevention
 - Drugged Driving



Rx Elements of the 2010 National Drug Control Strategy

– Prevention

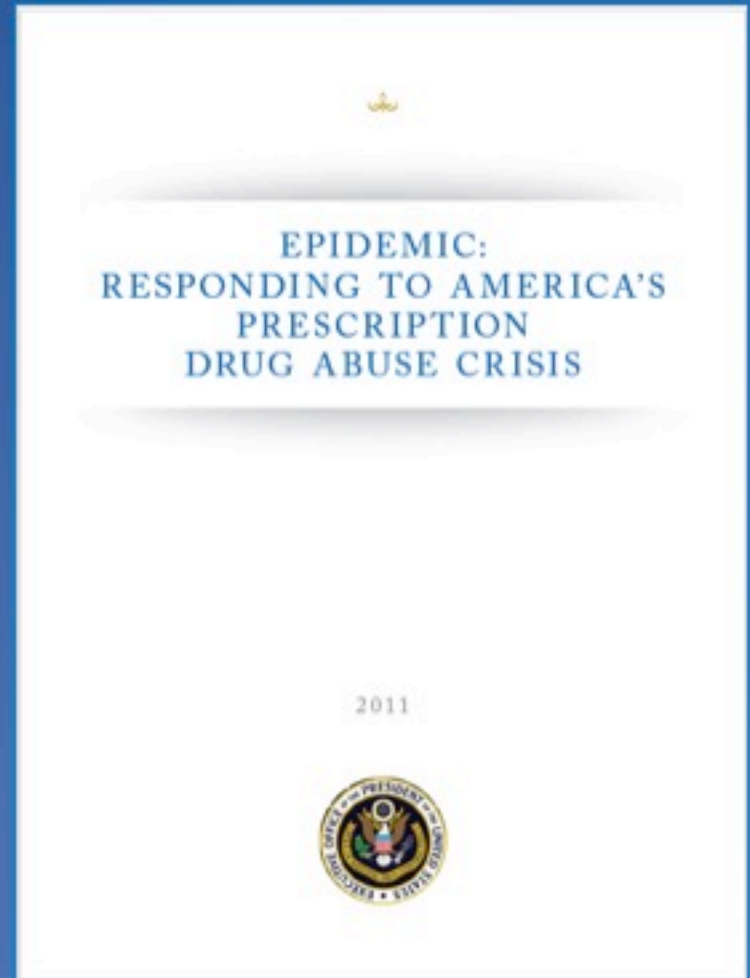
- School-based and Community
- Media Campaign

– Opioid Use/Nonmedical Prescription Use

- Early Intervention, Treatment and Recovery/Family based treatment
- Naloxone for First Responders, including law enforcement
- Syringe Exchange Services

Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan

- Coordinated effort across the Federal Government
- Four focus areas:
 - 1) Education
 - 2) Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
 - 3) Proper Disposal of Medication
 - 4) Enforcement



Preventing Heroin, Injection-Drug Use, and Medical Consequences

- Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs and Prescription Drug Diversion (Rx Plan Pillars)
- Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution
- Earlier Treatment as Prevention
- Public Health Prevention Interventions for HIV/HEP C
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (Maintenance)
- Maternal and Infant Best Practices

President Barack Obama at the West Virginia Community Forum

"It touches everybody – from celebrities to college students, to soccer moms, to inner city kids. White, black, Hispanic, young, old, rich, poor, urban, suburban, men and women. It can happen to a coal miner; it can happen to a construction worker; a cop who is taking a painkiller for a work-related injury. It could happen to the doctor who writes him the prescription."



Presidential Memorandum—Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Use

- Purpose: To reduce prescription pain medication and heroin overdose deaths, promote the appropriate and effective prescribing of pain medications, and improve access to treatment

Source: MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Use. The White House Office of the Press Secretary. Available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/21/presidential-memorandum-addressing-prescription-drug-abuse-and-heroin>

Linked to October 29, 2015

Additional 2015 White House Announcements

- Federal Actions
- FY2016 Budget
- State/Local/Private Sector Commitments

Source: FACT SHEET. Obama Administration Announces Public and Private Sector Efforts to Address Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin use. White House Office of the Press Secretary. October 21, 2015. Available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/21/fact-sheet-obama-administration-announces-public-and-private-sector>
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Federal NAS Policy Stance

- NAS is an expected side effect of treatment with opioids;
- Policy initiatives should focus on ensuring prenatal care and stability for mom and babies;
- Women must feel safe to enroll in prenatal and substance use care;
- Unlike Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, NAS is treatable and does not generally contribute to lifelong negative outcomes;
- Treatment with opioids during pregnancy may be necessary for some conditions, especially opioid use disorder treatment; and
- Treatment with opioids should not be discontinued during pregnancy except under medical supervision.