

Title:	Looking at the opioid crisis in the US
First Broadcast:	March, 2022
Source:	ABC 7.30 REPORT
Minutes:	7:21
Video & Script:	<a href="https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/looking-at-the-opioid-crisis-in-the-us/13819774">https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/looking-at-the-opioid-crisis-in-the-us/13819774</a>
Summary:	America's addiction to prescription painkillers has devastated communities and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Now doctors, drug makers and pharmacies are being forced to payout billions of dollars in damages.

## KEY WORDS

*Below is a list of words which appear in the report - can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.*

a sudden and brief increase in something	
able to be used or obtained, available	
act against, prevent	
an important point in the progress or development of something	
aspect or feature of something	
distribute, provide, hand out	
elated, happy, joyful	
emergency, worrying time, difficult situation that needs serious attention	
get rid of	
process of taking legal action	
restore to health, restore to normality	
sicken	
very difficult or unpleasant experience, distressing	

<b>crisis</b> (n)
<b>euphoric effect</b> (adj)
<b>nauseate</b> (v)
<b>milestone</b> (n)
<b>spike in numbers</b> (n)
<b>eradicate</b> (v)
<b>litigation</b> (n)
<b>dispense</b> (v)
<b>counter drug trafficking</b> (v)
<b>rehabilitate</b> (v)
<b>facet of life</b> (n)
<b>trauma</b> (n)
easily <b>accessible</b> (adj)

## SUMMARY

America's addiction to prescription painkillers has devastated communities and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Now doctors, drug makers and pharmacies are being forced to payout billions of dollars in damages.

## FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What do you know about the opioid crisis in the US? What is an opioid? What do they do?
- Why are people being prescribed these drugs in the first place? Why have they been so easily available in many parts of the US?
- What problems do these drugs cause? For individuals and communities? How do they ruin lives?
- Why are doctors, drug makers and pharmacies being sued for billions of dollars? What are their roles in this crisis?
- Why is it hard for people to kick their addiction to opioids?
- John Trebets, a judge, says it costs seven times more to imprison someone than it does to try to rehabilitate them. Do you think drug addicts should be jailed?



## LISTENING

*First watch the report and answer the questions*

- Over a period of four years to 2016, in Lake County it's estimated 61 million prescription pain pills were dispensed – what does that equate to? \_\_\_\_\_ **for every resident.**
- Over the past year, how many Americans have died from opioid overdoses?

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

*After watching the report, try to answer the following questions*

1. Jen Szabo's opioid drug addiction began 15 years ago when she ...
2. She says the drug provides a false sense of ...
3. What does she say are some of the side effects she experienced when she has tried to withdraw?
4. Why did she start taking heroin instead of opioids?
5. What happened with her three children?
6. She regained control of her life after she ...
7. How long has she now been sober? ...
8. The billions of dollars in damages each county receives will go towards ...
9. What is Jen Szabo's dream now?

## CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences

The form of the word may need to be changed

crisis	euphoric	nauseate	milestone	spike
eradicate	litigation	dispense	counter	
rehabilitate	facet	trauma	accessible	

1. After devastating floods left millions of people homeless and without safe drinking water, the Prime Minister said the country was facing a humanitarian \_\_\_\_\_ and called on international leaders for assistance.
2. After winning 8 Academy Awards, cinemas reported a \_\_\_\_\_ in audience numbers for the film.
3. During his 4-year apprenticeship, Roy had been trained in all \_\_\_\_\_ of the plumbing business.
4. In Australia, prescribed drugs can only be \_\_\_\_\_ by a licensed pharmacy or a medical doctor.
5. In Australia, turning 21 is traditionally celebrated as a significant \_\_\_\_\_ in a person's life. But for many young people today, it's not such an important birthday.
6. In the past, cigarettes were easily \_\_\_\_\_ to young smokers. But in most countries now retail outlets face very heavy fines if they are caught selling tobacco to people under the age of 18.
7. It took the boy a long time to get over the \_\_\_\_\_ of his beloved grandmother's death.
8. The company's lawyers decided to pay the employee \$10 thousand to settle the claim and avoid expensive \_\_\_\_\_ in the courts.
9. The developer tried to \_\_\_\_\_ opposition from neighbours to the high-rise apartment project by promising to build a large public park next door.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of life-threatening diseases such as malaria was the charity's main goal.
11. The judge said she didn't think there was any hope of \_\_\_\_\_ for the man and sentenced him to life in prison.
12. The man had been a vegan for 10 years and the thought of eating meat \_\_\_\_\_ him.
13. The student said she felt immense \_\_\_\_\_ after she found out she'd been awarded a full scholarship to study at Oxford University.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 265</li> <li>• more than 100,000</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. gave birth to her first child</li> <li>2. hope</li> <li>3. stomach hurt, shakes, sweats, nauseated, very irritated, uncomfortable</li> <li>4. could no longer afford opioids</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. she lost custody of them</li> <li>6. was sent to prison</li> <li>7. three years</li> <li>8. treatment</li> <li>9. to get all her children back living under the same roof</li> </ol>
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