

Press Release

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### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: Perspectives on the U.S. Opioid Epidemic**

Opioids have hit the U.S. hard in the 21st century. Several pharmaceutical companies, like Purdue Pharma and Johnson and Johnson (JNJ), have faced lawsuits related to how their companies marketed opioids. According to data from Deutsche Bank Research, opioid-related deaths per million residents has drastically increased in the U.S. compared to the other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. OECD is an organization with 36 member countries founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

Between 2011 and 2016 the opioid epidemic fatalities surged from just under 80 deaths per million residents to over 120. The next two closest countries are Canada and Estonia, who are both between 85-90 deaths per million. Deutsche Bank Research maintains there are far more opioid-related deaths in the U.S. than in other countries. According to the RAND Opioid Policy Center, a national resource, fostering innovative research in opioid policy science, this disparity is due to a variety of factors of which includes fentanyl. Between 2016 and 2017, synthetic opioid overdose deaths (including fentanyl) spiked 45%. Fentanyl can be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. And according to researchers, synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, are now the most common drugs involved in drug overdose deaths in the United States. Undoubtedly, another factor is the over prescription of painkillers within the U.S. health care system. The multitude of lawsuits holding drug makers accountable is a direct result.

Once the U.S. began enacting more regulations through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), people moved to the illegal market and started using heroin and from there came the creation of synthetic opioids, like fentanyl and carfentanil. The combination of these factors is what created the crisis in the U.S. and Canada.

Researchers maintain there are four areas where countries can take action to control the opioid epidemic. One- the health system. Countries should invest and should develop policies in the area of prevention and regulate the relationship with the manufacturers. Two- Social policy can help people with housing, employment support, and rehabilitation. Three- Improvement and knowledge of opioid use. Four- regulation and enforcement. Researchers hope to find ways to decrease the likelihood that people are going to begin to develop opioid problems and prevent people from going down that road. For people who have those problems the U.S. treatment system needs to be more robust, and focus on the naloxone of another harm reduction methods to decrease overdose deaths.

Deutsche Bank Research is responsible for economic analysis within Deutsche Bank Group and analyzes relevant trends for the bank in financial markets, the economy and society, highlight risks and opportunities and act as consultant for the bank, its clients and stakeholders. For more information please visit [www.dbresearch.com](http://www.dbresearch.com).

The RAND-USC Schaeffer Opioid Policy Tools and Information Center (OPTIC) is a national resource, fostering innovative research in opioid policy science. To learn more please visit <https://www.rand.org/health-care/centers/optic.html>

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org)