

From: Catherine McNicoll <CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>  
To: Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>  
Date: 8/3/2017 3:51:49 PM  
Subject: RE: Opioids

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<https://www.asam.org/docs/advocacy/societal-costs-of-prescription-opioid-abuse-dependence-and-misuse-in-the-united-states.pdf> (Pages 5 and 6)

"The amount paid for treatment of substance use disorders is only a small portion of the costs these disorders impose on society. A recent analysis suggested that the total costs of prescription opioid use disorders and overdoses in the United States was \$78 billion in 2013. Of that, only 3.6 percent, or about \$2.8 billion, was for treatment."

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/medications-to-treat-opioid-addiction/how-much-does-opioid-treatment-cost>

"It is estimated that the abuse of opioid analgesics results in over \$72 billion in medical costs alone each year."

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/hhs\\_prescription\\_drug\\_abuse\\_report\\_09.2013.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/hhs_prescription_drug_abuse_report_09.2013.pdf)

This has a state by state breakdown of an estimate from 2007 - a bit outdated. [https://drugfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Matrix\\_OpioidAbuse\\_040415.pdf](https://drugfree.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Matrix_OpioidAbuse_040415.pdf)

*Best Regards,*  
*Catherine McNicoll*  
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From: Danny Varat  
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2017 12:26 PM  
To: Catherine McNicoll  
Subject: Re: Opioids

Any data out there on the cost of opioid addiction?

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From: Catherine McNicoll  
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 10:46 AM  
To: Danny Varat  
Subject: RE: Opioids

The best indicator is really the naxolone administration because it is hard to say how many addicts there are when not all have been treated, seek treatment, have been arrested, etc.

The other indicator is the number of deaths caused by overdoses.

<http://www.dhec.sc.gov/Health/Opioids/OpioidStatistics/>

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From: Danny Varat  
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 10:37 AM  
To: Catherine McNicoll <CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>  
Subject: Re: Opioids

Do we have any statistics on the level of addiction in SC?

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From: Catherine McNicoll

Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 5:12 PM

To: Danny Varat

Subject: Opioids

The document labeled op-ed is the extremely rough draft for the op-ed. The other document is some of my notes. I also have a lot of other pieces.

The overall problem I have had is everyone agrees there is a problem but there really hasn't been a proven solution yet. So there isn't a whole lot support the theories on how to solve it. There is the obvious logic of stop addiction before it starts, which is two-fold; one where possible just don't expose people to addictive substances and two where exposure and addiction have already occurred treat immediately to stop the damage.

The only programs that seem to have some solid evidence are diversion programs like New Start and Drug Court, which offer addicts rehabilitation alternatives to imprisonment. These have high costs on the front end but have a proven impact.

*Best Regards,*

*Catherine McNicoll*

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