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An Update on the Opioid Epidemic: Perception vs. Reality

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Citation Information

Hagemeyer, Nicholas E.. 2017. An Update on the Opioid Epidemic: Perception vs. Reality. Podium presentation. *ETSU A Tough Pill to Swallow CME Event*, Johnson City, TN. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B4gQRfHvsW_pc2NQSjFNS3g4aFU

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An Update on the Opioid Epidemic: Perception vs. Reality

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This document was originally published by the event *A Tough Pill to Swallow: Addressing the Epidemic of Prescription Drug Abuse*.

There is an Opioid Crisis/ Epidemic/ Problem

Myth or Reality?

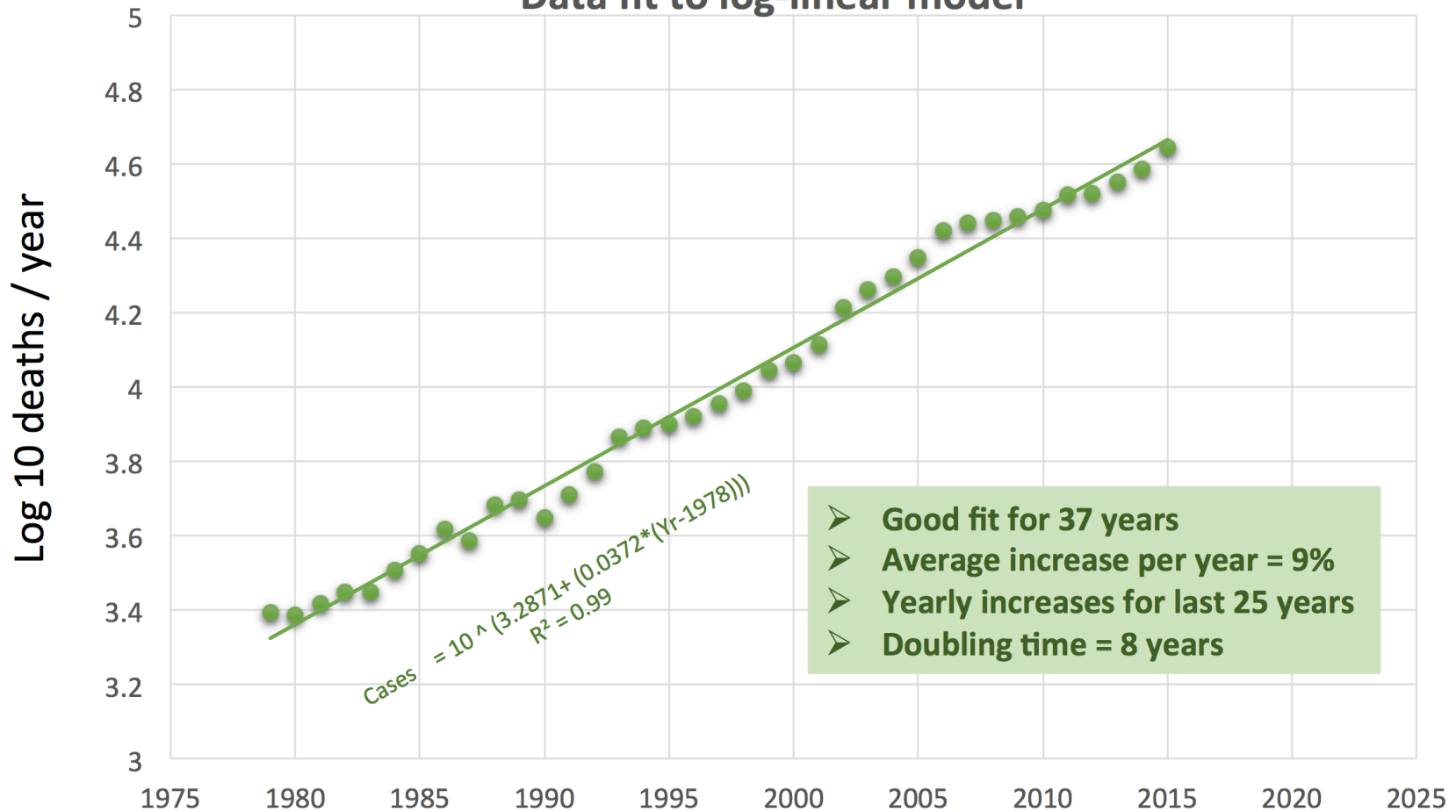
Politics

Trump says opioid crisis is a national emergency, pledges more money and attention



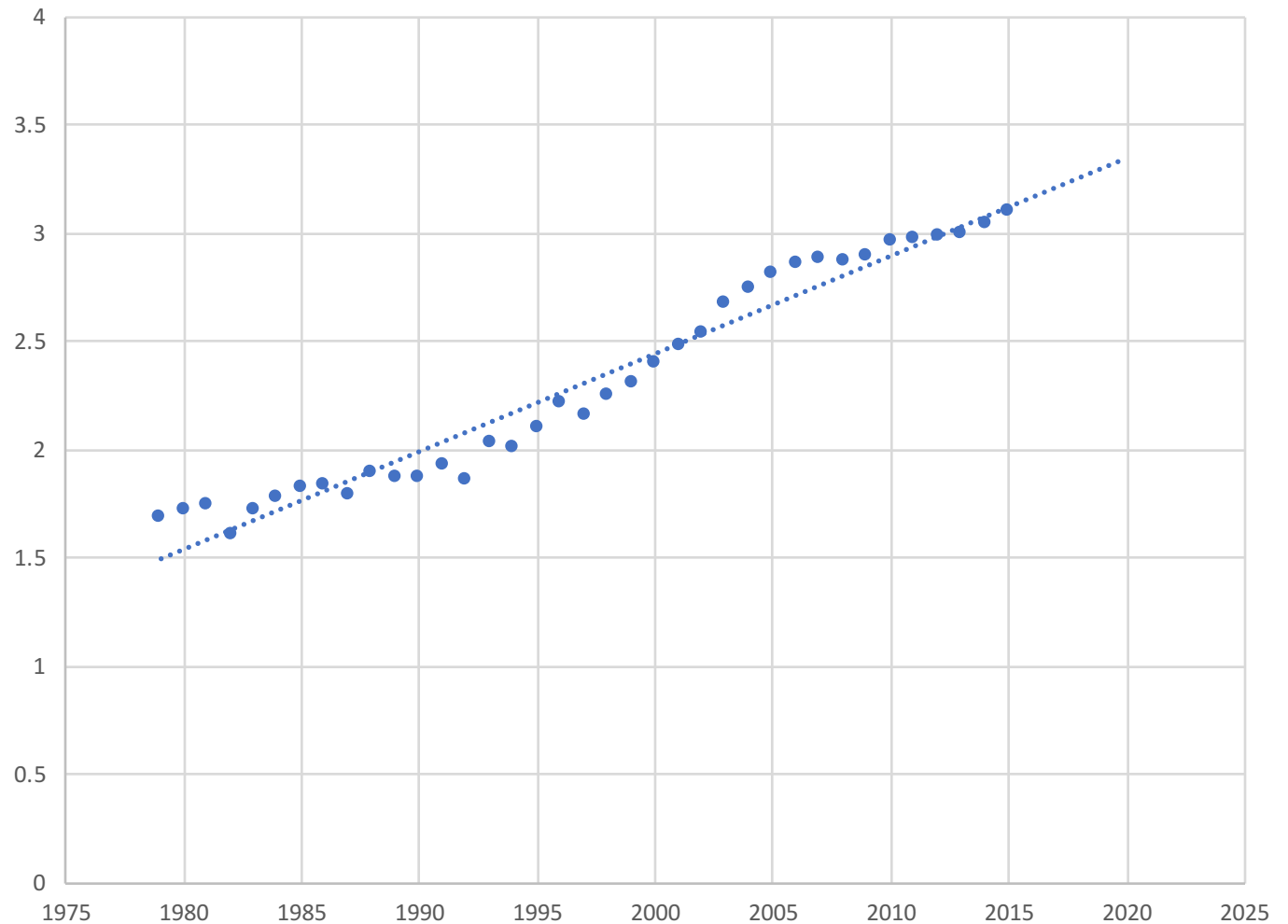
President Trump pledged to "spend a lot of time, a lot of effort and a lot of money on the opioid crisis," while speaking to reporters in Bedminster N.J. on Aug. 10. (The Washington Post)

USA Deaths/Year Due to Accidental Poisoning, 1979-2015 Data fit to log-linear model



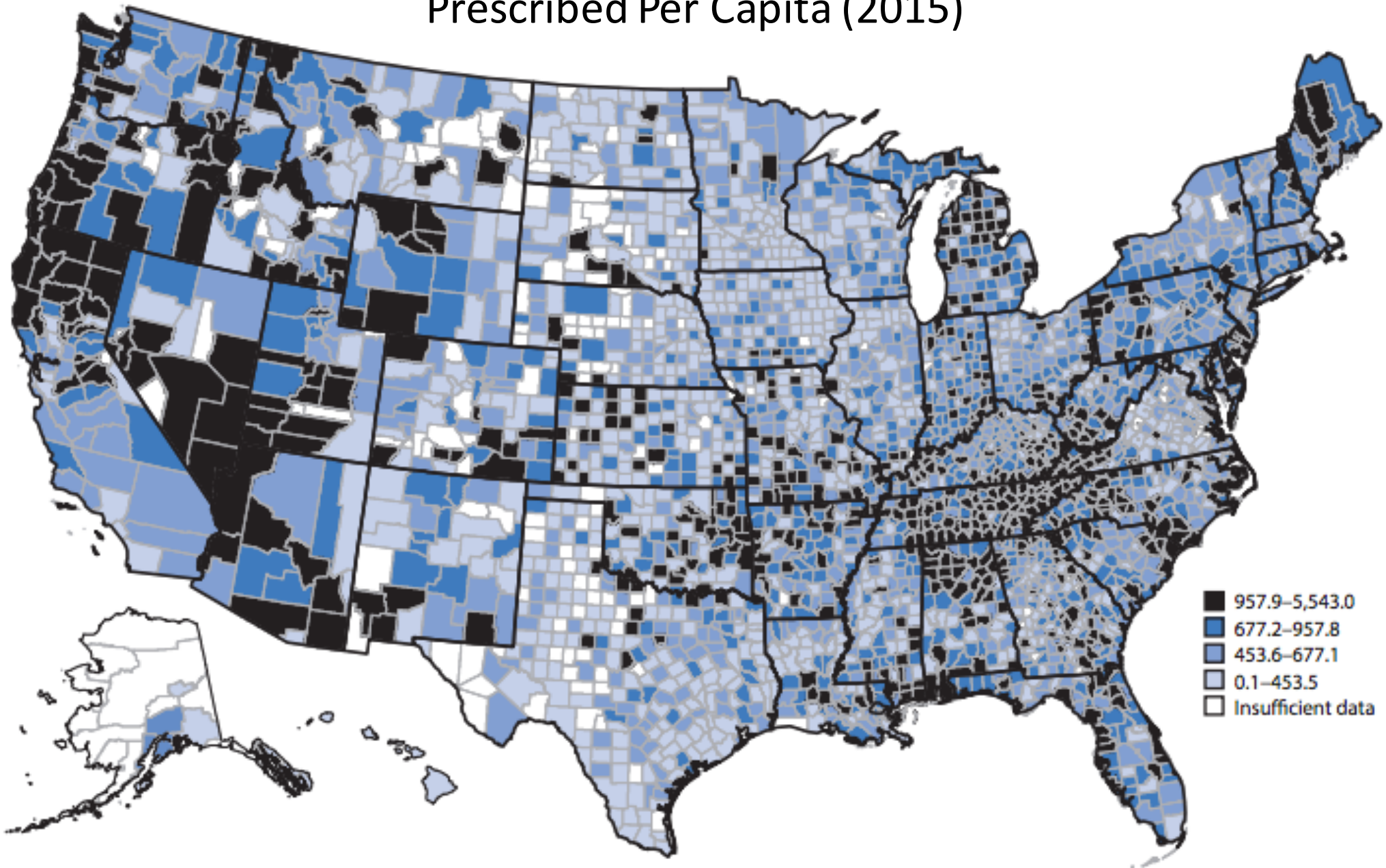
Tennessee Overdose Deaths: Future Projections

Year	Projected Deaths
2016	1732
2017	1922
2018	2132
2019	2365
2020	2624
Total	10775

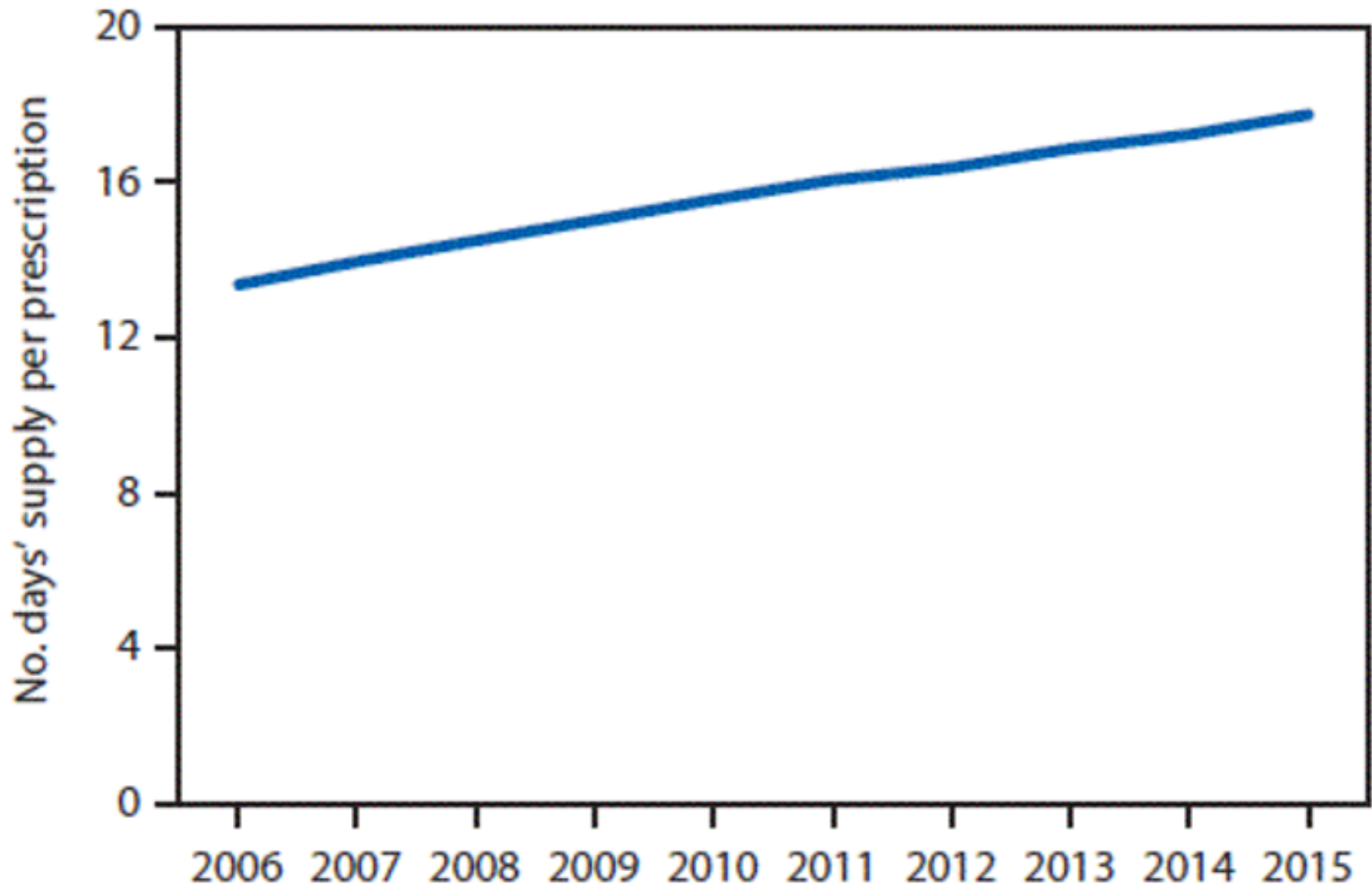


Buchanan et al. 2017 Exponential Growth of the USA Overdose Epidemic.
<http://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2017/05/09/134403.full.pdf>

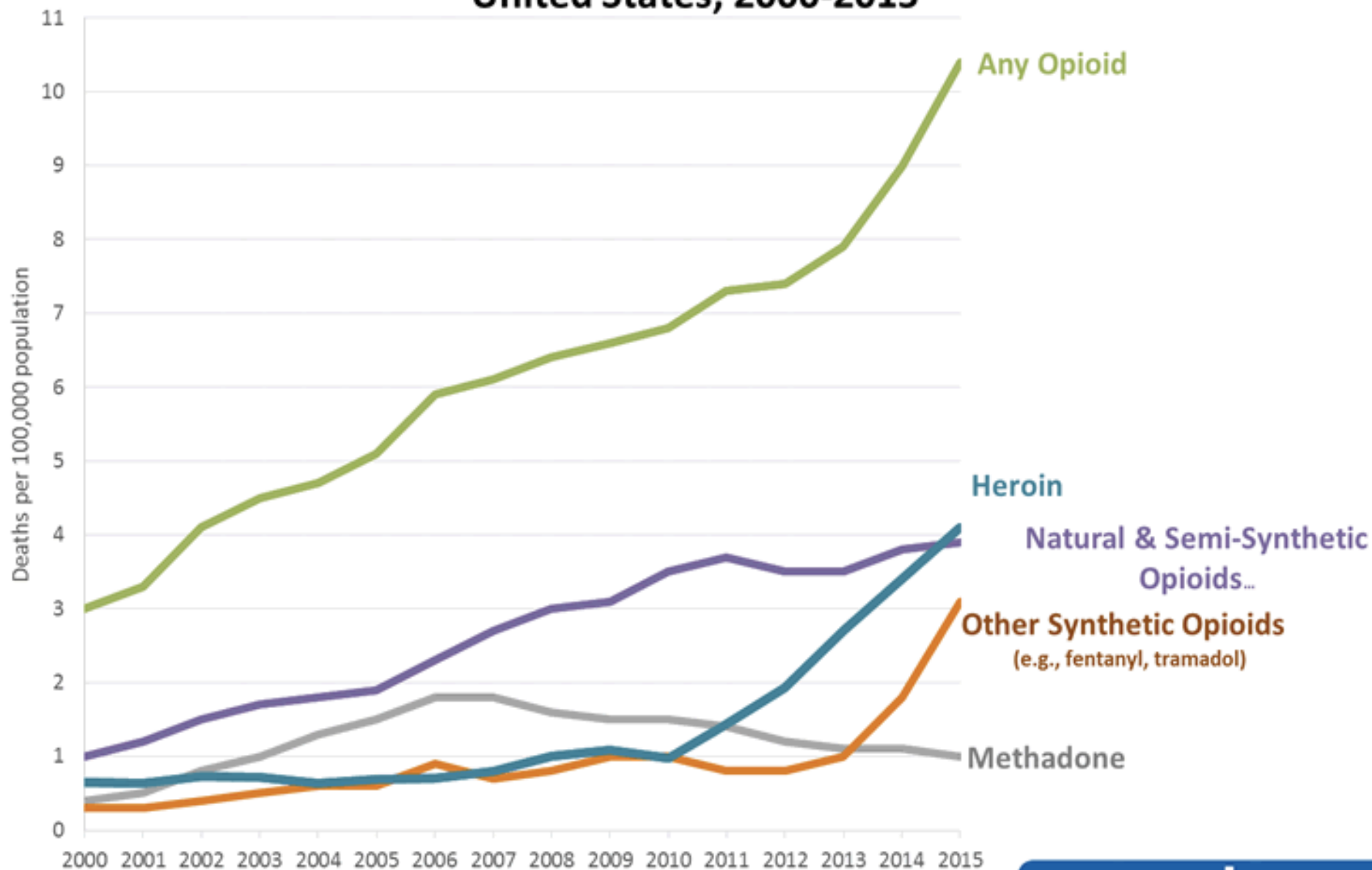
Morphine Milligram Equivalents Prescribed Per Capita (2015)



Average no. of days' supply per prescription



Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, by Type of Opioid, United States, 2000-2015



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality. CDC WONDER, Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.

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American Journal of Preventive Medicine

RESEARCH ARTICLE

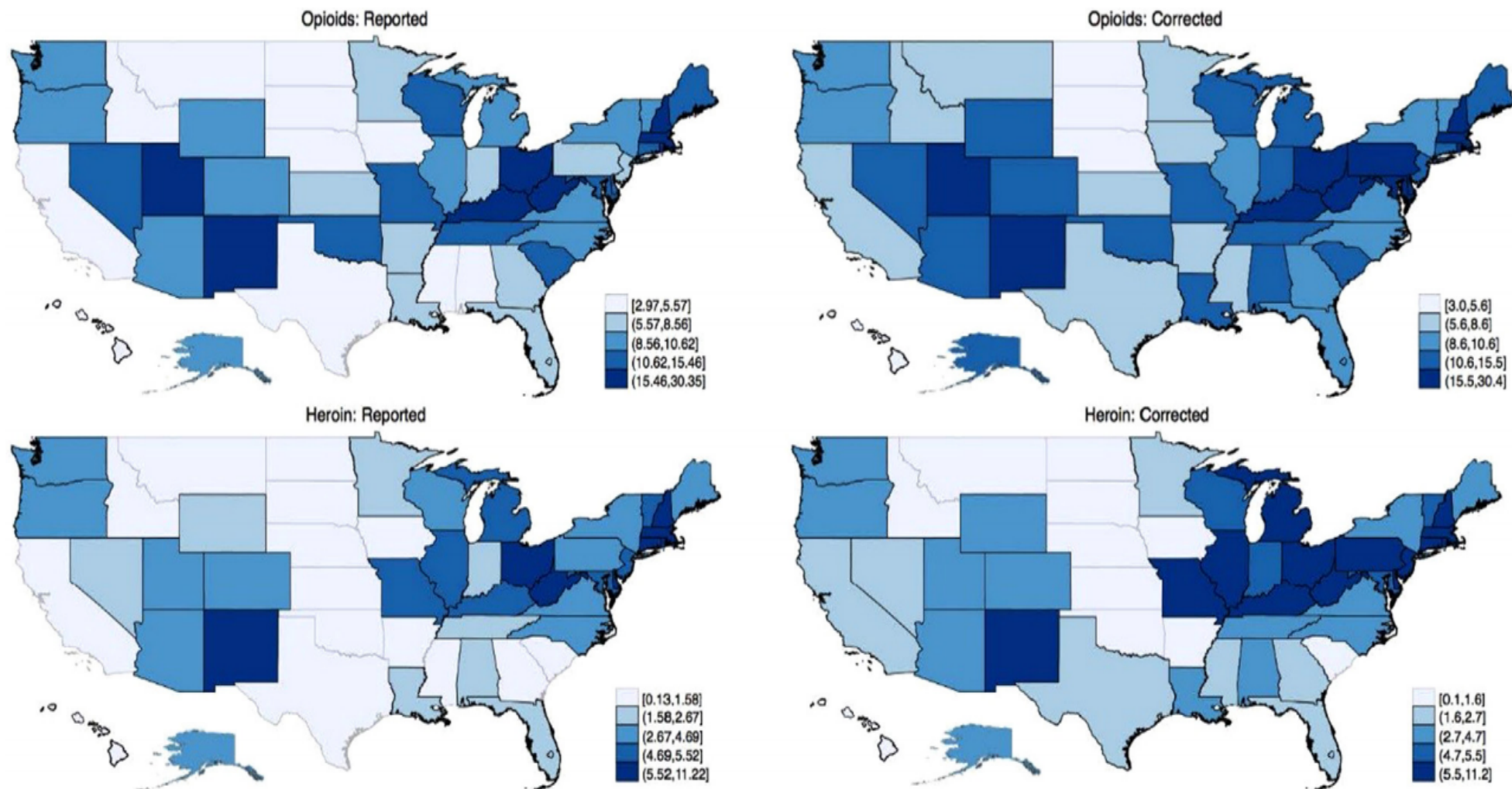
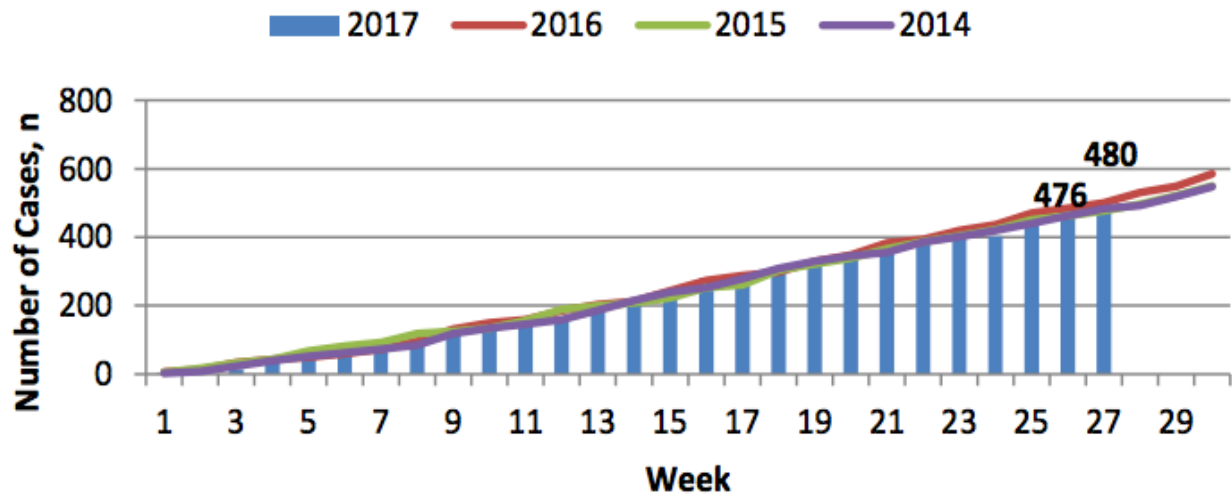


Figure 1. Reported and corrected 2014 overdose death rates (per 100,000).

Cumulative NAS Cases Reported



Source of Exposure	# Cases ³	% Cases
Medication assisted treatment	313	65.2
Legal prescription of an opioid pain reliever	30	6.3
Legal prescription of a non-opioid	35	7.3
Prescription opioid obtained without a prescription	138	28.8
Non-opioid prescription substance obtained without a prescription	72	15.0
Heroin	29	6.0
Other non-prescription substance	87	18.1
No known exposure	1	0.2
Other ⁴	44	9.2



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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

HIV Infection Linked to Injection Use of Oxymorphone in Indiana, 2014–2015

What Happened in Scott County, Indiana
Could Occur Here
Myth or Reality

It's a Supply Issue

Myth or Reality



Elizabeth Renstrom for TIME

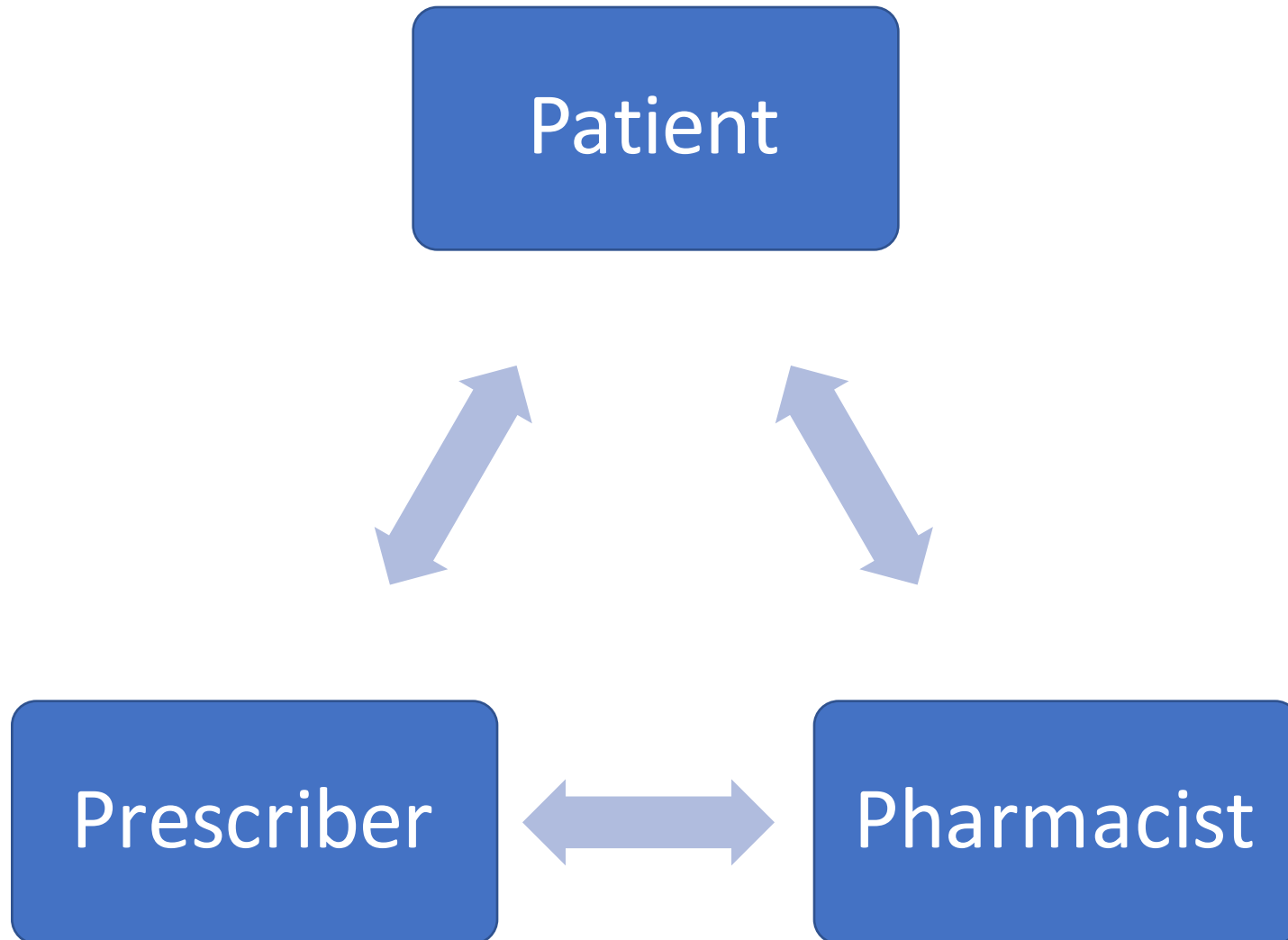
MEDICINE

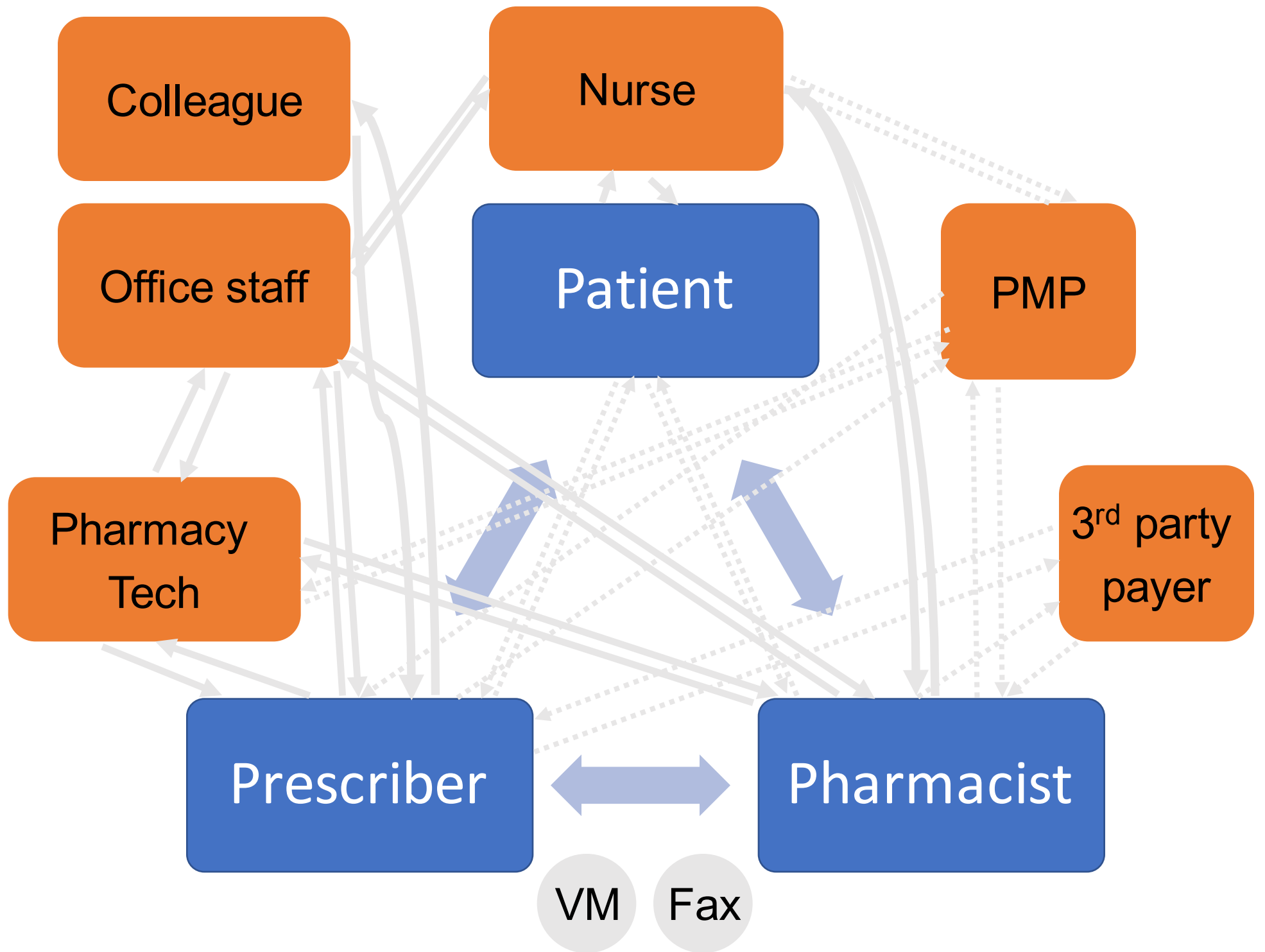
How Doctors Are Fueling the Opioid Epidemic

It's Not That Simple...

- Demand
- Potential demand
- System failures
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Default attitudes and behaviors, including stigma

Applying Workflow & Communication Science





The single biggest problem
in communication is the
illusion that it has taken
place.

- George Bernard Shaw

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