

How SSRI Antidepressants Cause Suicide, Homicide and Mass Shootings



David Carmichael

KNOW YOUR DRUGS





SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors)

- 1987 - Prozac (fluoxetine) Eli Lilly
- 1991 - Zoloft (sertraline) Pfizer
- 1992 - Paxil (paroxetine) GlaxoSmithKline
- 1994 - Luvox (fluvoxamine) Abbott Laboratories
- 1998 - Celexa (citalopram) Forest Laboratories
- 2002 - Lexapro (escitalopram) AbbVie
- 2011 - Viibryd (vilazodone) AbbVie



New York psychiatrist Peter Breggin and Texas trial lawyer Andy Vickery talking about SSRI antidepressants, violence and a 1989 mass shooting involving Prozac

Prescription Drugs Associated With Violence (22 are psychiatric drugs)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Chantix/Champix | 17. Abilify |
| 2. Prozac/Sarafem | 18. OxyContin/Roxicodone |
| 3. Paxil/Seroxat/Aropax | 19. Wellbutrin/Zyban |
| 4. Amphetamines (Adderall) | 20. Geodon |
| 5. Lariam | 21. Ritalin |
| 6. Strattera | 22. Remeron |
| 7. Halcion | 23. Neurontin |
| 8. Luvox | 24. Keppra/Elepsia/Spritam |
| 9. Effexor | 25. Valium |
| 10. Pristiq | 26. Xanax |
| 11. Singulair | 27. Cymbalta |
| 12. Zoloft | 28. Klonopin |
| 13. Ambien | 29. Roferon |
| 14. Cipralex/Lexapro | 30. Risperdal |
| 15. Xyrem | 31. Seroquel |
| 16. Celexa | |

Source: Thomas J. Moore, Joseph Glenmullen and Curt D. Furberg.
Prescription Drugs Associated with Reports of Violence Towards Others.
PLoS ONE. December 2010.



October 2004

Black box warning about SSRIs was issued:

"Antidepressants increased the risk compared to placebo of suicidal thinking and behavior (suicidality) in children, adolescents, and young adults in short-term studies of major depressive disorder (MDD) and other psychiatric disorders. Patients of all ages who are started on antidepressant therapy should be monitored appropriately and observed closely for clinical worsening, suicidality, or unusual changes in behavior."



Health
Canada

June 2004

Health Canada is advising Canadians that Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) and other newer anti-depressants, now carry stronger warnings. These new warnings indicate that patients of all ages taking these drugs may experience behavioural and/or emotional changes that may put them at increased risk of self-harm or harm to others.

Patients, their families and caregivers should note that a small number of patients taking drugs of this type may feel worse instead of better, particularly within the first few weeks of treatment or when doses are adjusted. For example, they may experience unusual feelings of agitation, hostility or anxiety, or have impulsive or disturbing thoughts that could involve self-harm or harm to others.



There's never been a time in America
in the history of humanity,

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. explaining
why the connection between
SSRI antidepressants and mass
shootings needs to be studied



Presentation validates the (nonpartisan) need to study the connection between SSRI antidepressants and mass shootings as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stated before he was challenged by Senator Tina Smith at a confirmation hearing as the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 29, 2025 when she said that “the science shows that there is no link between school shootings and antidepressants.” Senator Smith is wrong.

Scientific data from clinical trials with Paxil indicates that the side effects 1/100 to 1/1,000 patients will experience include:

- Abnormal thinking
- Agitation
- Alcohol abuse
- Amnesia
- Anxiety
- Depersonalization
- Euphoria
- Hallucinations
- Hostility
- Insomnia
- Lack of emotion
- Manic reaction
- Nervousness
- Paranoid reaction

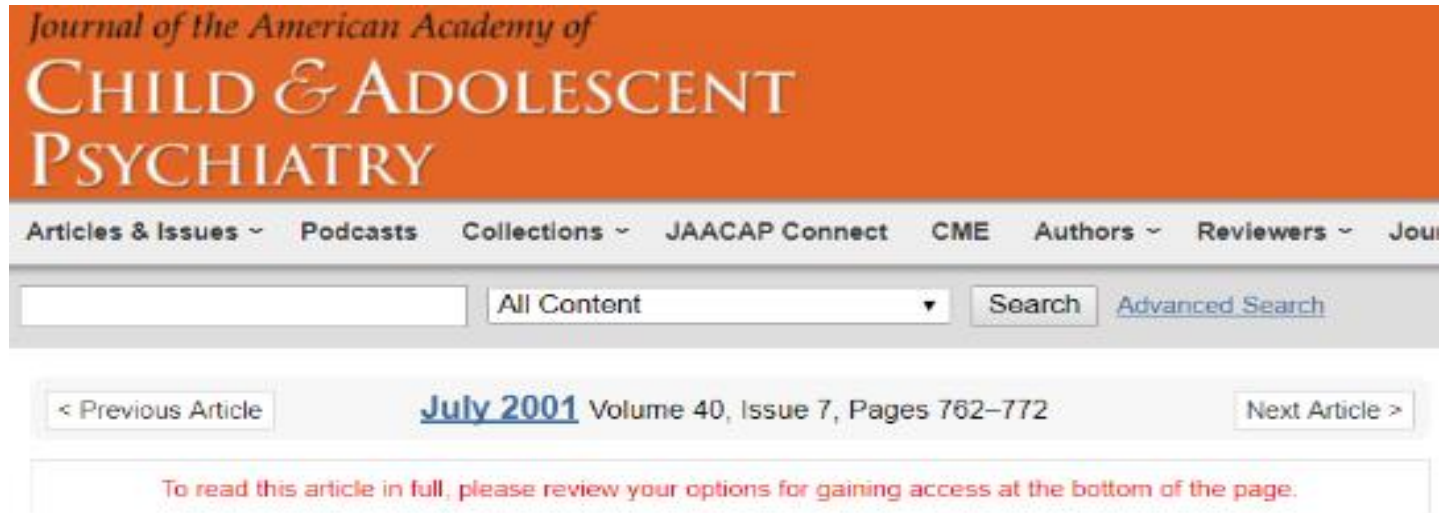
Source: Paxil Medication Guide, GlaxoSmithKline, United States, 2007

Medical System HOWS

Pharmaceutical companies mislead the public about the safety and efficacy of prescription drugs by fraudulently concealing negative clinical trial data and illegally promoting drugs for off-label uses

2001 - Study 329

Eight-week, placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomized control trial - Ghostwritten article



The screenshot shows the header of the Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. The journal title is in a large, serif font. Below it is a navigation bar with links for Articles & Issues, Podcasts, Collections, JAACAP Connect, CME, Authors, Reviewers, and Journals. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu set to 'All Content' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there are links for '< Previous Article' and 'Next Article >'. The article title 'Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial' is displayed in a large, serif font. Below the title, the authors' names are listed in a smaller, serif font, with some names underlined.

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Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial

MARTIN B. KELLER, M.D., [NEAL D. RYAN](#), M.D., [MICHAEL STROBER](#), PH.D., [RACHEL G. KLEIN](#), PH.D., [STAN P. KUTCHER](#), M.D., [BORIS BIRMAHER](#), M.D., [OWEN R. HAGINO](#), M.D., [HAROLD KOPLEWICZ](#), M.D., [GABRIELLE A. CARLSON](#), M.D., [GREGORY N. CLARKE](#), PH.D., [GRAHAM J. EMSLIE](#), M.D., [DAVID FEINBERG](#), M.D., [BARBARA GELLER](#), M.D., [VIVEK KUSUMAKAR](#), M.D., [GEORGE PAPATHEODOROU](#), M.D., [WILLIAM H. SACK](#), M.D., [MICHAEL SWEENEY](#), PH.D., [KAREN DINEEN WAGNER](#), M.D., PH.D., [ELIZABETH B. WELLER](#), M.D., [NANCY C. WINTERS](#), M.D., [ROSEMARY OAKES](#), M.S., [JAMES P. MCCAFFERTY](#), B.S.

Study 329 - Results/Conclusions

Five percent taking paroxetine (5/93) and one percent on a placebo (1/87) experienced “emotional lability”

Paroxetine is generally well tolerated and effective for treating major depression in adolescents.

2015 - Restoring Study 329

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Research

Restoring Study 329: efficacy and harms of paroxetine and imipramine in treatment of major depression in adolescence

BMJ 2015 ; 351 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h4320> (Published 16 September 2015)

Cite this as: BMJ 2015;351:h4320

Article

Related content

Metrics

Responses

Peer review

Joanna Le Noury, research psychologist¹, John M Nardo, retired clinical assistant professor², David Healy, professor¹, Jon Jureidini, clinical professor³, Melissa Raven, postdoctoral fellow³, Catalin Tufanaru, research associate⁴, Elie Abi-Jaoude, staff psychiatrist⁵

Clinical Trial Conclusions/Results

Study 329 (2001)

Paroxetine is generally well tolerated and effective for treating major depression in adolescents.

5% taking paroxetine (5/93) and 1% on a placebo (1/87) experienced “emotional lability”

Restoring Study 329 (2015)

Paroxetine is not effective for treating major depression in adolescents and there is an increased risk of harm including suicidal ideation and behaviour.

12% taking paroxetine (11/93) and 1% on a placebo (1/87) became suicidal



2001 Staff Memorandum

08/16/01

To: All Sales Representatives Selling *Paxil* **cc:** RVPs
TSMs
From: Zachary Hawkins *Paxil* DSMs
RMSs
Paxil Product Management

Study Title "Efficacy of Paroxetine in the Treatment of Adolescent Major Depression: A Randomized, Controlled Trial"

Author(s) Martin B. Keller, M.D.

Journal *J. AM.ACAD. CHILD ADOLESC. PSYCHIATRY* 2001

Date Vol Pages 2001, July, Vol. 40:7: 762-772

Significance of article This "cutting-edge," landmark study is the first to compare efficacy of an SSRI and a TCA with placebo in the treatment of major depression in adolescents. *Paxil* demonstrates REMARKABLE Efficacy and Safety in the treatment of adolescent depression.

**Staff memorandum part of evidence
against GSK in U.S. federal government
False Claims Act \$3 billion settlement in
2012 based on whistleblower information**

"Once you realize what you're doing could
cause more harm than good, you say to
yourself, this is wrong."

Blair Hamrick

Illegal Off-Label Promotion

- Doctors are allowed to prescribe a drug for off-label use (not approved by government regulator to treat that health condition).
- It is against the law for pharmaceutical companies to market prescription drugs for off-label uses.
- Pharmaceutical companies promote drugs for off-label uses based on pseudoscience, which puts lives at risk for a commercial motive.
- Pharmaceutical sales representatives illegally influence doctors to prescribe and promote drugs for off-label uses with things such as financial kickbacks, free lunches and dinners, all-expense paid trips to retreats, and paid speaking opportunities.
- Doctors also take large sums of money under the guise of educational grants to push drugs for off-label uses, and receive honoraria to promote products in unlicensed areas, which results in immense profits for pharmaceutical companies.

Part of evidence against GSK in U.S. federal government \$3 billion settlement

Antidepressant Wellbutrin was promoted off-label to patients of all ages, including adolescents and children, for treating:

- Obesity (weight loss)
- Sexual dysfunction
- ADHD and ADD
- Bipolar disorder and anxiety
- Addictions to drugs, alcohol and gambling

The pill doctors say will help you to slim ... AND THEY DISCOVERED IT BY ACCIDENT

DOCTORS have found a new pill to help you lose weight — purely by accident.

Researchers discovered that a pill used for depression had the unexpected side effect of making patients shed their flesh.

There is even evidence it can help people stop smoking!

Now the British company who developed the drug — Wellbutrin — is marketing it as a weight-loss aid.

Some of the women who have taken it have lost more weight than patients on the drug Zantac, which was marketed last year.

Amazed

Wellbutrin is said to be pretty safe and can be taken for life to prevent weight gain.

The drug has also been discovered to be as effective as the chemical patch in helping smokers to quit and is due to be launched for that use in Britain later this year.

Though it isn't yet licensed to treat the condition, Dr. Richard Glaser, a psychiatrist at Duke University Medical Centre, North Carolina, expects doctors around the world to try it soon.

Dr. Glaser prescribed the drug for mild depression, which helped women to lose weight at the University of North Carolina.

"I was amazed by what happened because there had been nothing published about the drug making the weight loss," he says.

The patients were pleasantly surprised, however, they had not been expecting such an effect. They had been given the drug because they were depressed about their weight.

Dr. Glaser prescribes Wellbutrin's British manufacturer, Glaxo-Wellcome, to support a trial he says "I would be surprised if the drug could work without causing what I had observed may have been a side effect."

But the running of a two-month study involving 16 women with an average weight of just under the original targets were no mistake.

The women lost up to 10 pounds — 45 per cent of their body weight — while on a diet of 1,600 calories a day.

Dr. Glaser is convinced Wellbutrin will take all or no effect on obesity treatment.

He says: "There were overweight women who were able to achieve a good weight loss over a short period of time."

"We will need to carry out further trials with a larger group of patients but it looks as if we have discovered a new use for the drug."

The results appear to stand as those achieved for Wellbutrin and its more usual indication.

"Some of the women on the trial have been taking the drug for up to a year and are continuing to lose weight."

Women on the trial reported that the drug did not suppress their appetite but helped them feel more satisfied when they ate.

Dr. Glaser says: "A lot of the women taking the drug say they are not eating less but are not hungry. They are just not eating as much as they used to."

Dr. Glaser says: "The drug is not a magic pill. It is not a miracle. It is just a drug. It is a drug that can help people who are overweight to lose weight. It is a drug that can help people who are overweight to lose weight. It is a drug that can help people who are overweight to lose weight."

CASE STORY: Jan Lucas

Jan Lucas, 34, was a 250-pound woman when she started taking Wellbutrin. She had been taking the drug for a year and had lost 100 pounds. She says: "I was amazed by what happened because there had been nothing published about the drug making the weight loss."

LINDSEY GODD... the drug Wellbutrin could give people with weight problems a whole new image

Psychiatrists and doctors promote the chemical imbalance theory of depression, prescribe SSRIs for normal mental health challenges and rarely obtain informed consent before prescribing an SSRI

“Chemical Imbalance” was a
Big Pharma scam to push
drugs on normal people
experiencing the expectable
sadness/anxiety of everyday life.”

Dr. Allen Frances

Tweet: January 18, 2018

Prescribing of SSRIs for normal mental health challenges is getting younger

“My family doctor wanted to prescribe Prozac to my 5-year-old son because he got really nervous before batting in Tee Ball”

Mother

Sacramento, California, May 2024



“Many young people who start having suicidal thoughts shortly after starting an SSRI are taken to hospitals by their parents, admitted, and given more psychiatric drugs to treat side effects that are misdiagnosed as mental disorders. This leads to psychiatric polypharmacy, which has ruined a lot of young lives.”

Dr. Gail Tasch

**Adults have also had their lives ruined, people of
all ages have lost their lives and families have
been destroyed by psychiatric polypharmacy**



Lindsay Clancy from Duxbury, Massachusetts was prescribed 13 medications, including five antidepressants, in the four months leading up to her taking the lives of her three children Cora, 5, Dawson, 3, and 8-month-old Callan in 2023. The first pill she was prescribed was Zoloft. Lindsay filed a medical malpractice lawsuit in January 2026 and her murder trial is starting in July 2026.

It is a legal requirement for doctors to obtain informed consent:

1. Nature of procedure or intervention;
2. Risks and benefits of procedure or intervention;
3. Reasonable alternatives;
4. Risks and benefits of alternatives.

MEDICATION CONSENT FORM			
PATIENT INFORMATION			
PATIENT NAME		DATE OF BIRTH	
ADDRESS		PHONE NUMBER	
ALLERGIES			
MEDICATION INFORMATION			
NAME OF MEDICATION	DOSAGE	ROUTE	FREQUENCY
INDICATION			
CONSENT			
I, the undersigned, understand that the decision to use this medication is based on the professional judgment of the prescribing healthcare provider. I acknowledge that no guarantees or assurances have been made to me regarding the outcomes or effects of this medication. I have been provided with information regarding the potential risks, benefits, and alternatives to this medication. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers. By signing this form, I hereby give my informed consent to receive the medication as prescribed above.			
PATIENT SIGNATURE		DATE	
GUARDIAN/REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE <i>(If applicable)</i>		RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT	DATE
PRESCRIBER INFORMATION			
PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER NAME		LICENSE NUMBER	
PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER SIGNATURE		DATE	
PROVIDER NAME		CONTACT INFORMATION	
		SAVE PRINT Page 1 of 1	

Personal HOWS

Side effects of SSRIs that can cause suicide, homicide and mass shootings

1. Akathisia
2. Emotional blunting
3. Delirium – psychosis

Dr. David Healy

Delirium - Psychosis

Delirium

Delirium is a state of mental confusion that starts suddenly. It is also called an 'acute confusional state'.

Medical problems, surgery and medications can all cause delirium. It usually lifts when the condition causing it gets better. It can be frightening - not only for the person who is unwell, but also for those around him or her.

Source: Royal College of Psychiatrists, United Kingdom

Psychosis

Psychosis refers to a collection of symptoms that affect the mind, where there has been some loss of contact with reality. During a psychotic episode, a person's thoughts and perceptions are disrupted and they may have difficulty recognizing what is real and what is not.

People with psychosis experience delusions (fixed-false beliefs) and/or hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that others do not).

Source: National Institute of Mental Health, United States



Angelynn Mock was reportedly on medications and delusional when she was seemingly calm and emotionally blunted at her first appearance in front of a judge in Wichita, Kansas after taking the life of her mother, Anita, and being charged with first-degree murder in October 2025. In January 2026, a judge determined she is not currently competent to stand trial.





2018 Statement The Dr. Oz Show

Mr. Carmichael's case is clearly a tragedy but medicines like this are an important option for treating depression.

Patient safety is our priority and there is **no scientific evidence** that this medication causes homicidal, **psychotic** or violent behavior.

“no scientific evidence”

Statements about scientific evidence are based on clinical trial data used to get drugs approved by government regulators (e.g., FDA, Health Canada).

2007 Medication Guide for Paxil lists psychosis as a rare side effect (fewer than 1 in 1,000 patients) based on scientific data from clinical trials. Delusions is also listed as a rare side effect and hallucinations is listed as an infrequent side effect (1/100 to 1/1,000 patients).

Postmarketing reports of side effects (adverse drug reactions) are considered anecdotal evidence and defended as correlation not causation.

Significance of Legal Precedents

2001 legal precedent against for fraudulent concealment



- A Wyoming jury awarded \$6.4 million to the family of Donald Schell, who, in 1998 at 60 years of age, fatally shot his wife, their daughter, and 9-month-old granddaughter after taking two pills of Paxil the day after he received a prescription.
- The jury was shown hidden data from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) clinical trials supporting the argument that Paxil can cause healthy adults to become suicidal, violent and homicidal.

Plaintiff's Lawyers: James Fitzgerald from Cheyenne, Wyoming and Andy Vickery from Houston, Texas

2023 legal precedent against for medical malpractice for not obtaining informed consent before prescribing Prozac



- In 2023, the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho vacated the summary judgment of the District Court for further proceedings for medical malpractice against the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and a physician's assistant for outpatient mental health services.
- In 2018, Terri Mattson was diagnosed with major depressive disorder and prescribed Prozac by a physician's assistant without receiving any information about side effects after signing a general "Informed Consent for Treatment" form.
- Two months later, the day of a follow-up appointment, she bought a bottle of vodka, drank the entire bottle while driving to her appointment and attempted suicide by shooting herself in the head in the Department's parking lot.
- The lawsuit against the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and the physician's assistant was settled out of court in 2024.

Plaintiff's Lawyers: John Layman from Spokane, Washington and Andy Vickery from Houston, Texas

Landmark legislation in Tennessee for psychiatric drug testing of mass shooters

- In April 2025, the state of Tennessee passed a groundbreaking law with bipartisan support requiring autopsies of deceased mass shooters to include toxicology testing for psychiatric drugs.
- The law mandates toxicology testing for individuals who killed four or more people, along with consultation with their mental health service providers.
- The law calls for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to study the interactions between psychiatric drugs and other substances in drug perpetrators' systems, and for the public to have access to the psychiatric drug use of shooters when requested, with personal identifiers redacted.

Landmark legislation in Illinois for mandatory mental health screening in schools

- In July 2025, the state of Illinois passed a groundbreaking law that makes it mandatory for schools to conduct mental health screening for students in grades 3-12 starting in the 2027-28 school year.
- The tests will be provided to schools at no cost. Parents will be able to opt their children out of the screenings, which will be made available once a year.

BOTTOM LINE



Vermont senator Bernie Sanders on a 2023 episode of The Late Show with Stephen Colbert talking about pharmaceutical company paid lobbyists in Washington, DC

The amount of money a pharmaceutical company makes for

- **fraudulently concealing negative clinical trial data to get drugs approved by government regulators and/or**
- **illegally marketing a prescription drug for off-label uses and/or**
- **intentionally omitting, underreporting or delaying the reporting of ADRs from postmarketing experiences to government regulators**

is often much higher than what the company would be penalized by governments for fraud and/or other criminal activities.

United States

Pharmaceutical companies were penalized \$62.3 billion by the federal and state governments for misconduct between 1991 and 2021.

Net income of 35 large pharmaceutical companies between 2000 and 2018 was \$1.9 trillion.

Source: Persistent Misconduct Forces Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to Pay \$62.3 Billion in Penalties. *Public Citizen Health Research Group*. May 21, 2024.

Source: Fred D. Ledley, Sarah Shonka McCoy, Gregory Vaughan, and Ekaterina Galkina Clearly. Profitability of large Pharmaceutical Companies Compared With Other Large Public Companies. *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. March 3, 2020. Pages 834-843.



California trial lawyer Brent Wisner talks with Tim O'Brien on his podcast *Shaping Opinion* about GSK fraudulently concealing data about cancer-causing contaminants in the drug Zantac to get it approved by the FDA in 1983 for treating heartburn. Hidden documents were discovered through a civil litigation process. In 2020, the FDA requested that Zantac and its generic version ranitidine be withdrawn from the market.

In January 2025, the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma agreed to pay \$7.4 billion in a settlement with 15 states for unlawfully starting the opioid crisis by claiming that the painkiller OxyContin, which was approved by the FDA in 1995, was not addicting. Purdue Pharma filed for bankruptcy in 2019, when it was facing thousands of civil lawsuits, and was restructured as Knoa Pharma in 2025.

Richard Sackler Internal E-mail



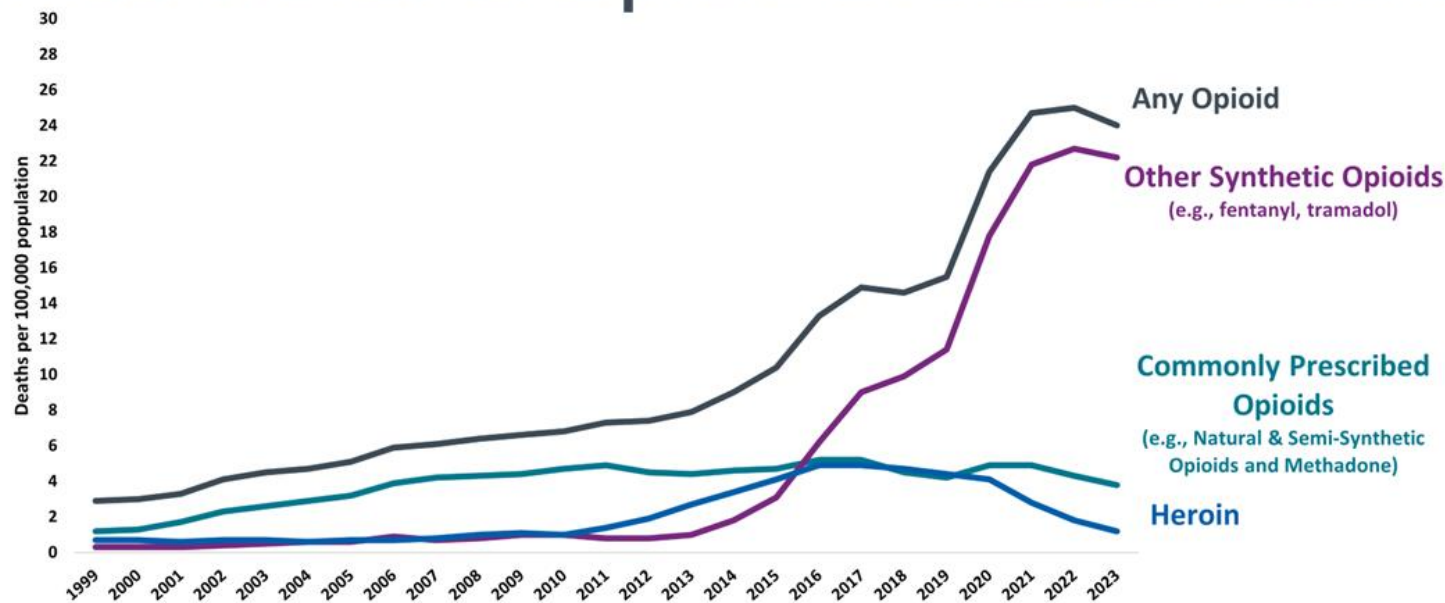
"We have to hammer on the abusers in every way possible. They are the culprits and the problem. They are reckless criminals."

- Massachusetts Attorney General Lawsuit

LAW & CRIME TRIAL NETWORK

The background of the slide features a collage of legal documents, including a "FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND JURY" and various court filings, which provide context for the legal proceedings against the Sackler family.

Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



Wave 1: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in the 1990s

Wave 2: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths Started in 2010

Wave 3: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in 2013

SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality. CDC WONDER, Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2024. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.



*How the Pharmaceutical Companies Transformed
Themselves into Slick Marketing Machines
and Hooked the Nation on Prescription Drugs*

OUR DAILY MEDS



MELODY PETERSEN

Sarah Crichton Books, 2008

Melody Petersen, Investigative Reporter
The New York Times - Los Angeles Times

Last paragraph in OUR DAILY MEDS

Start a revolution.

This is your medical system. You're paying dearly for it, whether you use it or not. At some point, you or someone you care about will have to use it, and your lives will depend on it.

Write or talk to your state and federal lawmakers. Vote for political candidates who promise to take on the pharmaceutical industry and change the system so that patients once again come first.

There's too much at stake.

"Tough, cogent, and disturbing enough to have a serious impact. A chilling investigation." *The New York Times*