How SSRI Antidepressants Cause Suicide, Violence and Homicide



David Carmichael

KNOW YOUR DRUGS


DAVID
DR. JOSEF WITT-DOERRING



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

Prescription Drugs Associated With Violence (22 are psychiatric drugs)

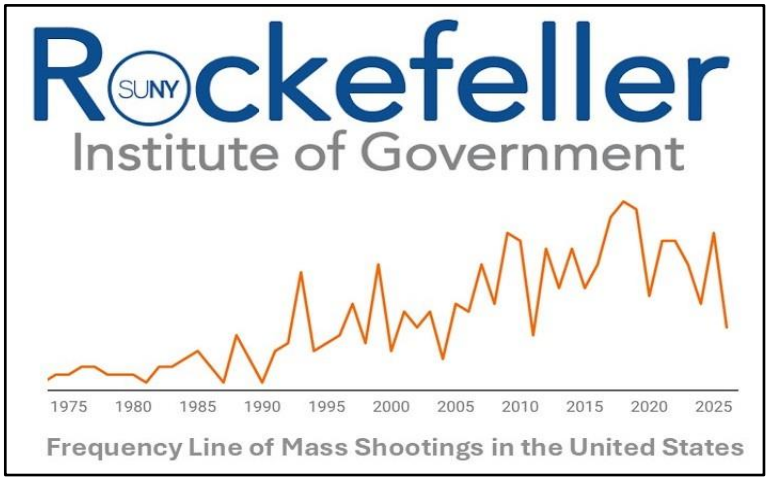
1. Chantix/Champix
2. Prozac/Sarafem
3. Paxil/Seroxat/Aropax
4. Amphetamines (Adderall)
5. Lariam
6. Strattera
7. Halcion
8. Luvox
9. Effexor
10. Pristiq
11. Singulair
12. Zoloft
13. Ambien
14. Cipralex/Lexapro
15. Xyrem
16. Celexa
17. Abilify
18. OxyContin/Roxicodone
19. Wellbutrin/Zyban
20. Geodon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

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



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





TOXICOLOGY TESTING OF MASS SHOOTERS

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.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services in the United States federal government, talks about the (nonpartisan) need to examine the significant rise in mass shootings in America since the advent of SSRI antidepressants that now have black box warnings.



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



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 Reuptake 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."

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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



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

thebmj Research Education News & Views Campaigns Archive

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

Joanne Le Noury, research psychologist [1], *John M Nardo, retired clinical assistant professor* [2], *David Healy, professor* [1], *Jon Jureidini, clinical professor* [3], *Melissa Raven, postdoctoral fellow* [3], *Catalin Tufanaru, research associate* [4], *Elia Abi-Jaoude, staff psychiatrist* [5]

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** ***Paxil* DSMs** **RMSs**
From:	**Zachary Hawkins** ***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 disguise 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.

Blair Hamrick

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 fat.

There is even evidence it can help people stop smoking!

Now the British company who developed the drug – Bupropion – is considering applying to sell it with the world's most effective weight-loss treatment, though it may be some time before it gets a licence here.

Some of the women who have taken it have lost more weight than patients on the most powerful new anti-obesity drug licensed which was launched last year.

Amazed

Bupropion is sold to be quickly safe and can be taken for life to prevent weight gain.

The drug has also been discovered to be as effective as the nicotine 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 for use as a weight-loss drug, Dr Richard Caddle, a psychiatrist at Duke University Medical Centre, North Carolina, expects doctors round the world to try to sugar-coat the pill.

Dr Caddle prescribed the drug for mild depression which left many women in her practice at the University Duke medical centre. "I was amazed by what happened because there had been nothing published about this drug having the ability to help weight loss," he says.

"The patients were pleasantly surprised because they had not been suggesting such an effect. They had been given the drug because they were down about their weight."

Dr Caddle presented Bupropion's definite manufacturers (Glaxo-Wellcome) to support a trial. He says: "I planned to see if the drug would work under the pressure which I knew may have been a fluke."

But the results of a two-month study involving 70 women with an average weight of that proved the pilot's hopes were not mistaken.

The women lost up to a pound per week (a third of their body weight) while on a dose of 150mg (about) a day.

Dr Caddle is continuing Bupropion and take all on an obesity treatment.

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

"They still 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 so good for those suffering from depression and the excess pounds before.

"Many of the women on the trial have been telling me that they are in a new and are overjoyed to have weight.

Women on the trial reported that the drug did not suppress their appetite but helped them eat more sensible meals easily.

Dry

He says: "Users of my study to normalising food habits are bound to experience because they are not just using drugs weight-loss for obesity.

"The important thing is that there are no significant side effects apart from a feeling of a dry mouth."

But Glaxo advises GPs NOT to use it to treat patients suffering from depression or bipolar disorder.

Bupropion is sold in the US as Zyban to help people stop smoking. The drug is given a licence for treating smoking.

But it would be some time before it gets official approval as a slimming pill.

CASE STORY: Jan Lucas

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



Landmark legislation in Illinois for mandatory mental health screening in schools

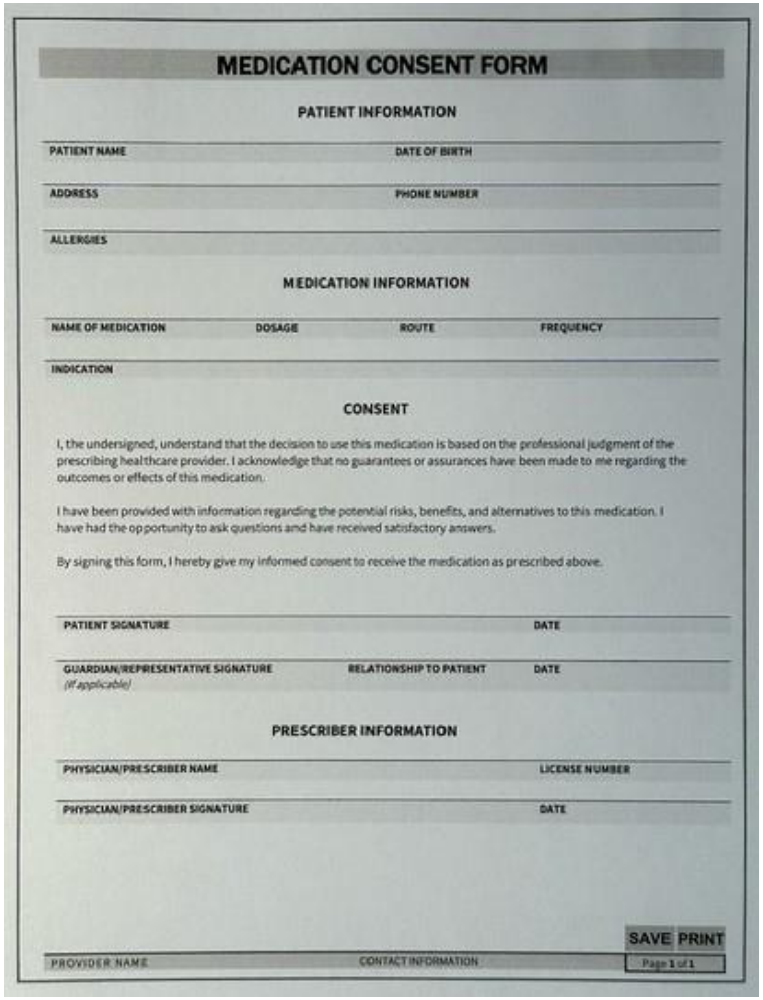
- In July 2025, the state of Illinois passed a groundbreaking law that makes it mandatory for schools to conduct mental health screening for students in grades 3-12 starting in the 2027-28 school year.
- The tests will be provided to schools at no cost. Parents will be able to opt their children out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

“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

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 (If applicable) | RELATIONSHIP TO PATIENT | DATE

PRESCRIBER INFORMATION

PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER NAME | LICENSE NUMBER

PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER SIGNATURE | DATE

SAVE PRINT

PROVIDER NAME | CONTACT INFORMATION | Page 1 of 1

Personal HOWS

Mechanisms for SSRIs causing suicide, violence and homicide

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


7-31-04
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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 GSK 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.

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 net profit 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 billions of dollars 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.

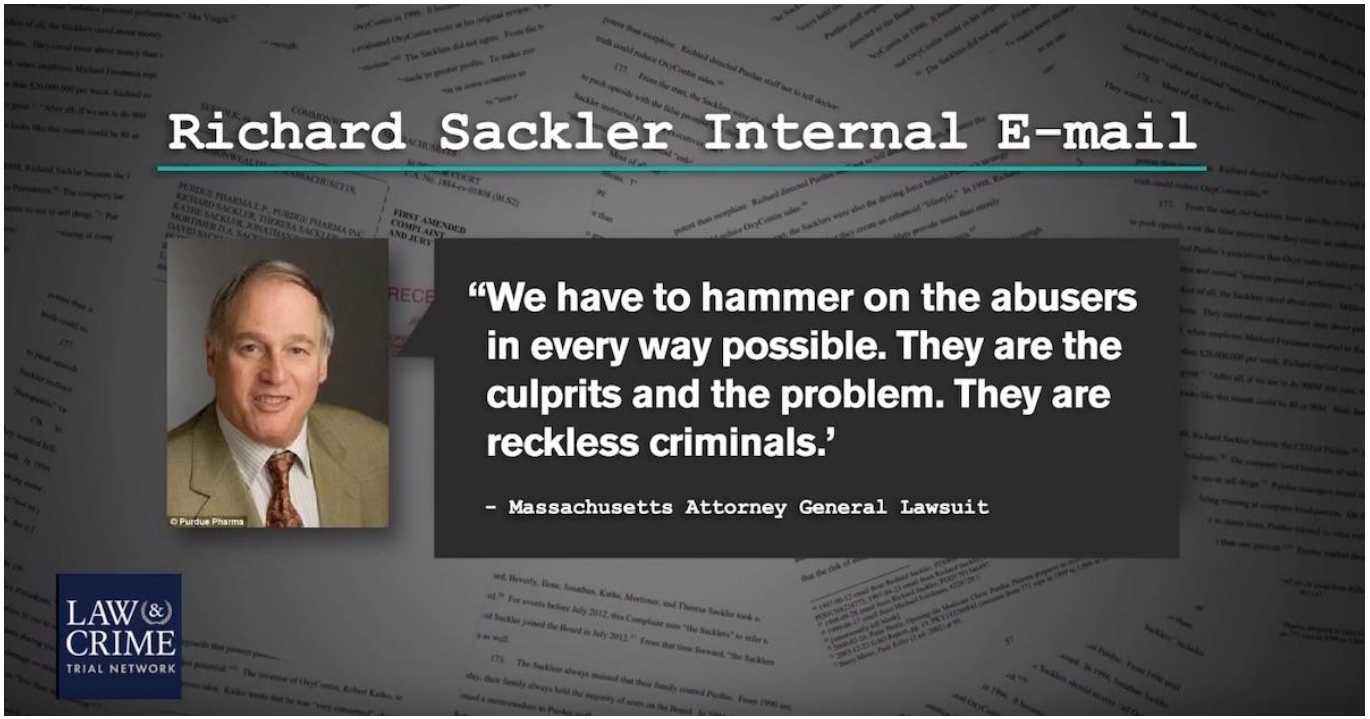
Source: Fred D. Ledley, Sarah Shonka McCoy, Gregory Vaughan, and Ekaterina Galkina Clearly. Profitability of large Pharmaceutical Companies Compared With Other Large Public Companies. *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. March 3, 2020. Pages 834-843.



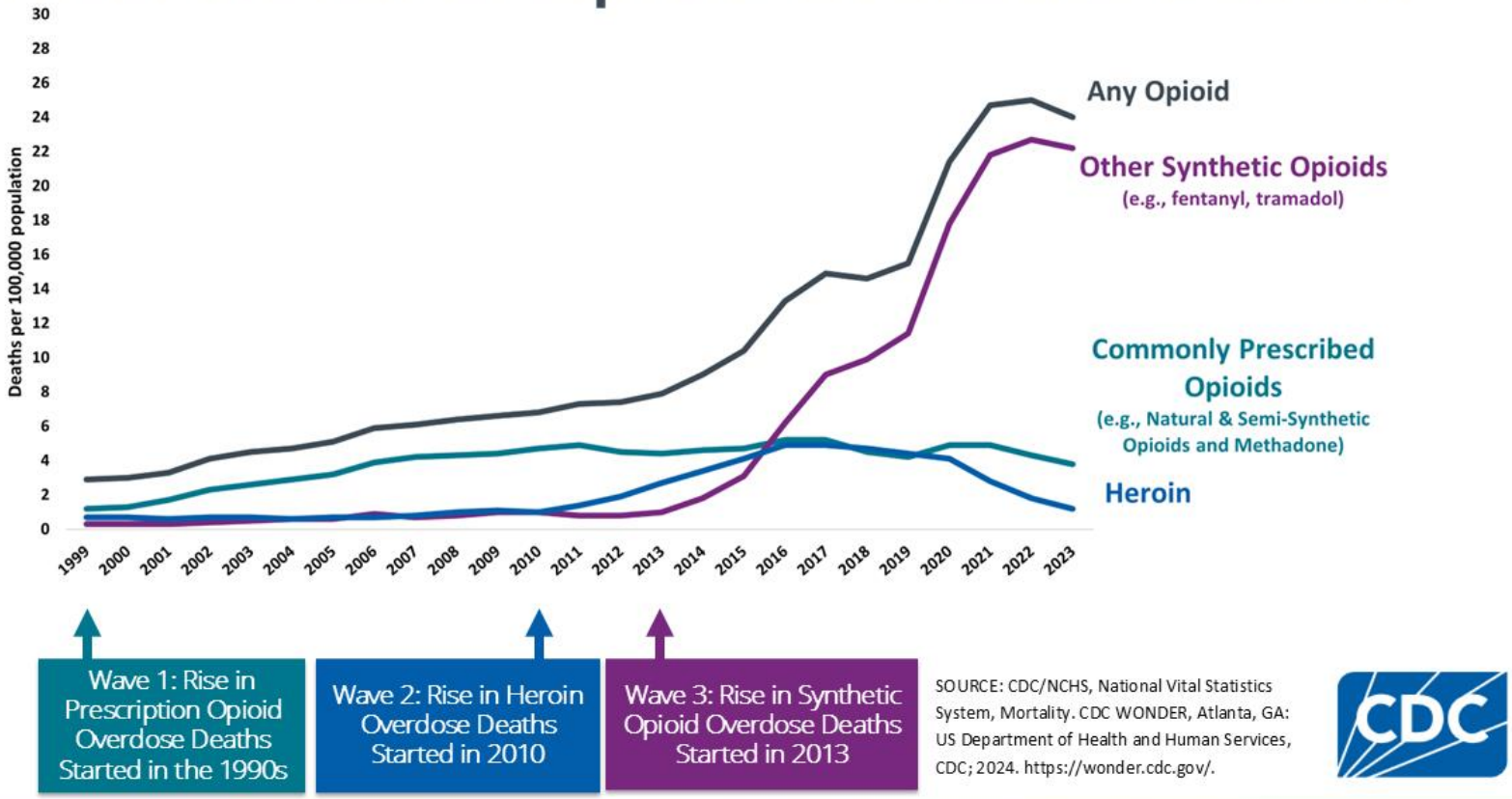
Pfizer was penalized $2.3 billion by the United States Department of Justice in 2009 for illegally promoting four drugs off-label, and for providing doctors with kickbacks for prescribing them:

1. Bextra - anti-inflammatory (FDA 2001)
2. Geodon - antipsychotic (FDA 2001)
3. Zyvox - antibiotic (FDA 2000)
4. Lyrica - antiepileptic (FDA 2004)

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.



Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths

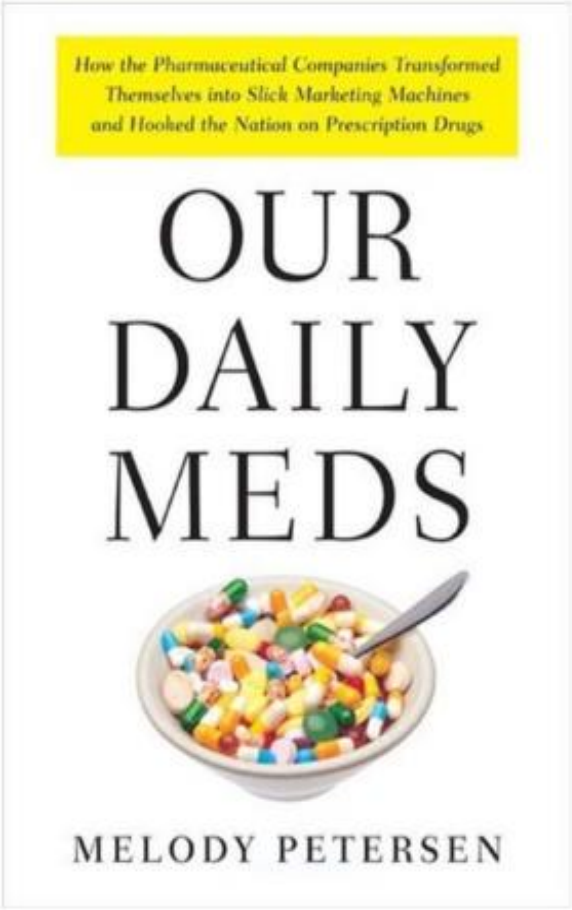


SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality. CDC WONDER, Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2024. https://wonder.cdc.gov/.

CDC



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.



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*