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An Update on the Opioid Epidemic: Perception vs. Reality

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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?

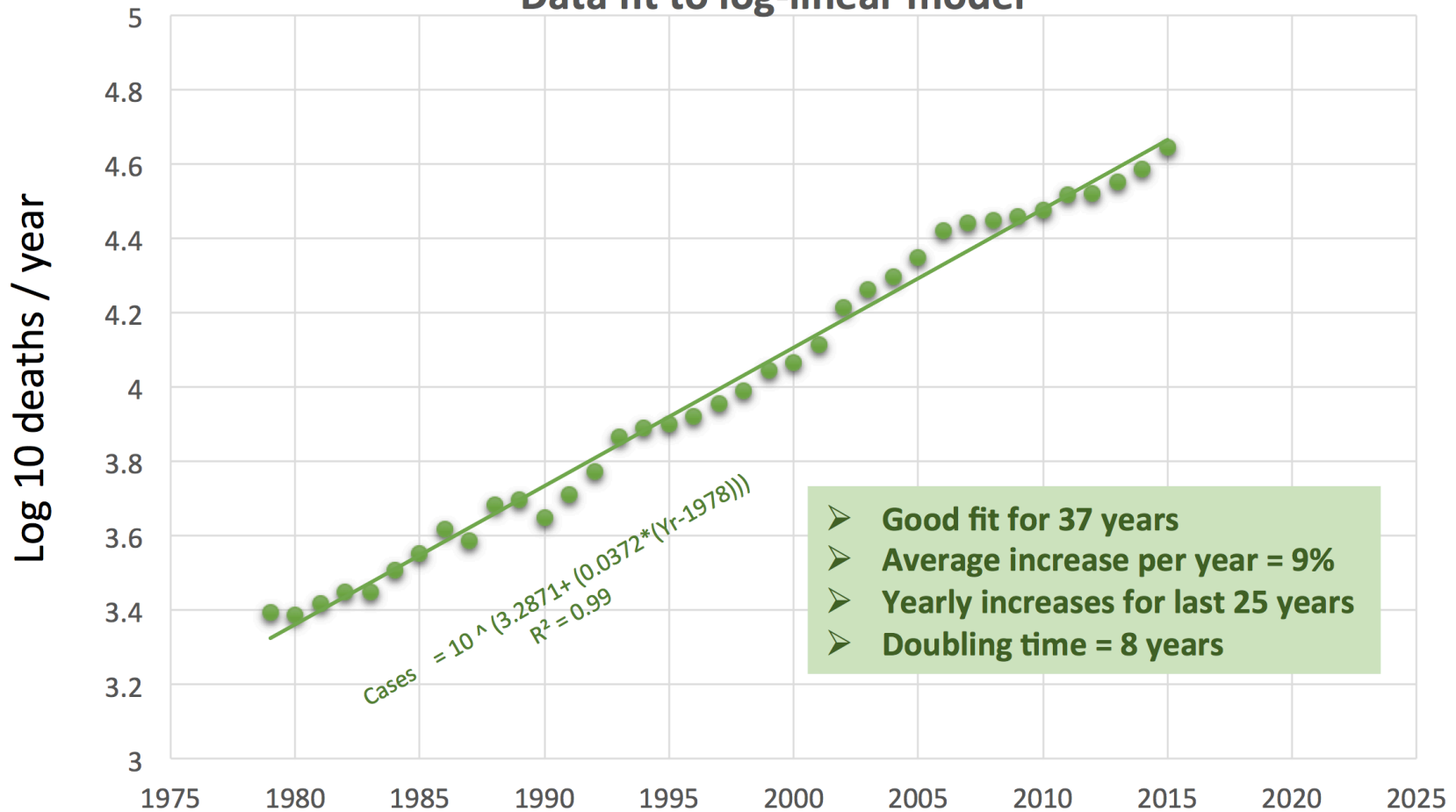
Politics

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



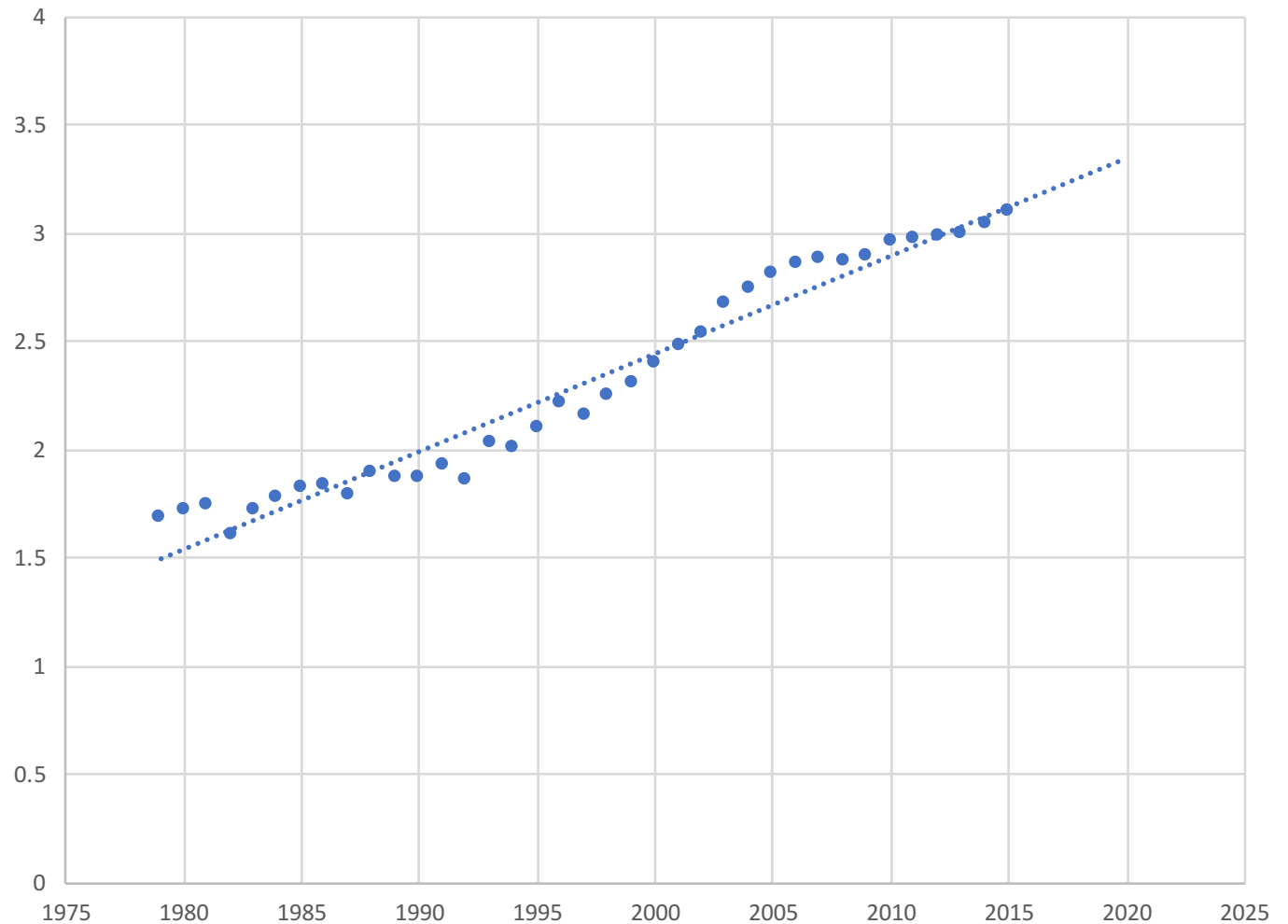
President Trump pledged to "spend a lot of time, a lot of effort and a lot of money on the opioid crisis," while speaking to reporters in Bedminster N.J. on Aug. 10. (The Washington Post)

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



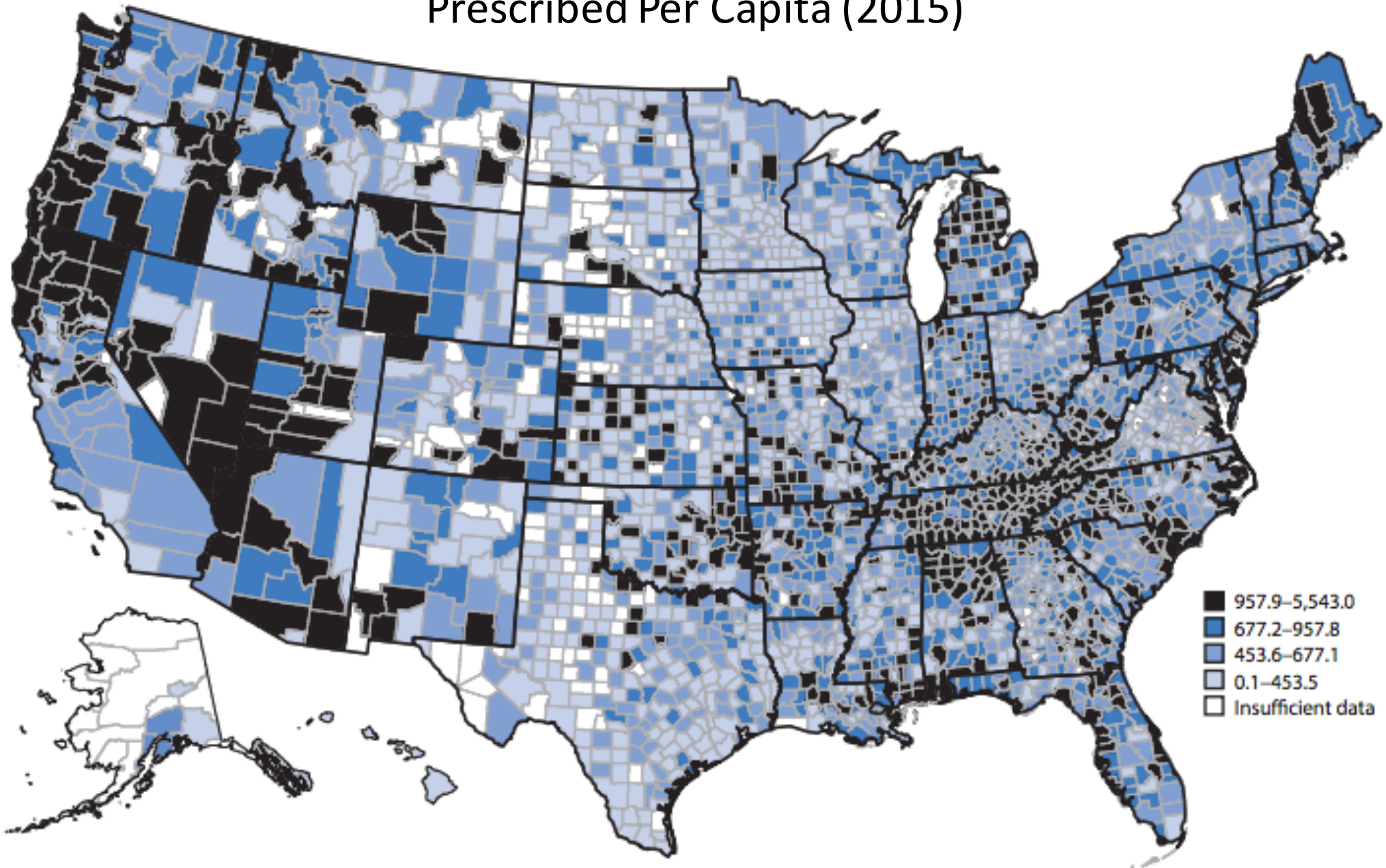
Tennessee Overdose Deaths: Future Projections

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

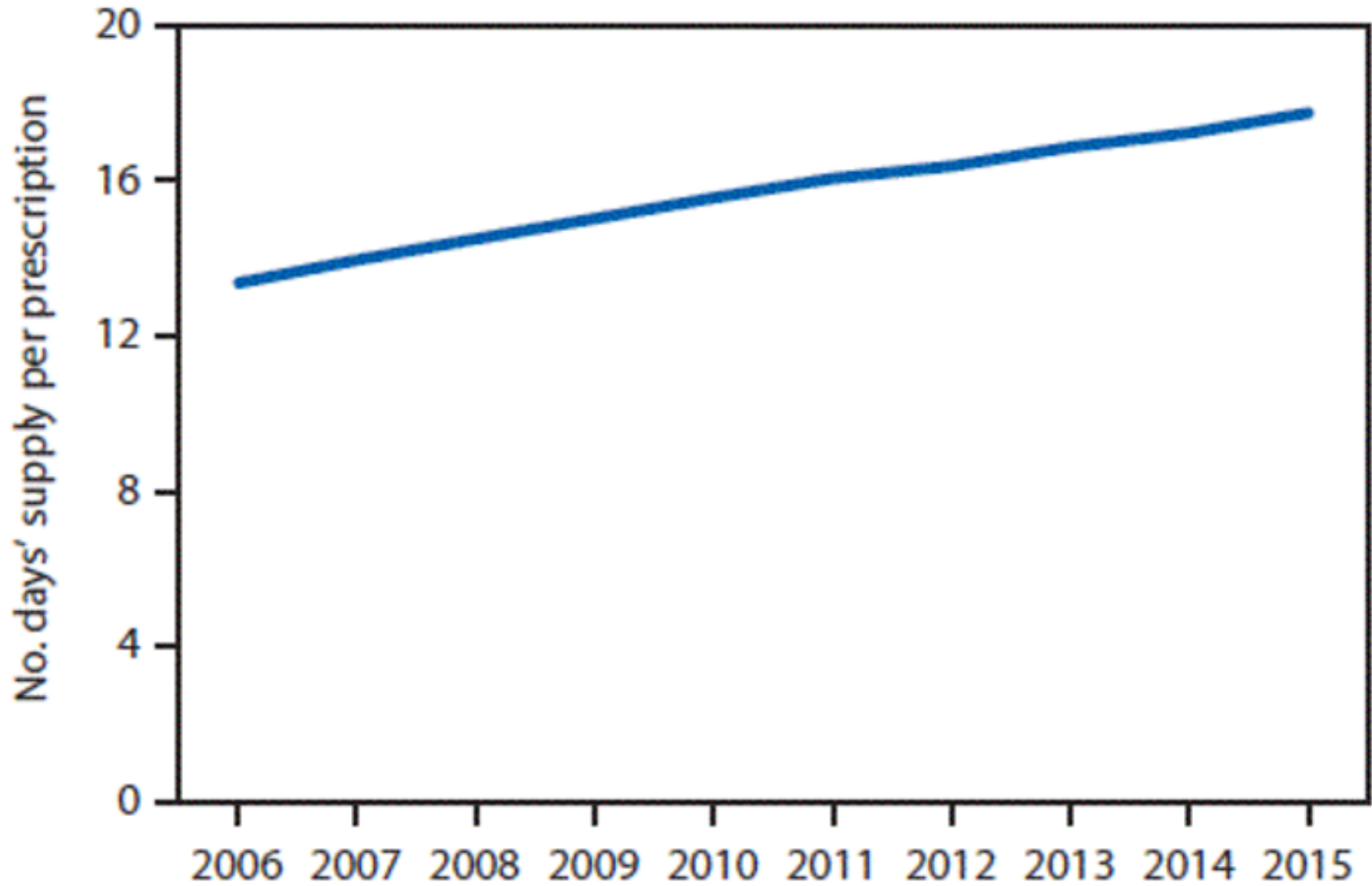


Buchanan et al. 2017 Exponential Growth of the USA Overdose Epidemic.
<http://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2017/05/09/134403.full.pdf>

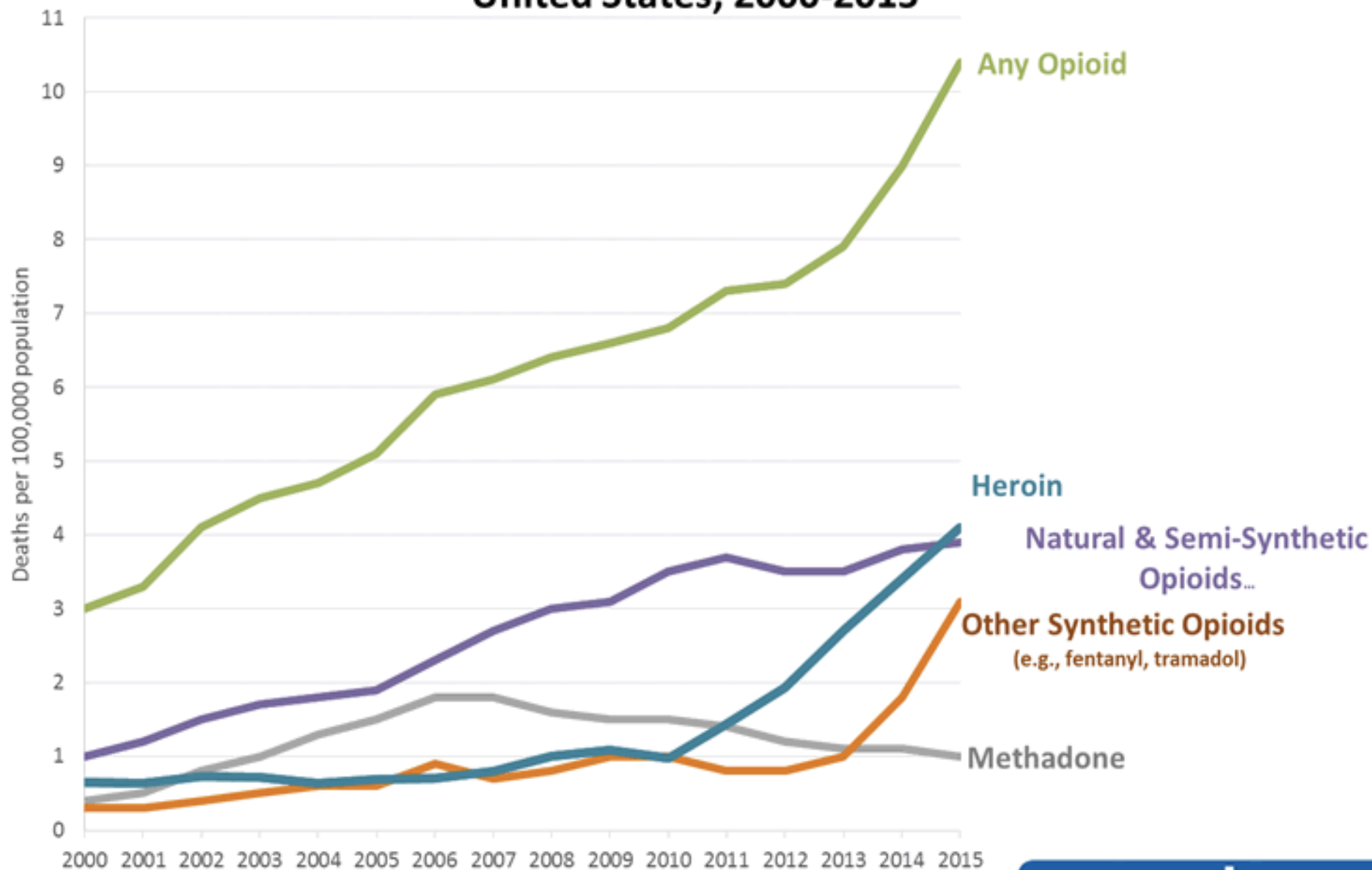
Morphine Milligram Equivalents Prescribed Per Capita (2015)



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

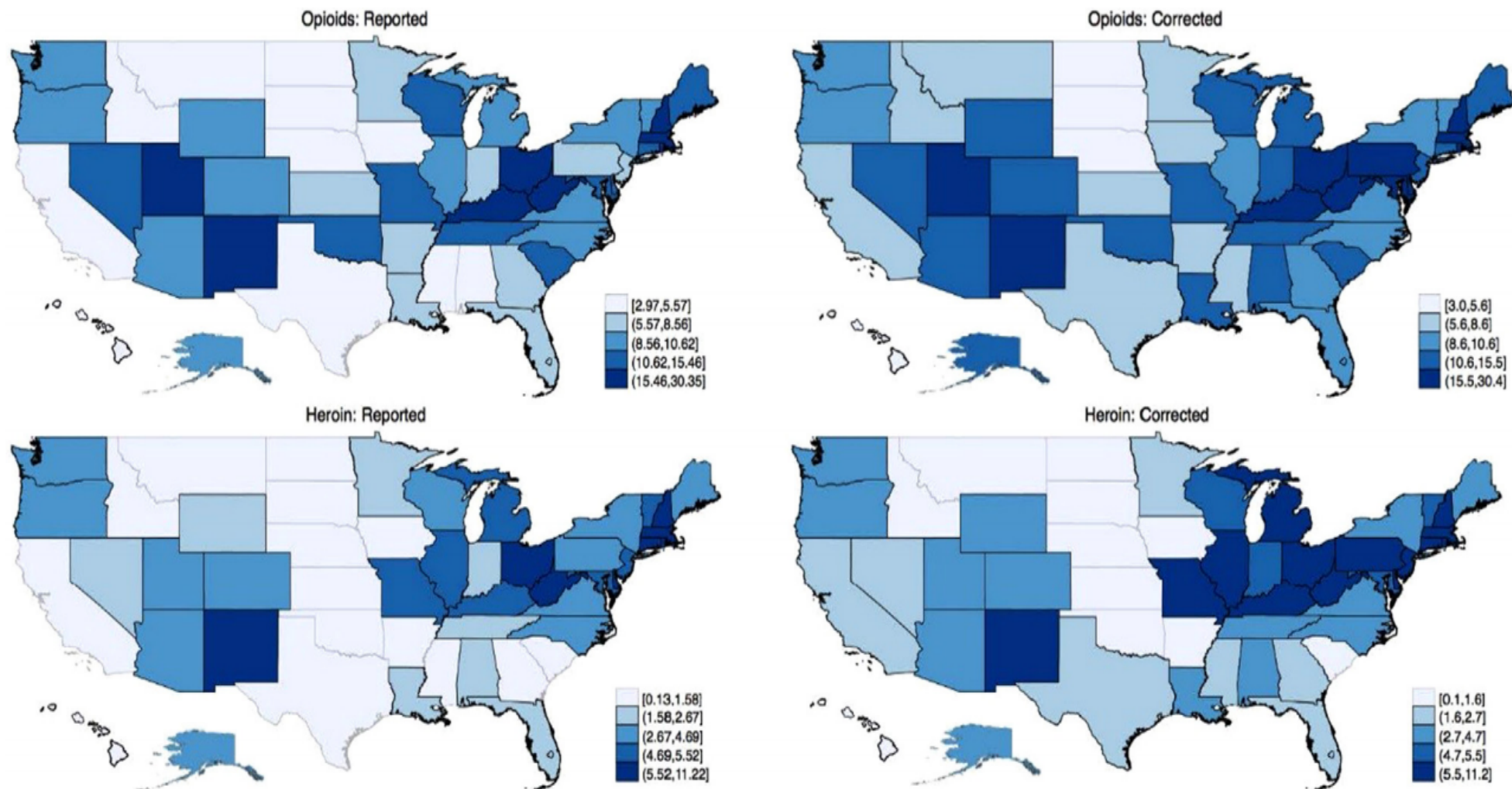
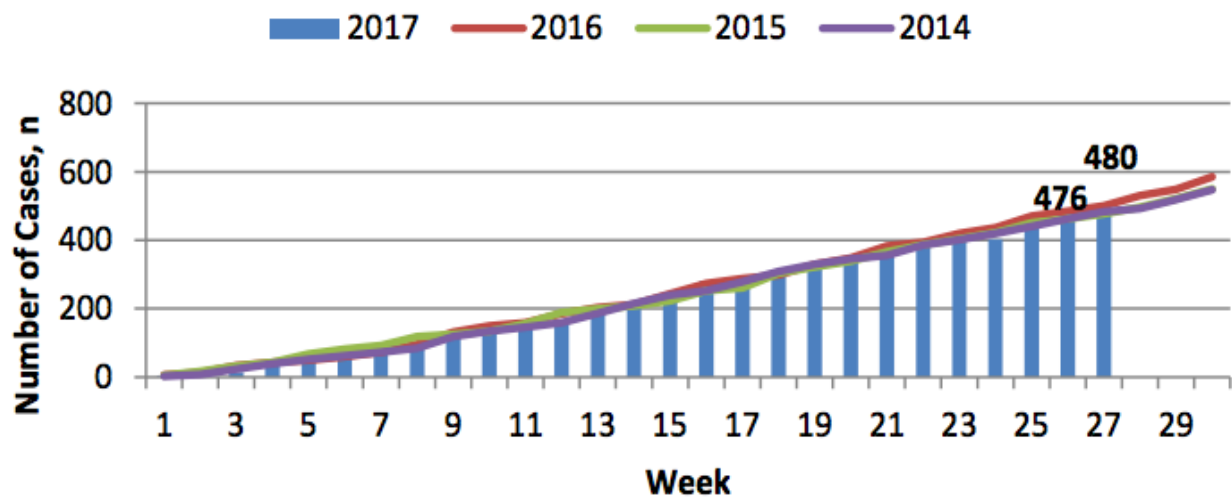


Figure 1. Reported and corrected 2014 overdose death rates (per 100,000).

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



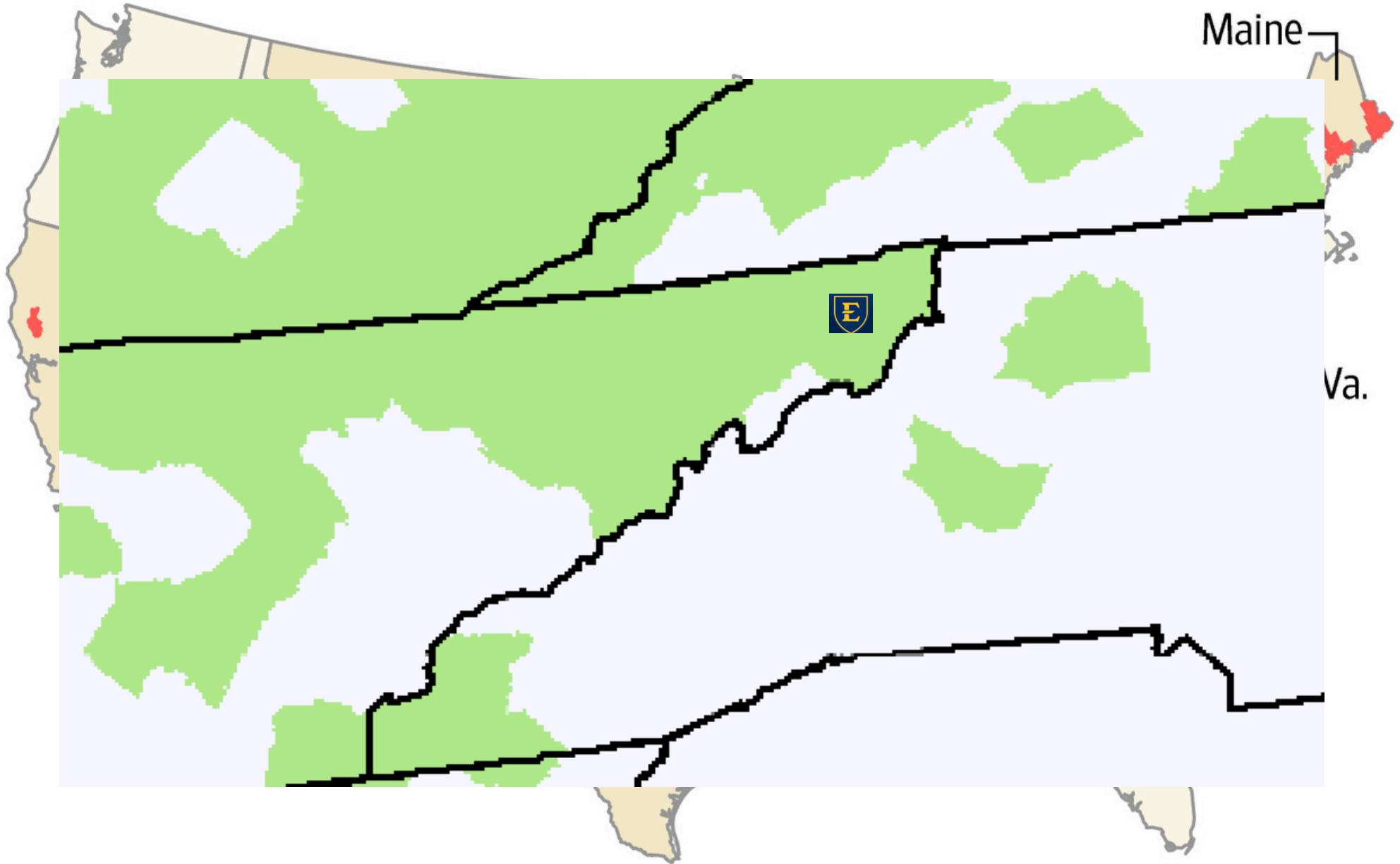
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

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

■ Counties vulnerable to outbreaks of HIV and hepatitis C



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

It's a Supply Issue

Myth or Reality



Elizabeth Renstrom for TIME

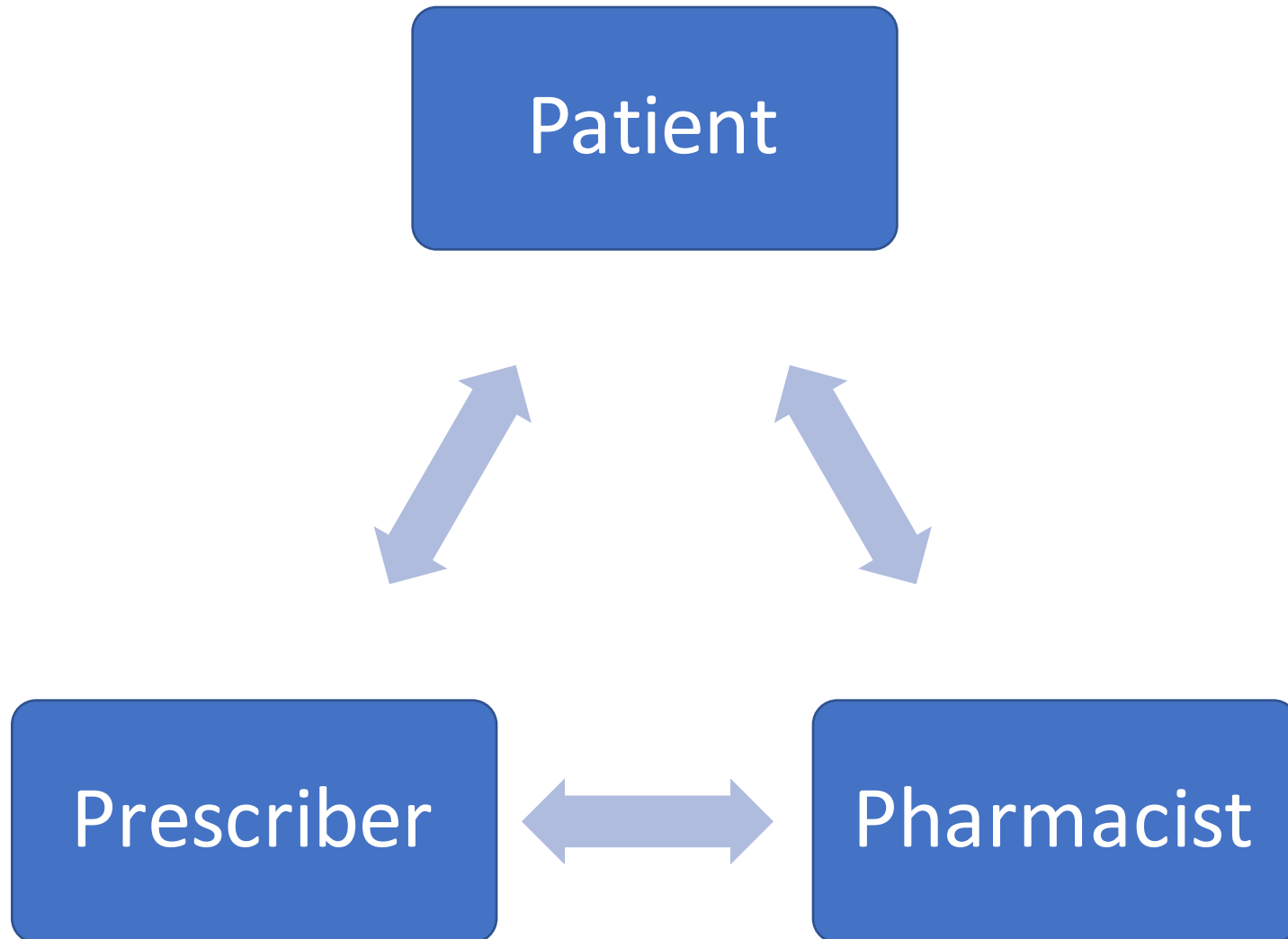
MEDICINE

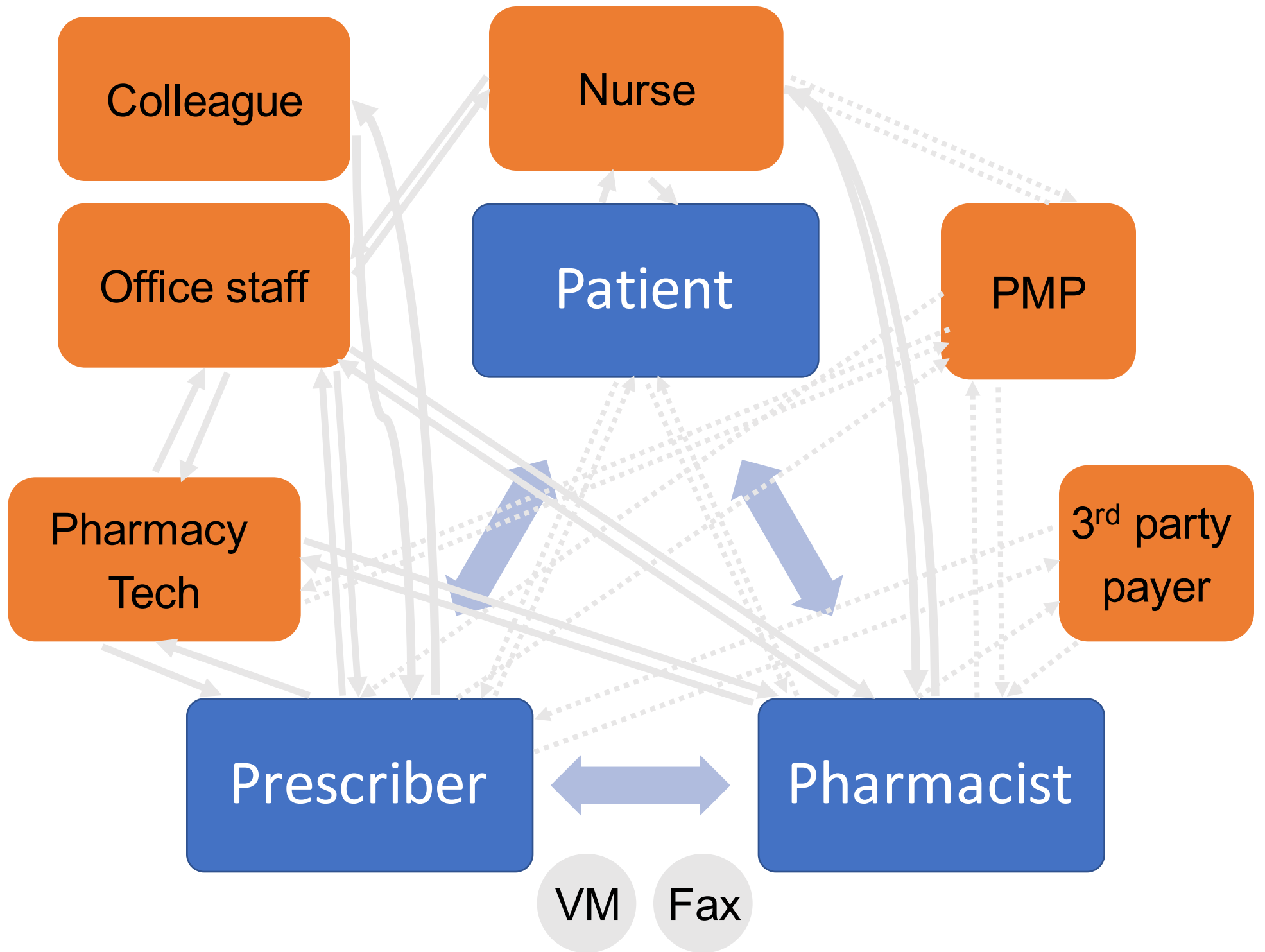
How Doctors Are Fueling the Opioid Epidemic

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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