

State Policies to Advance Pain Relief Parity

Moderator: Maine Senator Stacey Guerin

Paul Negulescu, Senior Vice President and Disease Area Executive,
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Jennifer Weiss-Burke, Executive Director, Healing Addiction in Our
Community and Serenity Mesa Recovery Center



#AccessToHealthCare



VOICES
FOR NON-OPIOID
CHOICES

Accessing Non-Opioids to Prevent Addiction

November 4, 2023

Who I Am

- Mother to a son who died from an opioid overdose
- Wife to a husband in long-term recovery
- Executive Director of Healing Addiction in Our Community and Serenity Mesa
- Founding board member for Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

Who We Are



Launched in 2019, Voices is a coalition dedicated to advancing policy measures to prevent opioid addiction in the nation

We are the only advocacy organization dedicated solely to preventing opioid addiction among acute pain patients

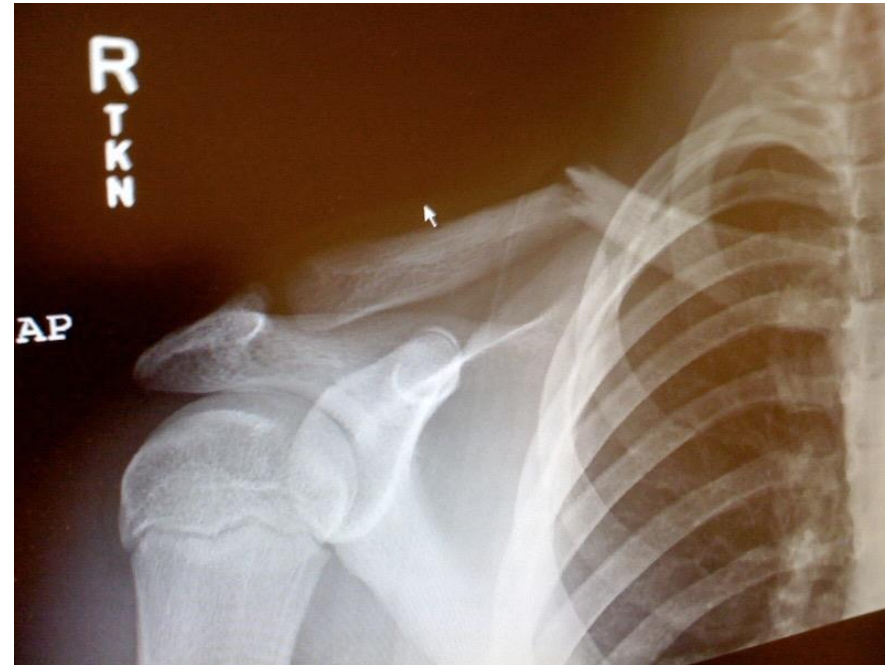
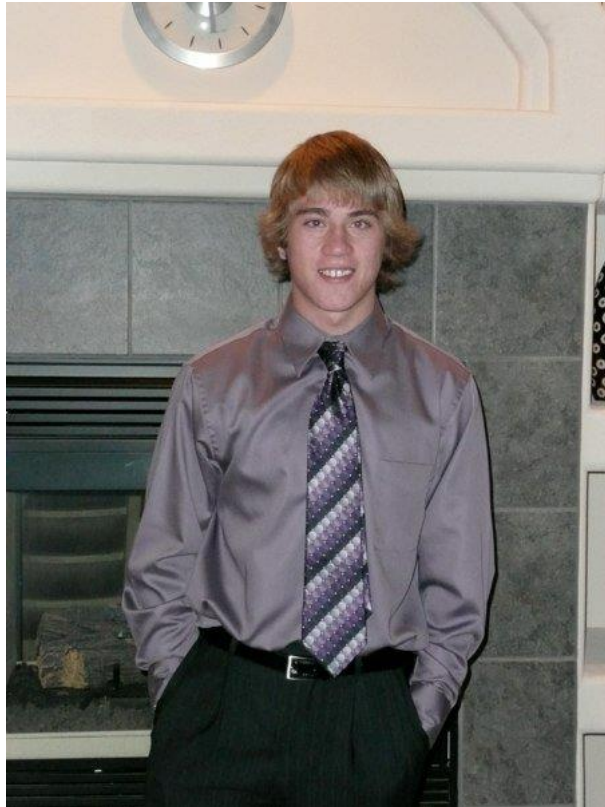


Our mission

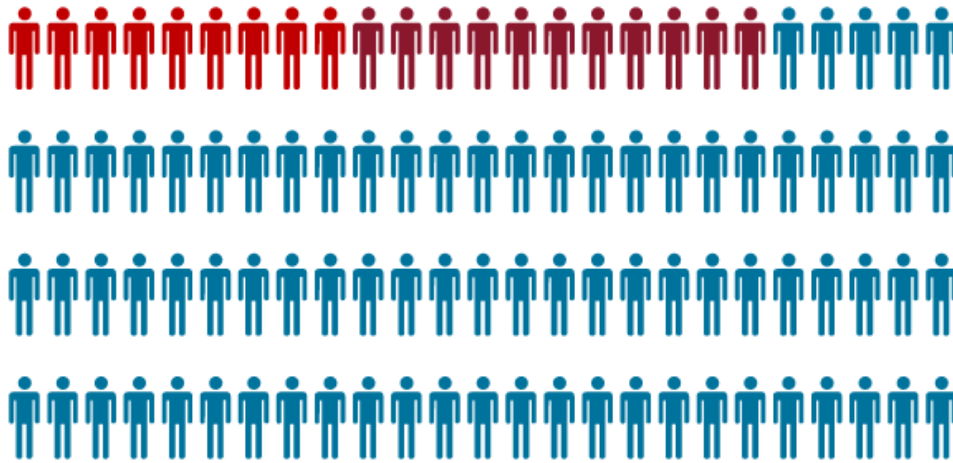
*To prevent **opioid addiction** in the United States by increasing access to and use of **non-opioid pain management approaches**.*



Cameron's Story



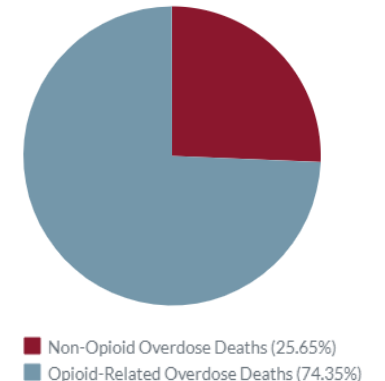
Problem: Long-Term Opioid Use After Surgery



Between **9.2** and **20%** of patients initiate long-term opioid use after a surgical procedure.^{1,2}

This dynamic results in **millions of newly persistent** opioid users **following a surgery every year** in the United States.

- Over **546,000** people died from opioid overdoses between 1999 and 2020.³
- Over **90%** of surgical patients receive an opioid prescription following surgery in 2022.⁴
- Over **110,000** deaths from a drug-related overdose were reported in 2022. This is the **highest number** of overdose deaths ever reported in a 12-month period.⁵
- Nealy **84,000** people died of an opioid-related overdose between December 2021 and December 2022- **75%** of all drug-related overdose deaths in 2022.



1. https://journals.lww.com/anesthesia-analgesia/Fulltext/2017/11000/Chronic_Opioid_Use_After_Surgery__Implications_for.40.aspx
2. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35277150/>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/data/analysis-resources.html>
4. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35181126/#:~:text=Background%3A%20More%20than%20100%20million,to%20the%20national%20opioid%20epidemic.>
5. Ahmad FB, Rossen LM, Sutton P. (2023) Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

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Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

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