

**Title:** The Opioid Epidemic: The U.S. is Off to Rehab Again  
**Presenter:** Matthew Keasberry-Vnuk, Irvine Valley College  
**Mentor:** Emily Liu

This presentation aims to bring people up to date with the history of the opioid epidemic within the United States with research going back to the late 1990's up until 2018. Opioid addiction and misuse have established itself as one of, if not the largest drug epidemic in our countries history and while this problem has persisted for well over a decade it has not been given the attention it deserves until recently. Furthermore, the question of blame has to, and will be argued throughout as at the moment lengthy legal proceedings are underway to determine just that as it is also our due diligence to ensure that it is applied accordingly and to all parties involved. In addition to discussing the history of the epidemic and the toll it has brought upon society, this presentation will establish the pros and cons of various pieces of legislation currently circulating through congress with the ultimate goal of lessening the suffering brought upon by years of neglect. Educating the general populace about the harms of opioids, prescription and illicitly produced, is a must as this issue has flown under the radar for far too long. As a country we have taken the first step in the long, arduous process of rehab, as educated Americans, it is our duty to ensure that relapse is never a possibility.

## References

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