

Title: War on Drug Shortages: Has the FDA Been Effective?

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Ongoing drug shortages in the U.S. make people wonder if the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been effective, and if other organizations should step in. Some argue that FDA involvement has been effective. In 2011, they prevented 50 drug shortages from occurring (Drug Shortages: FDA's Ability to respond Should Be Strengthened). Also, drug shortages have declined since the FDA passed the 2012 Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA) ("Drug Shortage Statistics"). However, even with these statistics, the FDA has shown an overall lack of efficacy, for their lack of authority has put consumers in danger to the point that other organizations desire to, and should, get involved. Even with FDA involvement, only 35 of 150 drugs on their shortage list were no longer in shortage (U.S. Food and Drug Administration). Also, because of lack of regulation, the FDA has had to in some cases, import foreign, "unapproved" drugs into the U.S., causing serious risk (Drug Shortages: FDA's Ability to respond Should Be Strengthened). Thirdly, the FDA's lack of authority has left them at the mercy of drug companies, for they aren't required to disclose drug production information to the FDA, which prevents them from effectively resolving the issues (Conrad). Strengthening FDASIA, along with Health Organization involvement might help. This is because although these ideas are new, there is a possibility that if initiated, the FDA will not have to depend on drug companies as much to communicate the necessary information to resolve drug shortages.

Works Cited

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