[Insert Ambulance Audio]

[Audio fades into speaking]

The opioid crisis has claimed the lives of millions of Americans since 1991. Decades after its first wave hit, the opioid crisis still kills an average of 130 people per day. With drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and other prescription medications consistently circling the nation, this opioid crisis is an issue that needs immediate attention.

[Play video clip. Clip should fade into the end of the above paragraph]

[Video clip plays]

Physicians were prescribing opioids, like painkillers, in hopes to help patients cope with chronic pain. Instead, we were given turmoil that we were unable to shake. According to the Assistant Security of Public Affairs (ASPA) there were more than 42,000 deaths in 2016 alone.

[Enter flat-line audio]

One of the main problems we face is the misuse of prescription drugs. So the real question is what increased all of the mishap? Well, a lot of opioid crisis was thrusted forward when people were given relief for physical pain, sleep, and stress.

Physicians have been feeling a lot of the pressure from the emergence of the epidemic. Alene Kennedy-Hendricks and others explained that the aspects of the crisis is largely related to individual oriented factors and certain physician oriented factors. People were abusing the pills and doctors were prescribing them.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, pharmaceutical companies constantly reassured patients that they would not become addicted to the opioids. This lead to an increase of prescription medications because people did not fear that it could be addicted

Now, physicians are slowing down their pencils [insert pencil scratching] and taking a closer look at how they treat their patients

[Insert Physician Clip]

Krystina Murray, a clinical writer at Rehab Spot emphasizes that most of the drugs are received from a medical professional, making it easy to obtain; but now, physicians are attempting to slow their roll on prescription medications to put a dent in the opioid crisis. Unfortunately, this has its own advantages and disadvantages. Even though the cut back may have reduced the supply from medical professionals, people were now looking to illegally obtain the opioids to fulfill their addiction. This spike in illegal activities lands millions in jail every year

[Insert jail door closing audio]

Addiction is not the only important characteristic of the opioid overdose crisis. People are profiting off the disease—creating an increase in trade related jobs and manufacturing.

The stress from the increase in jobs only creates a domino effect in relation to the supply and demand of opioids.

According to Adam Dean and Simeon Kimmel in “Free trade and opioid overdose death in the United States”, there are many reasons why free trade contributes to the problem. The vast amounts of manufacturing leads to accidents, labor pain, and health benefits. Many believe that the economy would take a major blow if opioids were ever removed from the market, both legal and illegal.

All of that money adds up to the cost of a life.

[Money sounds, fade out]