

# Embrace

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NEW YORK

**Chiropractic  
COUNCIL**

# THE OPIOID CRISIS

**Chiropractic-not only an option...  
but part of the solution**



**Chiropractic Care is:**



**Effective...**

**Safe...**

**Affordable...**

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

More than 62,000 Americans are believed to have died from opioid overdoses in 2017. Altarum said “the greatest cost” identified in its analysis “comes from lost earnings and productivity from overdose deaths — estimated at \$800,000 per person based on an average age of 41 among overdose victims. The economic fallout from the epidemic of heroin and prescription painkiller abuse is on track to cost \$500 billion from 2018 to 2020 alone.

1. An estimated 126.6 million Americans (one in two adults) are affected by a musculoskeletal condition— comparable to the total percentage of Americans living with a chronic lung or heart condition—costing an estimated \$213 billion in annual treatment, care and lost wages, according to a new report issued by the United States Bone and Joint Initiative (USBJI).
2. With the prevalence of back, low back and neck pain, and the documented role of non-invasive, drug-free chiropractic care to successfully address these conditions and alleviate pain, providers in multiple disciplines and throughout the health care continuum are now advocating chiropractic care as a leading alternative to usual medical care.
3. The American College of Physicians Clinical Guidelines recommends that for acute, sub-acute, or chronic low back pain physicians and patients initially utilize spinal manipulation and delay pharmacological management.
4. Chiropractic’s origins date to 1895, treating neuro-musculoskeletal conditions without the use of drugs. For over a century, doctors of chiropractic have studied the relationship between structure (primarily the spine) and function and how this interrelationship impacts health and wellbeing. Due to this emphasis on the spine, chiropractors have become associated with spinal and skeletal pain syndromes, and we bring our non-surgical, non-drug rationale to the management of these problems.

#### Footnotes:

**1** Economic cost of the opioid crisis: \$1 trillion and growing faster” Dan Mangan@DanMangan 6:01 AM ET Tue, 13 Feb 2018 CNBC.com

**2** American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians; <https://www.asipp.org/documents/ASIPPFact>

**3** 60 Minutes Ex-DEA agent: Opioid crisis fueled by drug industry and Congress Oct 15 2017

Chiropractic improves the quality & function of our spines which has a direct impact on the nerve system including the brain which directly impacts the expression & function that regulates how the body works and returns us to normal function, which means less pain and better function.

The Sarnat Study of 2007 states that in clinical and cost utilization, data associated with 70,000 members, people who saw a Chiropractor had 60% fewer hospital admissions; 59% less hospital days; 62 % less outpatient surgeries and 85% decrease in pharmaceutical costs

Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine Study of 2016; 33,000 people with low back pain from New Hampshire, within the database of all payer claims; 38% of 1/3 who saw a Chiropractor had at least 1 opioid prescription; 61% of other 2/3 had at least 1 opioid prescription. People who saw chiropractors filled opioid prescriptions 3.9 times. Those that did not see a chiropractor, filled opioids prescriptions 8.3 times. The likelihood of filling opioid prescriptions is 57% lower for chiropractic patients.

We as a country spent \$250 billion on prescription opioids in 2013, which is 4 times the amount spent in 1999, with NO reported increase in pain.

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