**REPORT**

###### EMBARGO Monday, October 31, 2016

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**“Opioid Poisonings Among Children and Teenagers”**

**TEASE RUNS: :0**

**How has the prescription opioid epidemic affected children and teens?…that’s next.**

**JAMA 4050**

**TRT: 1:56**

**Monday, October 31, 2016, 11AM ET:**

**INTRO: Although there is a lot of discussion on how the prescription opioid epidemic has affected the U.S. adult population, how has it affected children and teens? A new study looked at how often kids and teenagers are hospitalized for opioid poisonings. The study in JAMA Pediatrics examined these trends over a 16-year period from 1997 to 2012. Laura Berger has more in this week’s JAMA Report.**

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| **BROLL:**  **Morphine bottle/fentanyl bottle/pharmacist**  **SOT/FULL**  **Julie Gaither, PhD- Department of Epidemiology, Yale School of Medicine**  **Super@: 14**  **Runs: 19**  **(B-roll of pills to cover the cut)** | **FROM 1999 TO 2010 RETAIL SALES OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS QUADRUPLED. AND AS MORE ADULTS BECOME ADDICTED TO THESE MEDICATIONS, MORE CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS ARE ALSO AT A HIGHER RISK FOR OPIOID POISONING AND MISUSE.**  **“The opioid epidemic has grown exponentially. It really began in the mid-1990s when physicians were encouraged to do a better job of treating chronic pain…. in 2014 there were approximately 19,000 deaths that were attributed to opioid medications.”** |
| **B-ROLL:**  **Two doctors walking/working at computer/ambulance/gurney wheeling into hospital/doctors looking at monitor** | **DR. JULIE GAITHER AND DR. DEEPA CAM-en-GAY AND CO-AUTHORS REVIEWED THE U.S. PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL DISCHARGE RECORDS OF CHILDREN AND TEENS AGES 1 TO 19, FROM 1997 TO 2012. THEY IDENTIFIED MORE THAN 13,000 CHILDREN AND TEENS WHO WERE HOSPITALIZED FOR OPIOID POISONINGS WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME.**  **THEY ALSO LOOKED AT 15 TO 19 YEAR OLDS WHO WERE HOSPITALIZED FOR HEROIN POISONINGS.**  **THE STUDY APPEARS IN JAMA PEDIATRICS.** |
| **SOT/FULL**  **Deepa Camenga, MD-Department of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine**  **Super@: 56**  **Runs: 22**  **(B-roll in middle, pill warning/girl on gurney/nurse in room)**  **Julie Gaither, PhD- Department of Epidemiology, Yale School of Medicine**  **Super@: 1:19**  **Runs:14** | **“We found that the rates of hospitalizations for opioid poisonings doubled during … 1997 to 2012. We also found… that the highest number of hospitalizations were among teenagers, ages 15 thru 19 …the highest rates of increase in hospitalizations were among our youngest population, which was 1 to 4-year-old children.”**  **“Heroin poisonings increased by 150% during this time point and then very importantly, poisonings from methadone increased by approximately 950%, so almost tenfold in less than two decades.”** |
| **B-ROLL:**  **Pharmacist with syringes/pills/hospital machine** | **DR. GAITHER AND DR. CAM-en-GAY SAY CHANGES IN HOW WE PRESCRIBE, DISPOSE, AND PACKAGE THESE DRUGS ARE NEEDED TO KEEP CHILDREN AND TEENS SAFE.** |
| **SOT/FULL**  **Deepa Camenga, MD-Department of Pediatrics, Yale School of Medicine**  **Super@: 1:41**  **Runs: 13**  **(b-roll in middle pharmacist crushing pills)** | **“Our national conversation has focused on how to improve the treatment and prevention of opioid misuse and abuse, but we also hope that this conversation focuses on how to safeguard children from this epidemic.”** |
| **BROLL: morphine bottle** | **LAURA BERGER, THE JAMA REPORT.** |

**TAG: THE PEDIATRIC COMMUNITY MAKES UP ¼ OF THE U.S. POPULATION.**

**Please see the complete study for additional information, including other authors, author contributions and affiliations, financial disclosures, funding and support, etc.**

**TO CONTACT: Dr. Gaither and Dr. Camenga, call Ziba Kashef, at 203-436-9317.**

**ADDITIONAL SOUNDBITES:**

**QUOTE 1 Runs: :08**

**“We hope our study helps highlight that the prescription opioid epidemic affects everyone in the population, even our youngest children.”**

**QUOTE 2 Runs:24**

**“We believe that our study helps highlight the need to create safeguards for our children. Such things would be increasing locations to safely and easily dispose of prescription medications, increasing education about how to safely store and dispose of these medications, and also improving prevention strategies, to deter teens from opioid misuse and abuse.”**