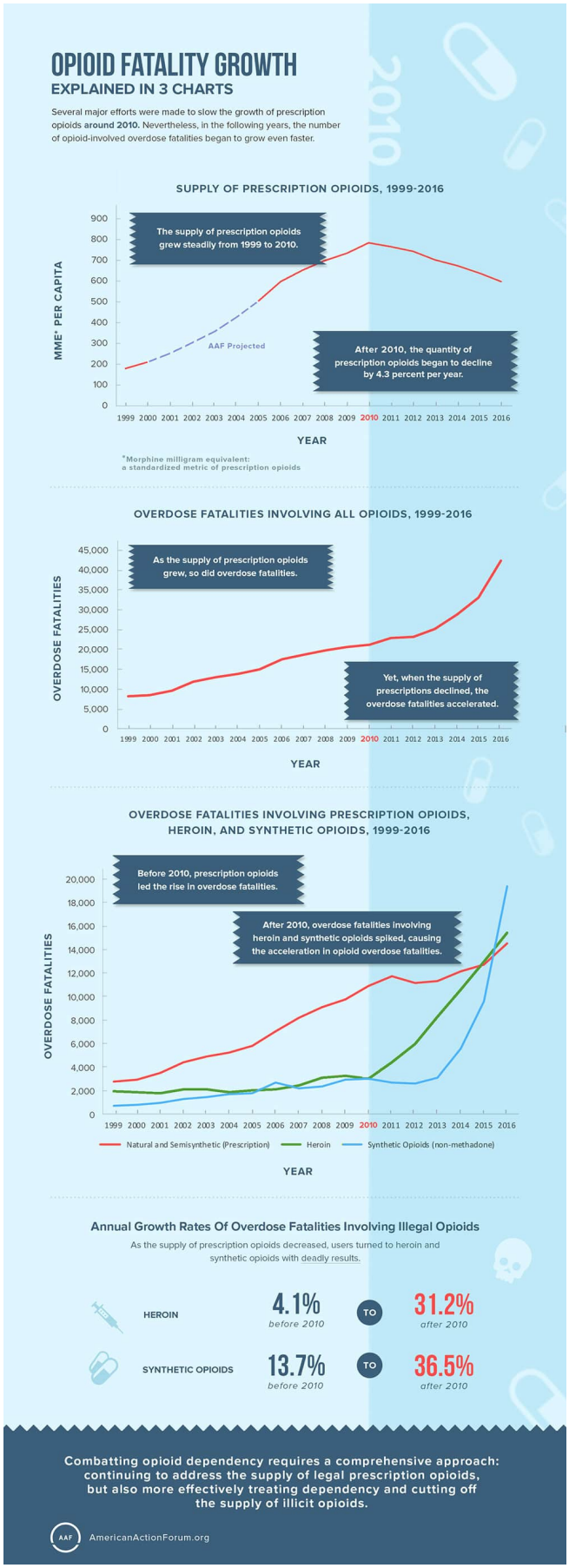
Infographic

Opioid Fatality Growth Explained In 3 Charts

BEN GITIS | APRIL 11, 2018


OPIOID FATALITY GROWTH
EXPLAINED IN 3 CHARTS
Several major efforts were made to slow the growth of prescription opioids around 2010. Nevertheless, in the following years, the number of opioid-involved overdose fatalities began to grow even faster.
SUPPLY OF PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS, 1999-2016
MME* PER CAPITA
The supply of prescription opioids grew steadily from 1999 to 2010.
AAF Projected
After 2010, the quantity of prescription opioids began to decline by 4.3 percent per year.
YEAR
*Morphine milligram equivalent: a standardized metric of prescription opioids
OVERDOSE FATALITIES INVOLVING ALL OPIOIDS, 1999-2016
OVERDOSE FATALITIES
As the supply of prescription opioids grew, so did overdose fatalities.
Yet, when the supply of prescriptions declined, the overdose fatalities accelerated.
YEAR
OVERDOSE FATALITIES INVOLVING PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS, HEROIN, AND SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, 1999-2016
OVERDOSE FATALITIES
Before 2010, prescription opioids led the rise in overdose fatalities.
After 2010, overdose fatalities involving heroin and synthetic opioids spiked, causing the acceleration in opioid overdose fatalities.
Natural and Semisynthetic (Prescription)
Heroin
Synthetic Opioids (non-methadone)
YEAR
Annual Growth Rates Of Overdose Fatalities Involving Illegal Opioids
As the supply of prescription opioids decreased, users turned to heroin and synthetic opioids with deadly results.
HEROIN
4.1% before 2010
TO
31.2% after 2010
SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS
13.7% before 2010
TO
36.5% after 2010
Combatting opioid dependency requires a comprehensive approach: continuing to address the supply of legal prescription opioids, but also more effectively treating dependency and cutting off the supply of illicit opioids.
AAF
AmericanActionForum.org