

LACK OF AVAILABLE TREATMENT LEADS TO HEROIN OVERDOSE

Cause Map

"Addiction to heroin and other opiates – including certain prescription pain-killers – is impacting the lives of Americans in every state, in every region, and from every background and walk of life – and all too often, with deadly results. It's clear that opiate addiction is an urgent – and growing – public health crisis. Confronting this crisis will require a combination of enforcement and treatment. The Justice Department is committed to both."

- US Attorney General Eric Holder

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Fatal heroin overdose
When	Date	September 23, 2010
Where	Different, unusual, unique	Space, funding not available for treatment
	County, State	Blackwood, New Jersey
	Unit, area, equipment	Heroin
	Task being performed	Attempting to quit

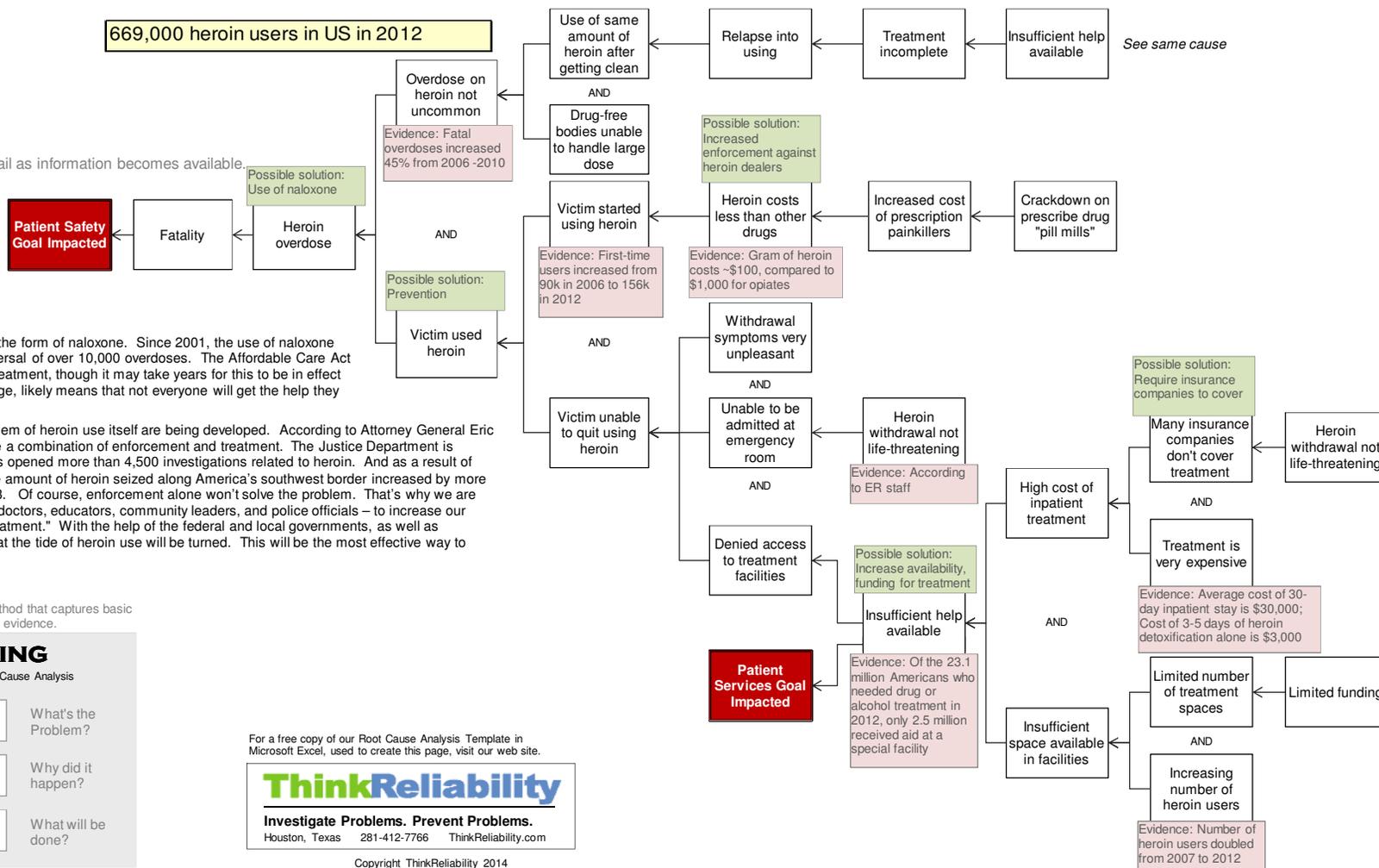
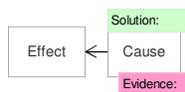
Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety	Fatality
Patient Services	Insufficient help available

Frequency: 669,000 heroin users in US in 2012

2 Analysis

Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.



Hope for overdose victims is available in the form of naloxone. Since 2001, the use of naloxone by emergency responders resulted in reversal of over 10,000 overdoses. The Affordable Care Act should improve insurance coverage for treatment, though it may take years for this to be in effect and, with the treatment availability shortage, likely means that not everyone will get the help they need.

However, solutions that address the problem of heroin use itself are being developed. According to Attorney General Eric Holder, "Confronting this crisis will require a combination of enforcement and treatment. The Justice Department is committed to both." Since 2011, DEA has opened more than 4,500 investigations related to heroin. And as a result of these aggressive enforcement efforts, the amount of heroin seized along America's southwest border increased by more than 320 percent between 2008 and 2013. Of course, enforcement alone won't solve the problem. That's why we are enlisting a variety of partners – including doctors, educators, community leaders, and police officials – to increase our support for education, prevention, and treatment." With the help of the federal and local governments, as well as dedicated families of users, it is hoped that the tide of heroin use will be turned. This will be the most effective way to stop overdose deaths.

Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

CAUSE MAPPING

Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

- Step 1 **Problem** - What's the Problem?
- Step 2 **Analysis** - Why did it happen?
- Step 3 **Solutions** - What will be done?

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.



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