

17th Annual IMSN Meeting

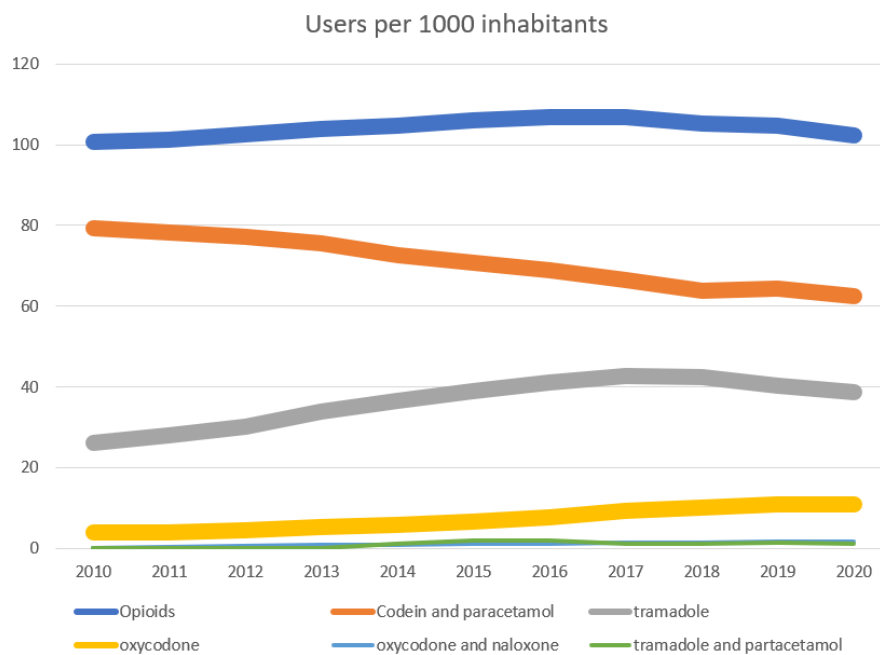
15. November 2022

Sigurd Hortemo,
Norwegian Medicines Agency (NOMA)



«Angel in the snow» Robert Eik. Picture of the year 1998

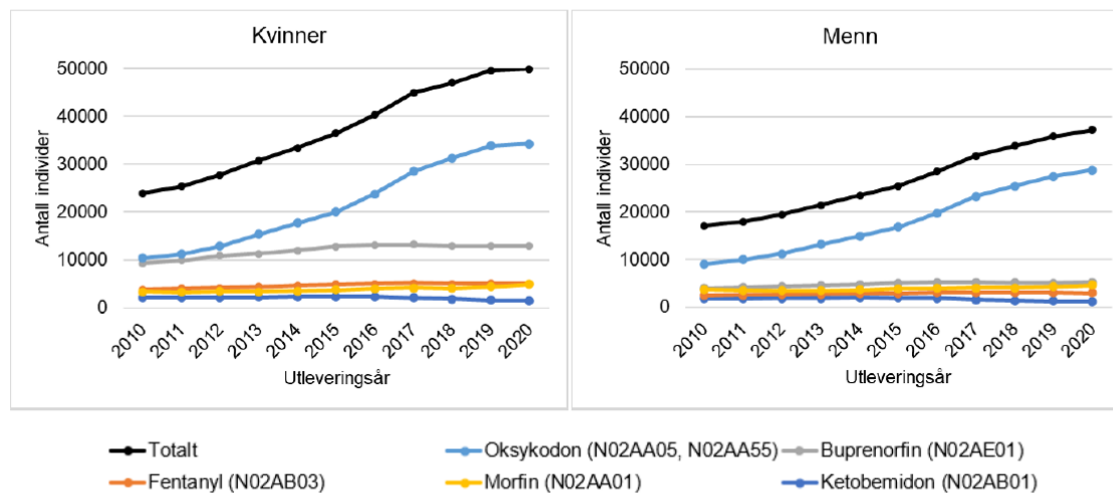
Use of opioids in Norway



Source: Norwegian Prescription Database

«Angel in the snow» Robert Eik. Picture of the year 1998

Use of “strong opioids” 2010-2020

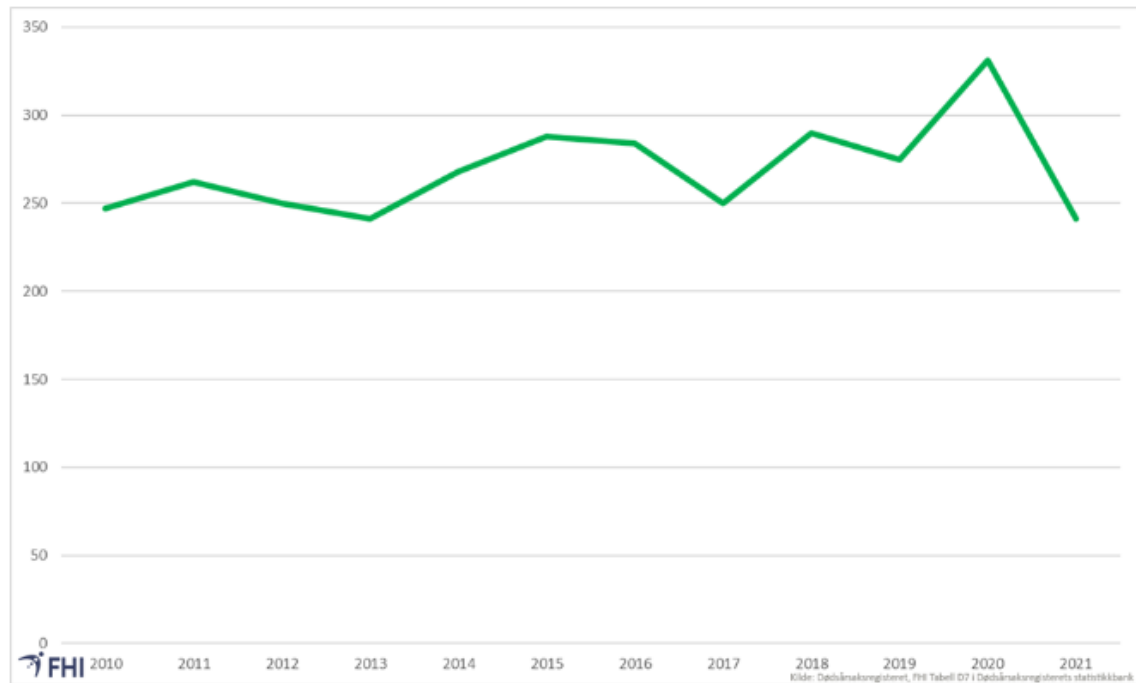


Source: Prof. Svetlana Skurtveit, National Institute of Public Health (FHI)

«Angel in the snow» Robert Eik. Picture of the year 1998

Overdose deaths in Norway

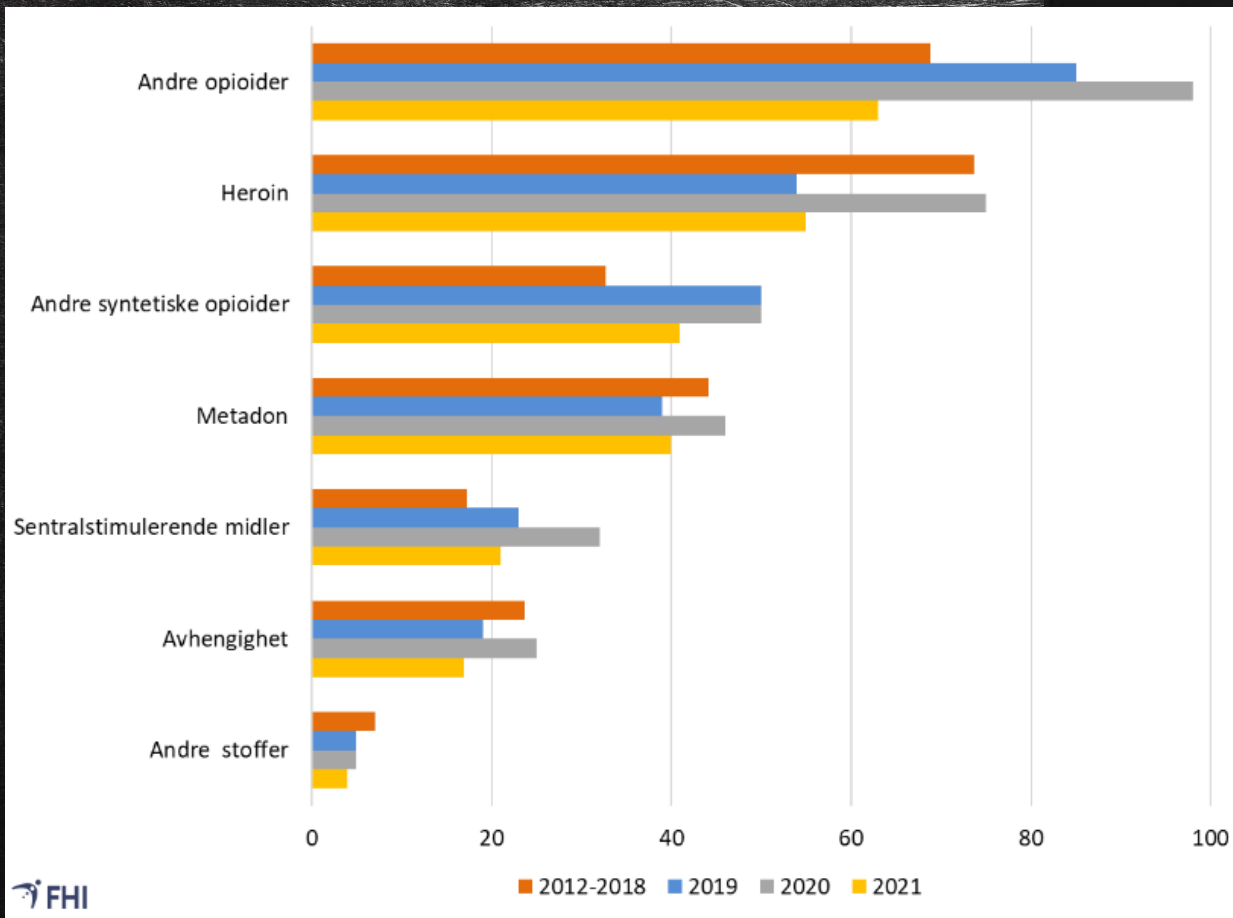
Figur 1. Antall narkotikautløste dødsfall i perioden 2010 – 2021. Norge.



Figur 1. Antall narkotikautløste dødsfall i perioden 2010 – 2021. Norge. Kilde: Dødsårsaksregisteret, FHI Tabell D7 i Dødsårsaksregisterets statistikkbank..



«Angel in the snow» Robert Eik. Picture of the year 1998



“Andre opioider”
=
morphine,
codeine, and
oxycodone



«Engel i snøen» Robert Eik. Årets bilde 1998

How can we prevent an opioid epidemic in Norway?



Kaitlyn Dever plays Betsy, a young miner who takes OxyContin for a back injury.

Antony Platt/ Hulu

Bilde: Antony Platt/Hulu

- 
- No marketing of opioids since 2009
 - Strong warning from The Norwegian Directorate of Health (2021):
Opioids should not be offered to patients with longstanding pain not due to cancer.
 - Updated product information emphasizing the risk of addiction (2022):
Repeated use of oxycodone can lead to drug dependence, even at therapeutic doses. The risk of drug dependence may vary depending on a patient's individual risk factors, dosage, and duration of opioid treatment (PRAC/EMA).
 - Criteria for reimbursement of opioids are evaluated (2022)
 - Tools are developed so that doctors and patients can cope with pain without using drugs (2022)

Other initiatives to prevent addiction and help those who have developed addictions.

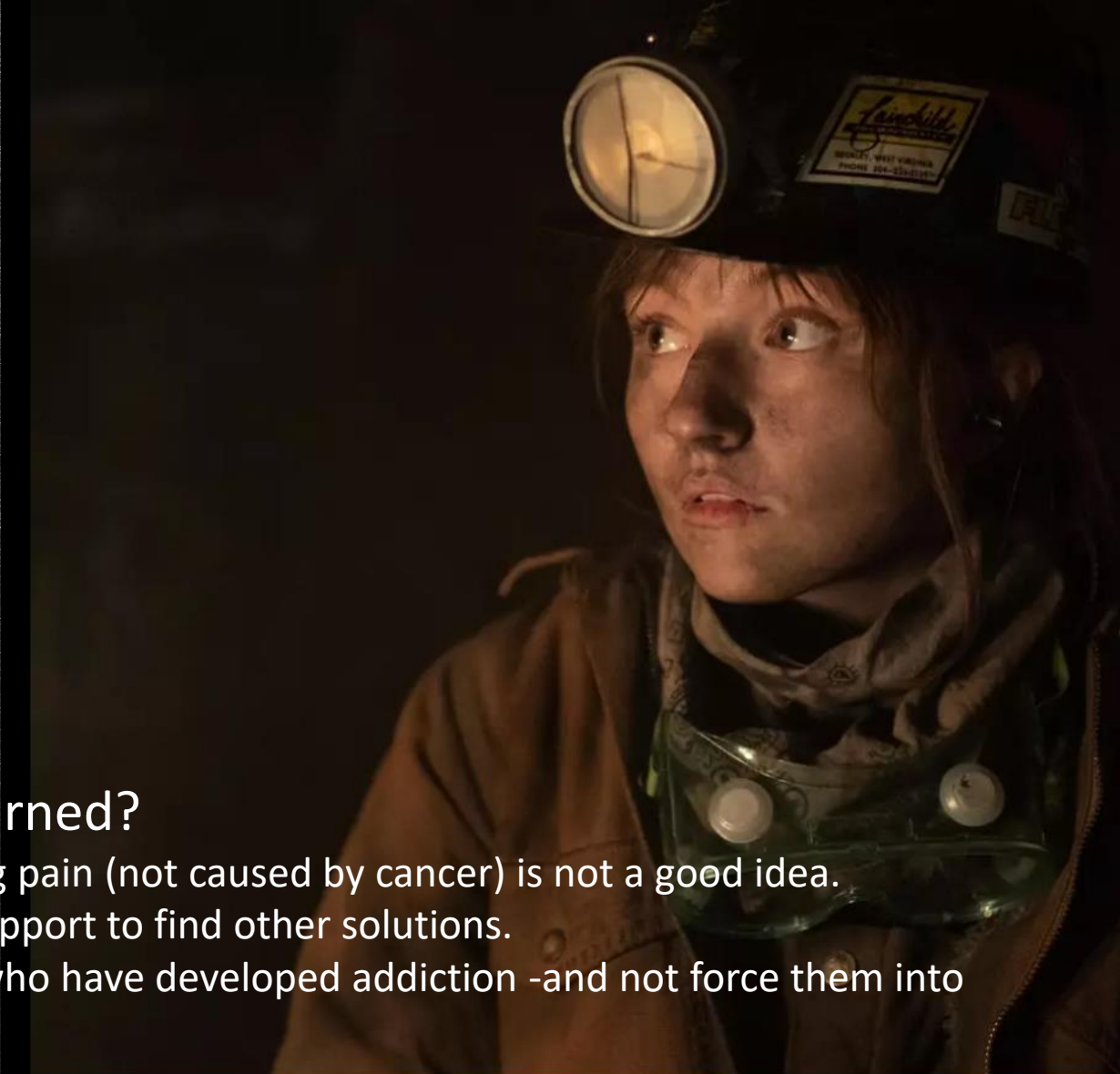
- The Parliament will discuss a new prevention and treatment reform in the drug field (2023).
- The Norwegian Directorate of Health has developed a guide for interdisciplinary pain clinics (2021).
- The Norwegian Directorate of Health is preparing “National patient pathways” for patients with complex pain conditions (2022).
- The Norwegian Directorate of Health has proposed a new strategy to reduce the number of overdoses (2022).
- SERAF: Point-project (Preventing an opioid epidemic In Norway: Focusing on treatment of chronic pain).



Will we succeed?

What are the lessons learned?

- Use of opioids for long-lasting pain (not caused by cancer) is not a good idea.
- Doctors and patients need support to find other solutions.
- We must take care of those who have developed addiction -and not force them into the illegal market.



Kaitlyn Dever plays Betsy, a young miner who takes OxyContin for a back injury.

Antony Platt/ Hulu

Bilde: Antony Platt/Hulu