

Bravery needed in battle against addiction

Some addiction experts are suggesting radical changes to how the nation approaches drug addiction and treatment. Dr. Jeffrey Singer, an Arizona surgeon and drug policy expert at the Cato Institute, a Washington think tank, said the new war on opioid addiction could include centers where supervised injections happen.

Singer calls it a harm reduction measure that should be considered if leaders are serious about cutting the number of overdose deaths.

Governments should also sponsor needle exchanges and make naloxone available as an over-the-counter drug. "You are switching the goal to: 'I don't want you to die. I don't want you to spread disease,'" Singer said.

While we are not endorsing the approach Singer proposes, we are proponents for thinking "outside the box." The legislation adopted in recent years to limit access to painkiller prescriptions was well-intentioned and widely supported. It might be, however, that it's backfired. The prescription rate for opioid pain pills has jumped in the U.S. since 2010, but drug overdose

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What should be done to fight addiction?

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