

Epidemic: Opioid abuse has taken the lives of 165,000 Americans since 2000

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accounting for more deaths in 2012 than heroin and cocaine combined.

An investigation by The Associated Press and the Center for Public Integrity reveals that similar feedback loops of information and influence play out regularly in the nation's capital, fueled by money and talking points from the Pain Care Forum, a loose coalition of drugmakers, trade groups and dozens of nonprofits supported by industry funding that has flown under the radar until now.

Hundreds of internal documents shed new light on how drugmakers and their allies shaped the national response to the ongoing wave of prescription opioid abuse, which has claimed the lives of 165,000 Americans since 2000, according to federal figures.

Prescriptions

Painkillers are among the most widely prescribed medications in the U.S., but pharmaceutical companies and allied groups have a multitude of legislative interests beyond those drugs. From 2006 through 2015, participants in the Pain



David Crigger/Bristol Herald Courier
Demonstrators march along Main Street in Abingdon, Va., to raise awareness about the abuse of OxyContin. From 2000 to 2016, prescription opioid abuse has claimed the lives of 165,000 Americans, according to federal estimates.

Care Forum spent over \$740 million lobbying in the nation's capital and in all 50 statehouses on an array of issues, including keeping opioids accessible, according to an analysis of lobbying filings.

The same organizations reinforced their influence with more than \$140 million doled out to political campaigns, including more than \$75 million alone to federal candidates, political action committees and parties.

"You can go a long, long way in getting what you

want when you have a lot of money," said Professor Keith Humphreys of Stanford University, a former adviser on drug policy under President Barack Obama. "And it's only when things get so disastrous that finally there's enough popular will aroused to push back."

Opioids were long reserved for severe pain due to surgery, injury or terminal diseases like cancer. That changed in the 1990s, with a surge in prescribing for more common ailments like back pain and arthritis.

Marketing for new long-acting painkillers like OxyContin helped fuel the trend, along with other factors.

OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma pleaded guilty and agreed to pay more than \$600 million in fines in 2007 for misleading the public about the risks of its drug. But the painkiller continued to rack up blockbuster sales, generating more than \$22 billion over the last decade.

Purdue's Washington lobbyist, Burt Rosen, co-founded the Pain Care Forum more than a decade ago and coordinates the group's monthly meetings in Washington. Purdue declined to make Rosen available for interviews and did not answer questions about its specific lobbying activities.

The company said it supports a range of advocacy groups, including some with differing views on opioids.

"In practice and governance, the Pain Care Forum is like any of the hundreds of policy coalitions in Washington and throughout the nation," the company said in a statement, adding: "Purdue complies with all applicable lobbying disclosure laws and requirements."

Some things to know about opioids, political cash in Oregon

By REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press

killer industry and opioid use in Oregon:

Heavy-duty prescription painkillers like hydrocodone and OxyContin are a big part of medicine in Oregon, with doctors prescribing them at a rate that nearly reached one per person last year.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in the state get a huge chunk of their campaign cash from donors with ties to the prescription painkiller business.

But Oregon isn't alone. A joint investigation by The Associated Press and the Center for Public Integrity found that drugmakers that produce opioid painkillers and allied advocacy groups spent more than \$880 million on campaign contributions and lobbying nationwide over the past decade.

The money comes from members of the Pain Control Forum — a group that touts prescription opioids as having a vital role in improving the quality of life for millions of Americans.

By comparison, groups advocating for limits on opioids, the CDC has indicated that prescription opioids and heroin account for the majority of drug deaths.

Things to know about political spending by the pain-

Drug spending: Between 2006 and 2015, members of the Pain Care Forum contributed more than \$1.15 billion in Oregon. In fact, Oregon ranks second only to Nevada for having the largest portion of its total contributions come from Pain Care Forum members. Washington state came in third.

Drug lobbyists: There have been about 19 lobbyists hired each year for the past decade to represent members of the Pain Care Forum in Oregon.

Prescriptions: Prescriptions for opioid painkillers are common in Oregon, with more than 3.14 million prescriptions issued in 2015. That's the equivalent of .78 prescriptions per person.

Drug deaths: The number of Oregonians dying from drug overdoses is on the rise. The state's drug deaths increased about 8 percent between 2006 and 2014, with a total of 4,442 during that period. Though the drug death data isn't limited to opioids, the CDC has indicated that prescription opioids and heroin account for the majority of drug deaths.

Anchovies: Astoria is 'still a fishing town'

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The decision proved controversial, but Barry Schauff, SeaA Inc.'s sole fish supplier this summer, takes a measured view.

"It doesn't do you any good to kill them all 'cause then nobody gets to catch them later," he said.

Burgeoning business

Astoria Holdings' machinery sat dormant until SeaA Inc. owner Tony Kim, who has spent decades in the fish business, arranged to take over the facilities last fall and convert them into an anchovy-based operation.

In early August, the first catch came in, courtesy of Schauff and his small crew. They try to take in about 85 tons of anchovies per day.

The burgeoning business employs roughly 40 people, some of whom are former Astoria Holdings' workers, said Larry Normand, the chief



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
SeaA inc. employee Alex Dietrich packages anchovies at SeaA Inc. The plant hopes to soon process other species.

engineer, who himself worked for the sardine plant.

"A lot of people, they came back," Assistant Manager Gustavo Velásquez said.

The fishing business has been through hard times, Kim noted, especially because of the effects of the 2014-16 El Niño — the cyclical warming of Pacific Ocean waters

— among the strongest such events on record.

"Hopefully, next year we have a better chance at hiring more people," Kim said.

The owner said he plans to eventually turn the Astoria site into a year-round enterprise by branching out into other species like hake, shrimp and squid.

SeaA Inc., which has some plants in Mexico, has also done custom-freezing for an Ilwaco, Washington, company.

'Still a fishing town'

Schauff, a skipper from Kodiak, Alaska, observed that Astoria is "still a fishing town, like where we're from. It seems to us — still blue-collar, between the logging and the fishing."

Despite the tremors in the fishing industry, Schauff said being a fisherman is the "best job in the world." He cannot imagine doing anything else, he said.

"It's entirely up to you to make it work — and if you don't, you don't survive," he said. "It's very competitive, and the people that I compete against are mostly friends. You gotta live by your wits. It's hard work, and a little luck, and taking care of your equipment, and getting good people to work for you."

Whale: Cause of death still remains a mystery

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By Sunday, though, the smell was gone, he said.

Chandler, Boothe and a team of researchers from Portland State University were prepared to examine the whale, which was swept ashore Friday, its stomach distended.

"That big thing was its stomach," Chandler said, referring to what looked like a giant hot-air balloon before it deflated midday Saturday. "By the time I saw it, it had already exploded."

Chandler said the stench on Saturday was "horrible."

"The stomach was inverted," he said. "The water was murky, muddy, brown — I think it was the stomach contents that were smelling so bad."

Humpbacks are less common than gray whales, and occasionally wash up on the North Coast.

As for what caused the whale's death, that remains a mystery.

If the whale washes up between here and Tillamook, Chandler and Boothe said they will be out once again. They cover the coast from Tillamook to the end of Long Beach, Washington. If the whale floats farther south, it will be out of the aquarium's jurisdiction and monitored by the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

Lyra Fontaine contributed to this report.



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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING											SEPTEMBER 20		
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Dancing Results	The pair with the lowest score are eliminated. (SP) (N)	Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.	(SP) (N)	KATU News at 11	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel		
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dancing Results	The pair with the lowest score are eliminated. (SP) (N)	This Is Us "Pilot"	(P) (N)	KOMO 4 News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel		
4	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Premiere 2"	(N)	This Is Us "Pilot"	(P) (N)	KING 5 News	(:35) Tonight Show		
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Rogue"	(SP) (N)	Bull (P)	(N)	KOIN 6 News @ 11	(:35) S. Colbert		
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Rogue"	(SP) (N)	Bull (P)	(N)	KIRO News	(:35) S. Colbert		
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		Live at Seven	Inside Edition	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Premiere 2"	(N)	This Is Us "Pilot"	(P) (N)	KGW News at 11	(:35) Tonight Show		
9	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Flash "Rupture"		MADtv (N)		KGW News at 10	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother	
10	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		The Contenders: 16 for '16 (N)		Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War (N)		Frontline "Business of Disaster"		Steves' Europe	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Brooklyn (SP) (N)	New Girl (SP) (N)	Scream Queens "Scream Again"	(SP) (N)	10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	2 Broke Girls
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		The Walking Dead "18 Miles Out"		Dead "Judge, Jury, Executioner"	
14	KCPQ	(14) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Brooklyn (SP) (N)	New Girl (SP) (N)	Scream Queens "Scream Again"	(SP) (N)	Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	The Simpsons
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)	
22	KZJQ	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) (5:00) Hockey World Cup (L)		SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports.	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
30	ESPN2	(30) (4:00) MLB Baseball (L)		Baseball Tonight (L)		NFL Live		Baseball Tonight (L)		NFL Live		Fantasy Football	Fantasy Football
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	School of Rock	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Backstage (N)	K.C. Undercover	Elena of Avalor	Elena of Avalor	Adventures in Babysitting ("16) Sabrina Carpenter.		(:45) Girl Meets W.		(:10) Bizaardvark	(:35) Best Friends	Backstage	K.C. Undercover
34	FAM	(34) *** Dirty Dancing (1987, Dance)	Jennifer Grey, Jerry Orbach, Patrick Swayze.			*** Grease (1978, Musical)	Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing, John Travolta.					The 700 Club	
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) *** Zero Dark Thirty ("12) Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jessica Chastain.				(:10) FXM Presents	*** Zero Dark Thirty (2012, Drama) Jason Clarke, Joel Edgerton, Jessica Chastain.						(:40) FXM Presents
36	LIFE	(36) Dance Moms "One Last Dance"		Dance Moms "Abby's New Beginning"		Dance "Nia and Kendall Face Off" (N)		Dance Moms "Return of the Minis" (N)				Dance Moms "Return of the Minis"	
38	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball	Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)			Post-game		MLB Baseball	Toronto Blue Jays at Seattle Mariners		
39	F51	(39) Best of WEC		UFC "Henderson vs. Lombard"		Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Speak for Yourself		Skip and Shannon: Undisputed	Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.		
43	SPIKE	(43) Ink Master "Weeding Out the Weak"		Ink Master "The Game Begins"		Ink Master "Ruffled Feathers"		Ink Master "Put on Your Armor"		Ink Master "Sparks Fly" (N)		Ink Master (N)	Ink Master
44	COM	(44) Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	The Daily Show (N)	at midnight (N)
45	HIST	(45) Counting Cars	Counting Cars	CountCars "Mo' Parts Mo' Problems"		Forged in Fire "The Falcata" (N)		Forged in Fire "Kora Sword" (N)		(:05) Blacksmith	(:35) Blacksmith	(:05) Forged in Fire	"Butterfly Swords"
46	A&E	(46) The First 48 "Alias" Duel"		Married1stSight "For Better or Worse"		Married1stSight ("45) Married at First Sight "In Sickness and in Health" (N)		Born This Way "Dream Makers" (N)		(:05) Married "For Better or Worse"		(:05) Married "For Better or Worse"	
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Counting On (N)	Counting On (N)		Cake Boss (N)		(:05) Counting On		(:05) Counting On	
48	DISC	(48) D. Catch "Legend of the Northwestern"		Deadiest Catch "Sig Hansen Legacy"		Deadiest Catch (N)		Deadiest Catch "Pacific Fury" (N)		Taking Fire (N)		Deadiest Catch "Pacific Fury"	
49	NGEO	(49) Facing "Saddam"		The '90s "Enemy Within"		Facing "Suge Knight"		Facing "Putin" (N)		Russia and West "Putin Takes Control"		Facing "Putin"	
50	TNT	(50) Castle "The Human Factor"		Castle "Watershed"		Castle "Valkyrie"		Castle "Dreamworld"		Castle "Need to Know"		Castle "Number One Fan"	
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) *** Erin Brockovich ('00) Aaron Eckhart, Marg Helgenberger, Julia Roberts.		*** Stand by Me (1986, Drama) Corey Feldman, River Phoenix, Wil Wheaton.		*** Grease (1978, Musical) Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing, John Travolta.		Halt and Catch Fire "And She Was" (N)		Halt and Catch Fire "And She Was" (N)		Halt and Catch Fire "And She Was"	
52	AMC	(52) NCIS "Once a Crook"		NCIS "Better Angels"		WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.		Chrisley Knows (N) Chrisley Knows		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Teen Tournament: Battle 3"		Chopped "Teen Tournament: Battle 4"		Chopped Junior "A Hot Minute" (N)		Chopped "Short Order Cooks"		Chopped (N)		Chopped "Light Makes Right"	
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Fixer Upper	
55	FX	(55) *** The Hangover Part III ("13, Com) Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms, Bradley Cooper.		*** Neighbors (2014, Comedy) Zac Efron, Rose Byrne, Seth Rogen.		Atlanta (N)		Atlanta		Atlanta		Atlanta	Movie
57	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		On the Record	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		The Profit "Honest Foods" (N)		The Profit		The Profit "Honest Foods"		The Profit "Fuelfood"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63	BRAV	(63) The Real Housewives		B.Deck "No One Said This Job Was Easy"		Below Deck		Below Deck (N)		B.Deck "Hair Models and Filthy Martinis"		WatchWhat (N)	Real Housewives
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Mon Oncle ('58) Jacques Tati.		*** The Long, Long Trailer ('54, Com) Desi Arnaz, Marjorie Main, Lucille Ball.		*** Scared Stiff (1953, Musical) Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis.		(:45) *** Have Rocket, Will Travel ('59) Curly Joe DeRita.					
65	SYFY	(65) (4:30) Faster ('10)		*** Legion (2010, Action) Lucas Black, Tyrese Gibson, Paul Bettany.		*** Blade (1998, Action) Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Wesley Snipes.						Anaconda (1997, Action) Jon Voight.	
162	RFD	(162) Cattlemen	LandLeader TV	Downunder Horseman.		Chris Cox		Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD	Cattlemen to Cattlemen		LandLeader TV	Product Showcase



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