Punishment as an Antidote

EXCLUSIVE: U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara to slap opioid dealers linked to fatal overdoses with federal charges

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara stated: “The epidemic of opioid abuse is devastating our communities. Charges like those announced today strike at the heart of the problem – dealers who fuel the cycle of addiction and overdose. Anthony Delosangeles allegedly dealt in heroin, including the heroin that killed Thomas Cippollaro, a 25 year-old White Plains man. We thank the FBI and our local law enforcement partners for their extraordinary efforts that led to the charges today.”
Drug dealers would face homicide charges after overdose under

This law would hold drug dealers accountable for the true cost of their activities, significantly diminish the open availability of these dangerous drugs on our streets and give district attorneys the necessary tools to work up the criminal chain to the ultimate supplier because facing life imprisonment for any amount of drugs that results in death is a profound disincentive to sell drugs within the state of New York.

This law seeks to punish those individuals involved in the illegal drug trade and is not intended to punish those individuals who are merely co-users. Therefore a co-user who shares the drugs with the victim still has an incentive to follow the current good Samaritan law and save the other person as he or she will be able to avoid prosecution for homicide by sale of an opiate controlled substance and instead admit to a lower felony because it still is a distribution.
Rising Tide of Punitive Responses
Surge of DIH Charges Overtime

Source: http://healthinjustice.org/drug-induced-homicide

Date Updated: 09/21/2018
Uneven Geographic Distribution

MOST ACTIVE STATES IN PURSUITING DRUG-INDUCED HOMICIDE CHARGES

Number of Cases Displayed
1742

Source: http://healthinjustice.org/drug-induced-homicide

Data Based on Automated Analysis of Online News Sources
Date Updated: 09/21/2018
Mapping onto Drug War Disparities

**MEDIAN SENTENCING BY ACCUSED RACE**

- Median Sentencing for R.O.C. Defendants
- Median Sentencing for White Defendants
- Median Sentencing for R.O.C. Defendants Across All Years
- Median Sentencing for White Defendants Across All Years

*Data Based on Automated Analysis of Online News Sources*

Source: [http://healthinjustice.org/drug-induced-homicide](http://healthinjustice.org/drug-induced-homicide)
Mapping onto Drug War Disparities

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True Public Health Model

- Focus on prevention
  - Primary
  - Secondary
  - Tertiary
- Public health law, research, and advocacy
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