

Governors like New York's Andrew Cuomo and California's Gavin Newsom bypassed the initial wimpy approach by the federal government, who flaunted misinformation that only a minimal number of people in the United States would get COVID-19. Cuomo and Newsom, along with several other governors, immediately put their populations on alert, being proactive, and taking a leadership role to deal with the crisis. Both were role models to emulate.

Now, how do we mobilize our country and the world to start treating this disease of addiction for what it is, just as the governors did for the coronavirus. It will take an enormous commitment, but it is doable. I've been there. I'm thankful daily to be in long-term recovery.

There needs to be a huge, ongoing prevention campaign as one component. Another critical component is education. Grade schools need to have a curriculum covering the disease and its consequences. And we need to provide readily accessible and affordable treatment facilities to get willing addicts clean. Reducing the stigma which a recovering addict must deal with is a tall order. The education component should address this.

Scott's Takeaway

Addiction is a killer disease that is totally treatable. It became my wake-up call when I finally realized that I was destroying my body ... my life. If you are an addict, make this your wake-up call, too.



CHAPTER 3

We Are So Screwed!

The myopic attitude and positioning of the FDA bred a Medusa monster. Poisonous snakes were ready to strike.

So, how did we get to this place ... a place where addiction to opioids is as common as an ingrown toenail? Where those with a diagnosis such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic back pain, and migraines are ingesting prescribed drugs that they have no business being given an RX for?

How did more than 49 million men, women, and children over age 12 become addicted to opioids?

There are five components to the "here's how."

Start with lies ... and then quickly follow them up with seduction ... bribery ... greed ... and over-the-top marketing. People are bombarded by marketing via both social media platforms, traditional types of media, and even word of mouth.

The spiderweb of inclusion was developed. It's easy to point fingers in a variety of fancy directions. This chapter will discuss