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**Agenda Comparison Grid Template**

Opioid Epidemic in the USA

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Opioid Epidemic in the USA

A topic that arises at the presidential level is the opioid epidemic. It is a concern because opioids are a reliable pharmaceutical for relieving pain and are prescribed in greater numbers, yet they present a high potential for widespread misuses since they are addictive. Besides that, opioids are available as both prescription and non-prescription medication. In addition, a significant number of Americans die from opioid related drug overdoses (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2020). The present analysis explores the different strategies applied by three American presidents to address the issue. 

**Agenda Comparison Grid and Fact Sheet or Talking Points Brief Assignment Template for Part 1 and Part 2**

**Part 1: Agenda Comparison Grid**

Use this Agenda Comparison Grid to document information about the population health/healthcare issue your selected and the presidential agendas. By completing this grid, you will develop a more in depth understanding of your selected issue and how you might position it politically based on the presidential agendas.

You will use the information in the Part 1: Agenda Comparison Grid to complete the remaining Part 2 and Part 3 of your Assignment.

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| **Identify the Population Health concern you selected.** | Opioids are perhaps the most commonly used pain relievers in the USA. However, they present an addiction and dependency concern. The concern is further highlighted by the fact that opioid prescriptions are increasing even as misuse becomes more widespread. A review of the statistics associated with the epidemic reveals that more than 130 Americans die every day from opioid related overdoses. In addition, 10.3 million Americans misuse opioids every year with 47,600 dying from overdoses annually (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2020). In this respect, the health concern affects all Americans. |
| **Describe the Population Health concern you selected and the factors that contribute to it.**  | The concern is that opioids are the most effective pain relievers available for addressing acute and chronic pain, and yet they are highly addiction with the potential for misuse and overdose with fatal outcomes. |
| **Administration (President Name)** | **President Trump** | **President Obama** | **President Bush** |
| Describe the administrative agenda focus related to this issue for the current and two previous presidents. | The Trump administration has handled the issue of opioid epidemic by declaring it as a public health emergency and championing the Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse to confront the forces driving the epidemic. The initiative focuses on reducing the demand for opioids and over-prescription, reducing supply of illegal drugs, and treatment services for persons struggling with addiction (The White House, 2020). | The Obama administration enacted expansive laws to fight the opioid epidemic. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) offered a comprehensive framework for preventing opioid abuse and addiction, and supporting treatment efforts. In addition, the legislation highlights the role of pharmacists to curb the epidemic. However, the legislation lacked funding, and this limited its gains (Balick, 2016). | The Bush administration focused on funding drug treatment and research activities with the objective of saving lives. The strategy helps to reduce demand and provide opioid addicts with compassionate and effective treatment. Also, it countered illegal drugs supply to America through a counter-drug initiative conducted in South American countries that produce illegal drugs, such as Venezuela, Peru, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil and Bolivia. Besides that, it strengthened the border to halt the entry of illegal drugs into the country (US Department of State, 2002). |
| Identify the allocations of financial and other resources that the current and two previous presidents dedicated to this issue. | Trump administration allocated $9 billion in funding to states to help combat the opioid epidemic over three years, with $1.8 allocated for an additional three years (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2019). | Obama administration allocated $55 million every year to 44 states and the District of Columbia to help fight the opioid crisis by expanding access to treatment, enhancing data collection and curbing opioid abuse (Petruzzelli, 2016).  | Trump administration allocated $19 billion to fight drug use with a focus on heroin use as an illegal drug (US Department of State, 2002).  |
| Explain how each of the presidential administrations approached the issue. | Trump administration identifies the opioid epidemic as a concern that must be addressed at all levels of the government, to include the federal, state and local levels.  | Obama administration leveraged federal, state and local government resources to address the issue. | Bush administration leveraged federal, state and local government resources to address the issue. |

**Part 2: Agenda Comparison Grid Analysis**

Using the information you recorded in Part 1: Agenda Comparison Grid, complete the following to document information about the population health/healthcare issue your selected

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| **Administration (President Name)** | **President Trump** | **President Obama** | **President Bush** |
| Which administrative agency would most likely be responsible for helping you address the healthcare issue you selected? | The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the administrative focused on addressing the opioid epidemic.  | The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the administrative focused on addressing the opioid epidemic.  | The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the administrative focused on addressing the opioid epidemic.  |
| How do you think your selected healthcare issue might get on the agenda for the current and two previous presidents? How does it stay there? | The opioid epidemic issue might get on the agenda for the Trump administration and stay in the agenda if to have negative financial and economic implications so that addressing the issue improves financial and economic performance across the country. In addition, it would get attention if shown to have political implications in terms of helping the president to get much political support.  | The opioid epidemic issue would get attention from Obama administration if it was supported with tangible evidence showing population health gains. President Obama was concerned with improving public health.  | The opioid epidemic issue would get attention from Obama administration if it was supported with tangible evidence showing population health gains. President Bush was concerned with improving public health. |
| Who would you choose to be the entrepreneur/ champion/sponsor of the healthcare issue you selected for the current and two previous presidents? | The ideal champion would be a financial analyst who shows that addressing the issue presents financial gains and offers the president political mileage.  | The ideal champion would be a public health authority. This champion would authoritatively present the public health implications associated with the opioid epidemic, and capable of analyzing the different intervention measures. | The ideal champion would be a public health authority. This champion would authoritatively present the public health implications associated with the opioid epidemic, and capable of analyzing the different intervention measures. |

**Narrative with the Facts**

A topic that arises at the presidential level is the opioid epidemic. It is a concern because opioids are a reliable pharmaceutical for relieving pain and are prescribed in greater numbers, yet they present a high potential for widespread misuses since they are addictive. Besides that, opioids are available as both prescription and non-prescription medication. In addition, a significant number of Americans die from opioid related drug overdoses (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2020). The Trump administration has handled the issue of opioid epidemic by declaring it as a public health emergency and championing the Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse to confront the forces driving the epidemic. The initiative focuses on reducing the demand for opioids and over-prescription, reducing supply of illegal drugs, and treatment services for persons struggling with addiction (The White House, 2020). The Obama administration enacted expansive laws to fight the opioid epidemic. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) offered a comprehensive framework for preventing opioid abuse and addiction, and supporting treatment efforts. In addition, the legislation highlights the role of pharmacists to curb the epidemic. However, the legislation lacked funding, and this limited its gains (Balick, 2016). The Bush administration focused on funding drug treatment and research activities with the objective of saving lives. The strategy helps to reduce demand and provide opioid addicts with compassionate and effective treatment. Also, it countered illegal drugs supply to America through a counter-drug initiative conducted in South American countries that produce illegal drugs, such as Venezuela, Peru, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil and Bolivia. Besides that, it strengthened the border to halt the entry of illegal drugs into the country (US Department of State, 2002).

**Conclusion**

The issue of concern is the opioid epidemic in the USA. More than 10.3 million Americans misuse opioids every year with 47,600 dying from overdoses annually. The concern is that opioids are the most effective pain relievers available for addressing acute and chronic pain, and yet they are highly addiction with the potential for misuse and overdose with fatal outcomes. The Trump administration declared the epidemic as a public health emergency and spent $9 billion to fund states in their efforts against the epidemic. The Obama administration enacted expansive laws to fight the opioid epidemic and spent $55 million to fund states in their intervention efforts every year. The Bush administration focused on funding drug treatment and research activities with the objective of saving lives, spending $19 billion in these efforts. Overall, Trump administration efforts appear to be motivated by political and economic objectives, while Obama administration and Bush administration efforts appear to be motivated by public health concerns.

References

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