U.S. struggles with deadly epidemic

**Talking Points**

1. What are these cartoonists saying about the nation’s opioid epidemic? How do they illustrate their messages?
2. What are the causes of the epidemic? Prescription abuse? Cheap, tainted illegal drugs?
3. How many people has the epidemic killed? Why is the death toll still growing?
4. What are officials doing to cope with the crisis? What have other nations done?

**Between the lines**

“There’s no question that there’s an epidemic and that this is a national public health emergency. The number of people overdosing is skyrocketing, and we have no indication that we’ve reached the peak.” - Dr. Leana Wen, the health commissioner of Baltimore.


**Additional resources**

More by Adam Zyglis
http://editorialcartoonists.com/cartoon/browse.cfm/ZyglA

More by Arend van Dam
http://www.cagle.com/author/arend-van-dam/

Arend van Dam / Courtesy of Cagle.com