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**Resources**  
 Access a guide to finding help for those struggling with addiction  
 On the cover:  
 An unidentified drug user injecting himself in San Francisco on Jan. 31  
 Photograph by James Nachtwey for TIME

**Voices**  
 Read firsthand accounts of loss and resilience from contributors, including the Rev. William Barber; writers Mimi O'Donnell, Kay Warren and Elizabeth Wurtzel; photographer Nan Goldin; musicians Flea and Macklemore; and others

**Photography**  
 See Nachtwey's complete portfolio of pictures from his reporting from across the country  
**Video**  
 Watch short documentaries about the lives behind the Opioid Diaries

Visit [time.com/opioids](http://time.com/opioids) for an expanded digital edition of this special report, including:

## The Opioid Diaries on TIME.com

THE OPIOID CRISIS IS THE WORST ADDICTION EPIDEMIC IN U.S. HISTORY. Drug overdoses kill nearly 64,000 people per year, and the nation's life expectancy has fallen for two years in a row. But statistics alone can't tell the story. TIME commissioned veteran conflict photographer James Nachtwey to document this crisis over the past year through the people living it every day. Along with TIME's deputy director of photography, Paul Moakley, Nachtwey traveled across the country gathering stories from users, families, first responders and others at the heart of the epidemic. On the pages that follow, his images are paired with voices from Moakley's interviews, which have been edited. The result is the Opioid Diaries, the first issue in our 95-year history devoted entirely to one photographer's work. This is a visual record of a national emergency—and it demands our urgent attention.

# About this issue



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