Could This Have Been You? How I Got Hooked

Thankfully, this article doesn't end with a death, but it certainly carries an important lesson and personal story of
opioid addiction.

Anonymous former opioid user in upstate New York

"I never woke up one day and decided that I wanted to become a drug addict.

I was in college and working full-time when I stepped on an earring in my apartment. The earring pierced my left
heel, and days later an abscess formed. With fevers above 102.5 F for several days, I went to the ER for treatment.

I got IV antibiotics and hydrocodone. The infection cleared, and the pain ceased. I took the extra hydrocodone
anyways. It made me feel happy and dulled the stress of work and school. I started buying OxyContin from
someone with a prescription.

Once the makers of OxyContin revealed the abuse-proof formula, the doctor started to prescribe morphine (much
cheaper). So, I bought morphine. First, I thought it was okay as long as I only used on my days off. I graduated
college, so things weren't too bad…right? Pretty soon I told myself I was okay as long as I only used after work.
Then it was okay as long as I only used on my break.

My addiction progressed to using all day every day. I couldn't stop. I couldn't support my habit anymore and lived
with a constant struggle of trying to find more. Then, I found out I was pregnant. He saved my life.

I finally got help. I have a 6-month-old son, a loving fiancé, a supportive family. I have 14 months in recovery. I am
not a junkie. I am someone's daughter, mother, sister, and friend. For me, it started with a snap decision to take a
pill just for fun. That decision nearly destroyed me.
Source: Fontline.org

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