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The Exacerbation of the Opioid Crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Strain on Local Government Resources.

The strength of a local economy and its economic activity is directly tied to the health of its population, which affects leading economic indicators like unemployment rates, consumer spending power, and, more importantly, per capita income levels.

It's widely seen in communities with a widespread opioid dependency or other substance abuse that local and state governments are not only forced to stretch their already thin revenue source, but the greater need for health and safety services aren't able to be adequately provided. These challenges have been exacerbated during the current pandemic.

In recently published data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), prescribed and synthetic drug overdose deaths have accelerated during COVID-19. It states, "Over 81,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in the 12 months ending in May 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period."

In this article, we will take a closer look at the inverse relation between the opioid crisis and the economic prosperity of local governments.

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