

# Welcome from CSG South Chairman Craig Blair



# Welcome from Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe





**SOUTH**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS **SOUTHERN OFFICE**

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## CSG 101:

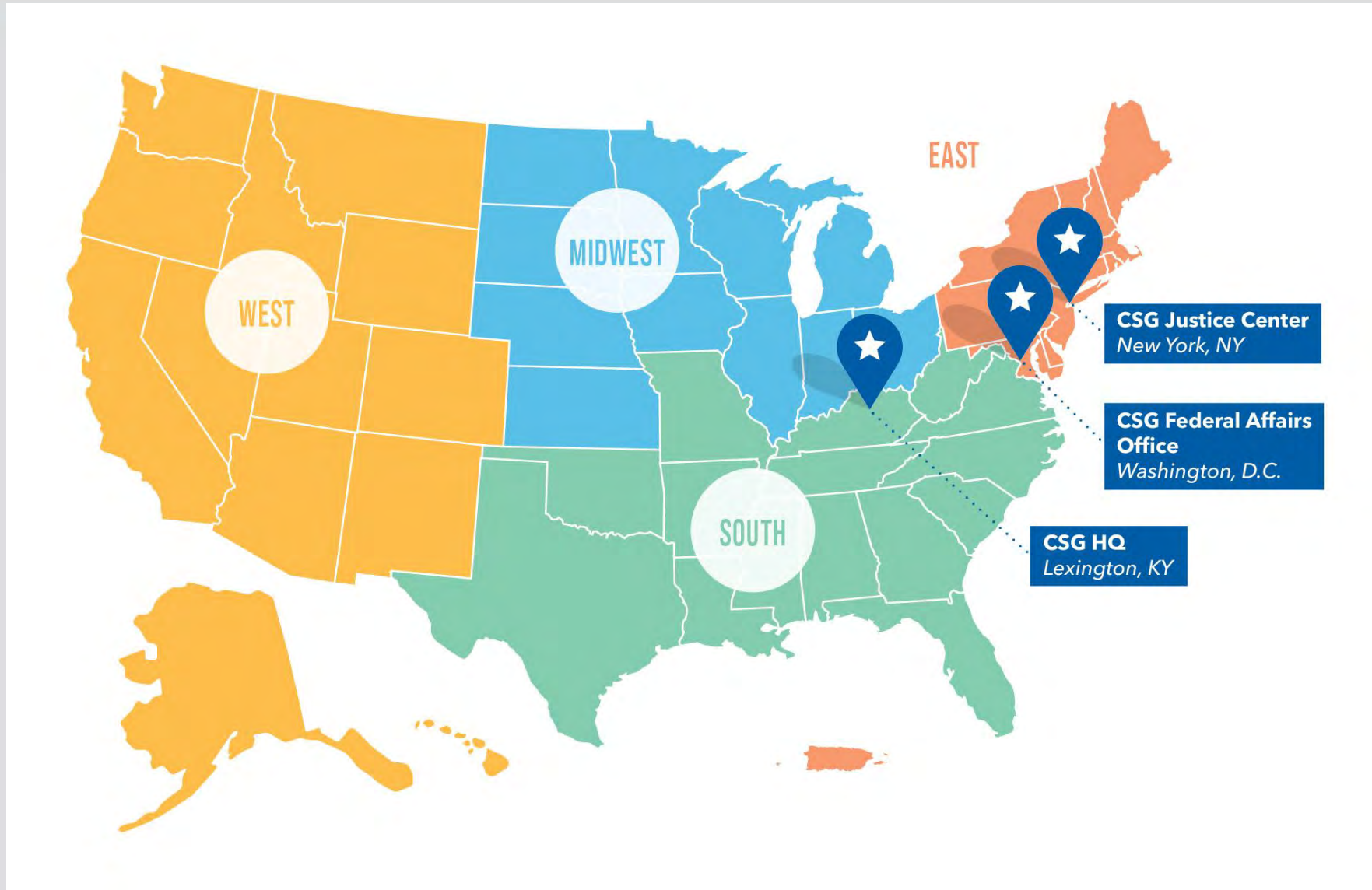
- Founded in 1933 by Colorado Senator Henry Wolcott Toll
- Serves all three Branches of State Government
- Nonpartisan/Not for Profit 501(c)(3)
- \$58 Million Budget
- 300+ Employees
- Four Strong Regions
  - CSG South
  - CSG East
  - CSG Midwest
  - CSG West
- 56 Member States & Territories
- Justice Center
- 11 Affiliated Organizations





# SOUTH

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE





## CSG 101: CSG JUSTICE CENTER

- Focus on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Issues
- Technical Assistance
- Part of CSG National

- We bring people together  
With our singular ability to reach federal, state and local leaders from all three branches of government, we gather people from both sides of the aisle and across the country to foster collaboration.
- We build momentum for policy change  
We synthesize and contextualize data to help policymakers enact and implement major reforms that address criminal justice challenges, many of which intersect with other systems, such as health, education and housing.
- We drive criminal justice forward with original research  
Our in-depth data analyses, coupled with extensive interviews of people on the front lines of the criminal justice system, inform improvements and spur national initiatives.
- We provide expert assistance  
Our unrivaled on-the-ground training and assistance helps state and local agencies translate the latest research into policy and practice.



## CSG 101: NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, LEXINGTON, KY



- Advancement
- Accounting
- Communications
- Executive Management
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Legal
- CSG Center of Innovation



## **CSG SOUTH: OUR CORE FOCUS AND VALUES**

### **Our Core Focus:**

- The most trusted and nonpartisan capacitor dedicated to Southern state governments.

### **Our Core Values:**

- Ambitious
- Adaptable
- Servants Heart
- Accountable
- Credible





## Our Team



Regional Director  
**Lindsey Gray**  
lgray@csg.org



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**Susan Lanter**  
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Senior Event Coordinator  
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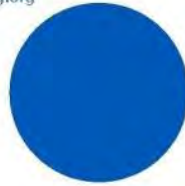
Director of Policy and Research  
**Anne Brody**  
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Director of Development  
**Jill Clark**  
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Director of Marketing and Programs  
**Angel Touwsma**  
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Sr. Policy Analyst  
**Now Hiring**



Sr. Policy Analyst  
**Cody Allen**  
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Policy Analyst  
**Eric Harrison**  
eharrison@csg.org



Policy Analyst  
**To Be Filled by Jan. 2024**



Programs Associate  
**Ryan Shacklette**  
rshacklette@csg.org



Design and Marketing Associate  
**Jack Williams**  
jwilliams@csg.org

*July 17, 2023 start*



Communications Coordinator  
**To Be Filled by Jan. 2024**



## CSG SOUTH 101:

- Established in 1947
- Executive Committee
- 15 Southern States
- 12 Staff Members
  - Policy & Research
  - Programs & Marketing
  - Events & Admin
- Funding
  - State Appropriations – 60/40
  - Private Sector
  - Grants & Foundations
  - Pay for Services







## CSG SOUTH: POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

- Six Standing Policy Committees
  - Education
  - Economic Development and Transportation
  - Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations
  - Human Services and Public Safety
  - Energy and Environment
  - Agriculture and Rural Development
- Policy Information Requests
- Policy Publications
- State Session Visits
- Policy Masterclasses
- Domestic & International Delegations





# SOUTH

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE

## CSG SOUTH: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALS)



Staff Academy for Governmental Excellence (SAGE)

## CSG SOUTH: LEGISLATIVE STAFF RESOURCES



Legislative Service Agency Directors Group (LSA)



Staff Alliance for Intergovernmental Leadership (SAIL)



Legislative Staff Exchange Program (LSEP)

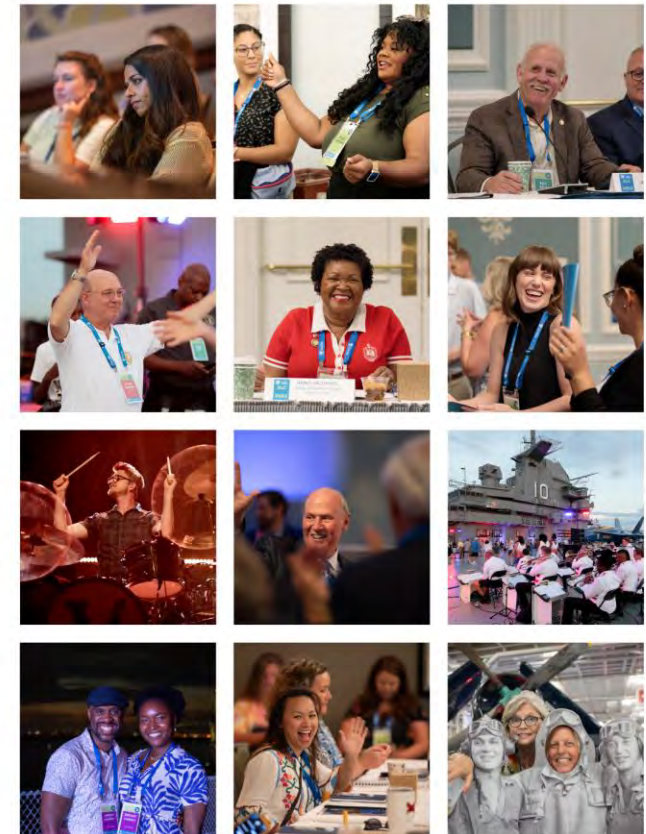






## CSG SOUTH: SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE (SLC)

- CSG South's Annual Meeting
- Largest regional gathering of legislative members and staff
- Over 2,200 attended in 2023, making it the largest SLC to date
- 35 sessions offered, including keynotes, policy sessions, government staff tracks, committee meetings, site visits, and more
- Robust Guest and Youth program in conjunction with policy and government staff sessions
- 110,00 meals packed during the conference's philanthropy project



*Charleston, SC*

**SLC 2023**



## CSG SOUTH AWARDS

### (GIVEN ANNUALLY AT SLC)

- **Carter/Hellard Legislative Staff Award Recipients**  
Presented annually since 1990, the Carter/Hellard Legislative Staff Award is given to a staff member who has demonstrated excellence and dedication in service to Southern state legislatures.
- **State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award**  
The Southern Legislative Conference's State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) award recognizes impactful, creative, effective, and transferable state government solutions.
- **Thomas B. Murphy Legacy Award**  
The Thomas B. Murphy Legacy Award is presented to a Southern state legislator who has distinguished themselves by dutifully serving their constituents during their years in the legislature and actively participating in the Southern Legislative Conference.







**SOUTH**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE

# SAVE THE DATE FOR SLC 2024!

**JULY 21 - 25, 2024**  
**THE GREENBRIER IN  
WEST VIRGINIA**





# Opioids 101

## The Basics of Opioids and Pain Management

Maureen Knell, PharmD, BCACP  
Clinical Professor

University of Missouri Kansas City  
School of Pharmacy


Saint Luke's Medical Education Internal Medicine  
Clinic





# Learning Objectives

- Define opioid and related terms
- Describe how opioids work in the body
- Discuss types of pain
- Explain non-opioid and non-pharmacological options in a pain management treatment plan
- Outline the role of opioids in pain management based on a summary of clinical guidelines
- Identify safety strategies for minimizing opioid risks



# Q & A: Questions and Answers

# What are opioids?



# Origin of Opioids

- Opium – produced by the poppy plant, *Papaver somniferum*
  - Grown and used for thousands of years
    - 3,400 B.C. opium poppy cultivated in lower Mesopotamia (Southwest Asia).
  - Medical uses in ancient medicine:
    - Known as powerful pain reliever
    - Additional uses for sleep, gastrointestinal effects, etc.
  - Non-medical use:
    - Pleasurable experience - euphoria (“high”)





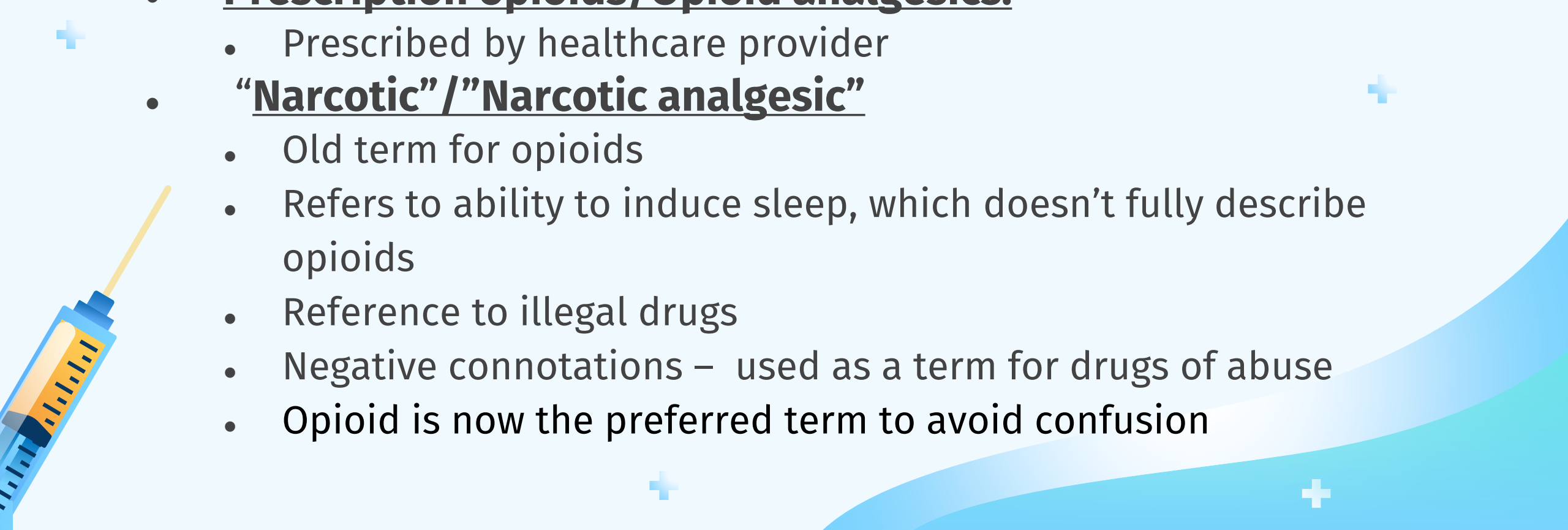


# Definitions

- **Opioids** - made from the plant or mimic natural substances found in the opium poppy plant
  - **Natural (Opiates)**: heroin, morphine, codeine
  - **Semi-synthetic**: oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone
  - **Synthetic**: methadone, fentanyl, tramadol
- **“Opioids vs. Opiates”**
  - often used interchangeably but they are technically different

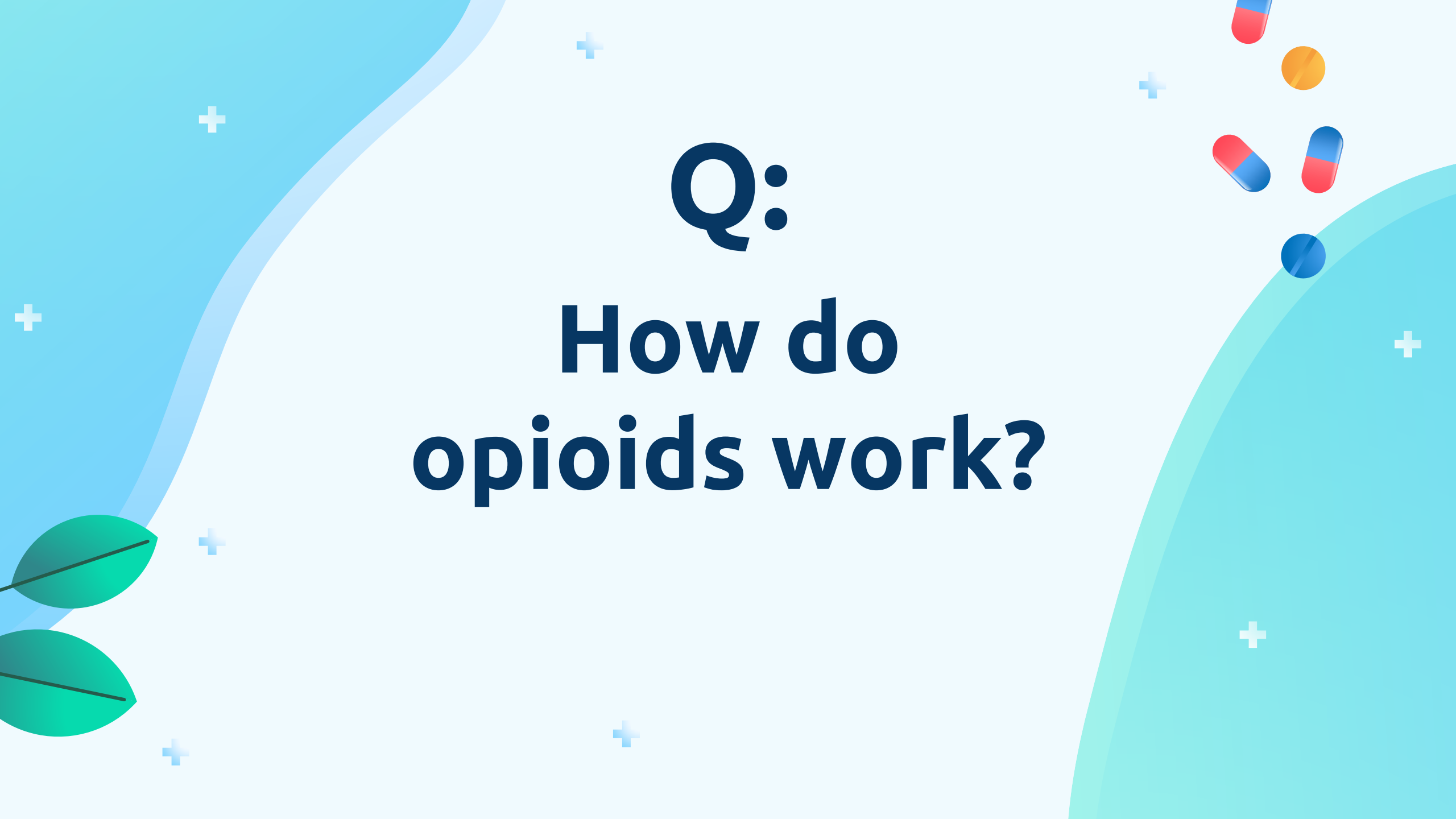


# Other related terms

- **Analgesics (painkillers):**
    - Pain relieving medications – acetaminophen, ibuprofen, opioids
  - **Prescription opioids/Opioid analgesics:**
    - Prescribed by healthcare provider
  - **“Narcotic”/“Narcotic analgesic”**
    - Old term for opioids
    - Refers to ability to induce sleep, which doesn't fully describe opioids
    - Reference to illegal drugs
    - Negative connotations – used as a term for drugs of abuse
    - Opioid is now the preferred term to avoid confusion
- 

+ Focus of this presentation:

Prescription opioids /  
Opioid analgesics

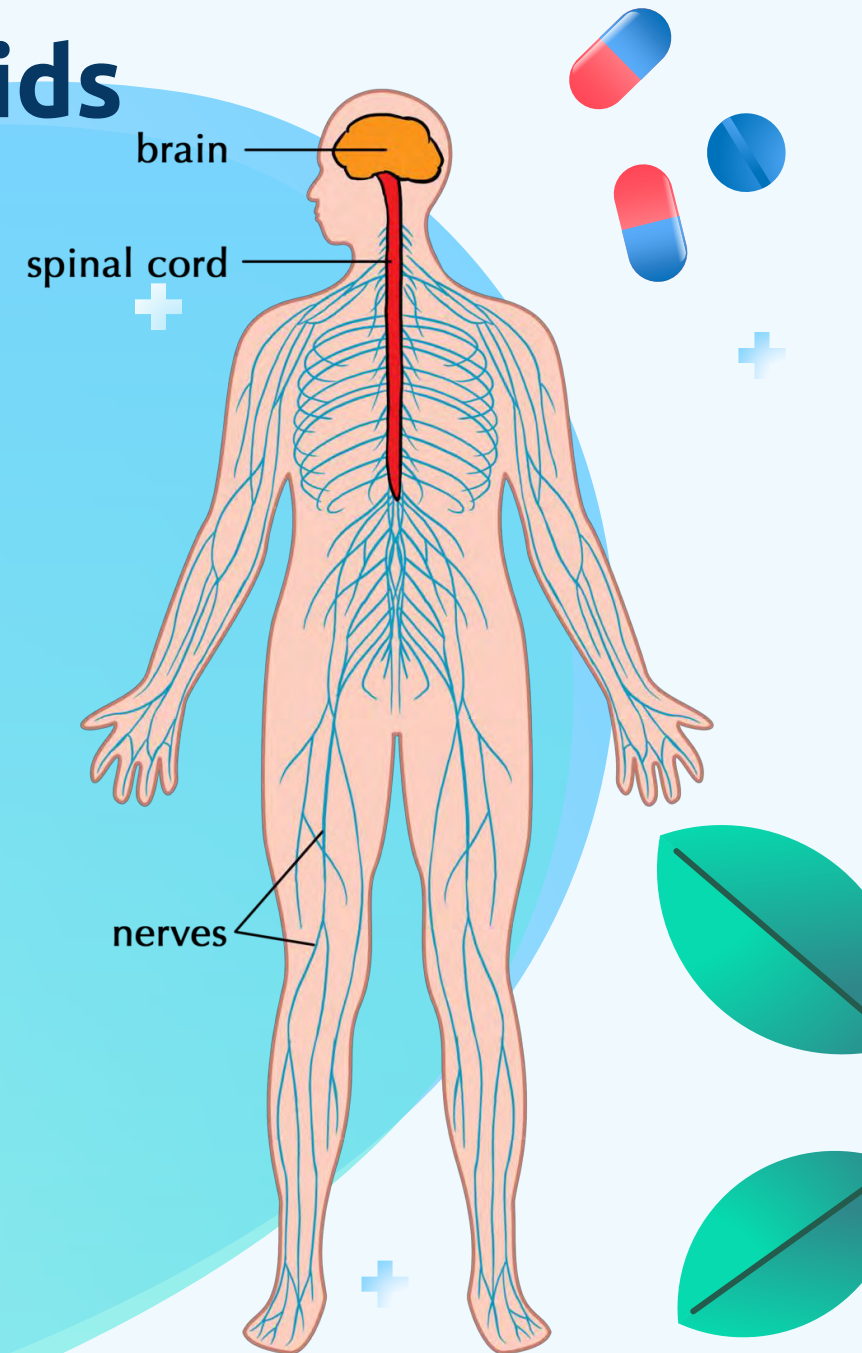


**Q:**  
**How do  
opioids work?**



# The Mechanism of Action of Opioids

When administered, opioids travel through the bloodstream and attach to proteins called opioid receptors on nerve cells in the brain, spinal cord and other organs. They modulate/change or block pain messages sent from the body through the spinal cord to the brain to change the feeling or perception of pain



# Potency of Common Opioids/Opioid-Like Agents

- Fentanyl-----
- Buprenorphine-----
- Oxymorphone-----
- Hydromorphone-----
- Methadone-----
- Oxycodone-----
- Morphine-----
- Hydrocodone-----
- Tramadol (*opioid-like agent*) —
- Codeine-----



- **Morphine** – “standard” opioid to which others are compared
- Opioids discussed in terms of **morphine milligram (mg) equivalents = MMEs**

# Administration of Opioids

- Prescription opioids available in many drug formulations/routes of administration\*
  - oral – tablet, capsule, suspensions, liquids, lozenges (lollipops), immediate release, extended release, sublingual
  - intravenous/injectable – in veins, muscles, below the skin
  - epidural – in spaces around the dura mater of the spinal cord
  - intrathecal – spinal canal to reach subarachnoid space so that it reaches the cerebrospinal fluid
  - nasal
  - transdermal (patch) on skin
  - rectal
  - others

\* Note: not all prescription opioids are available in all formulations

# Differentiating Fentanyl

- 50 – 100 times more potent than morphine
- Pharmaceutically manufactured products commonly used in treatment of severe acute and chronic pain

## Pharmaceutical Products:

- oral transmucosal lozenges - “lollipops” (Actiq®)
- effervescent buccal tablets (Fentora®)
- sublingual tablets (Abstral®)
- sublingual sprays (Subsys®)
- nasal sprays (Lazanda®)
- transdermal patches (Duragesic®)
- injectable formulations

## Illicitly manufactured

- powder or counterfeit tablets
- mass production of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills
- made to look like prescription drugs such as:
  - oxycodone (Oxycontin® Percocet®)
  - hydrocodone (Vicodin®)
  - alprazolam (Xanax®);
  - amphetamines (Adderall®)



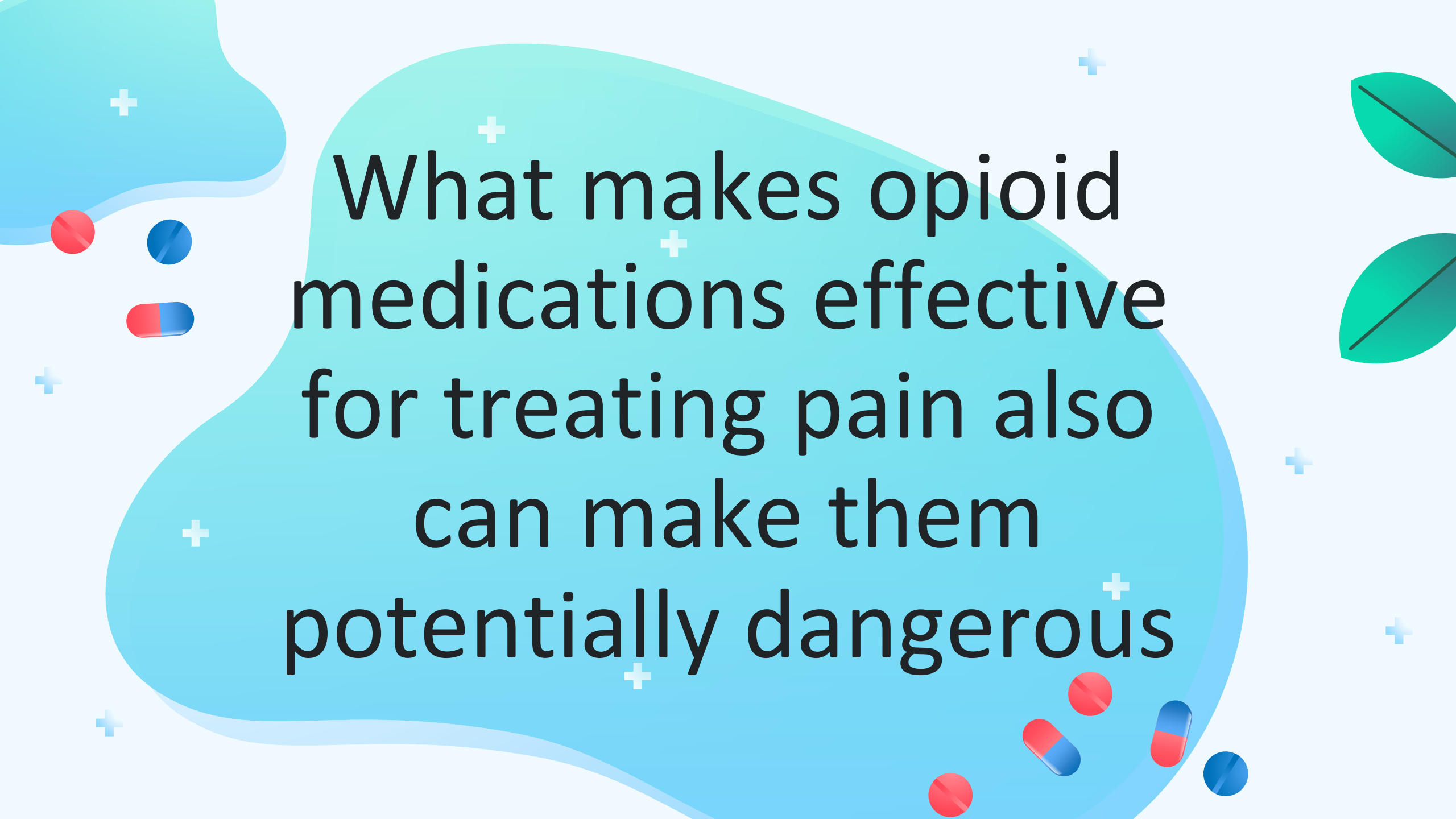




**The Good:**

# Indications for Prescription Opioids

**Pain (analgesic)**  
**Cough (antitussive)**  
**Diarrhea (anti-diarrheal)**  
**Opioid Use Disorders –  
Medication Assisted  
Treatment (MAT)**



What makes opioid medications effective for treating pain also can make them potentially dangerous

# The Bad:





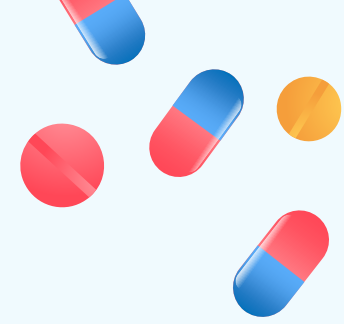
# Side Effects of Opioids

## COMMON

- Sedation (foggy, groggy, sleepy, drowsy, confused, cognitive impairment )
- Constipation
- Dizziness
- Nausea and Vomiting

## LESS COMMON

- Itching
- Dry Mouth
- Immune System/Hormonal Dysfunction
- Sweating
- Bad/vivid dreams
- Others



# The Ugly



# More Serious Side Effects/Complications of Opioids

- **Respiratory depression**
  - leads to hypoxia (reduced oxygen circulating in the body) and reduced heart rate - causing coma, permanent brain damage or death
  - main cause of death in opioid overdoses
  - can occur in healthy people, particularly at higher doses
  - people with lung diseases such as asthma and COPD may be even more susceptible



# More Serious Side Effects/Complications of Opioids

- **Tolerance** - reduced response to the opioid with repeated use
  - body gets used to the opioid – becomes less effective
  - related to how much drug is needed to feel effects
  - potential to require higher doses or more frequent dosing to achieve the same/desired effect
  - Increases risk for overdose and addiction



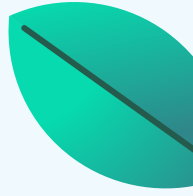
# More Serious Side Effects/Complications of Opioids

- **Physical Dependence** - adaptation to a drug that produces symptoms of withdrawal when the drug is stopped
  - occurs with repeated use
  - body becomes reliant on taking the medication and experiences withdrawal without it
  - neurons and receptors adapt so they only function normally when the drug is present
  - not limited to opioids (caffeine, nicotine, blood pressure medications, stimulants, sedative, steroids, antidepressants, etc.)
  - dependence is not the same as addiction, but it can lead to addiction

# More Serious Side Effects/Complications of Opioids

- Addiction / Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
  - chronic brain **disease**
  - a problematic pattern of opioid use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress.
  - complex illness characterized by compulsive use of opioid drugs even when the person wants to stop, or when using the drugs negatively affects the person's physical and emotional well-being
  - causes brain changes which can result in harmful behaviors those who misuse opioids, whether prescription or illicit

**Addiction is a disease;  
Tolerance and  
Dependence aren't,  
but all can lead to  
opioid misuse,  
overdoses and deaths**



# Risk Factors for Opioid Overdoses

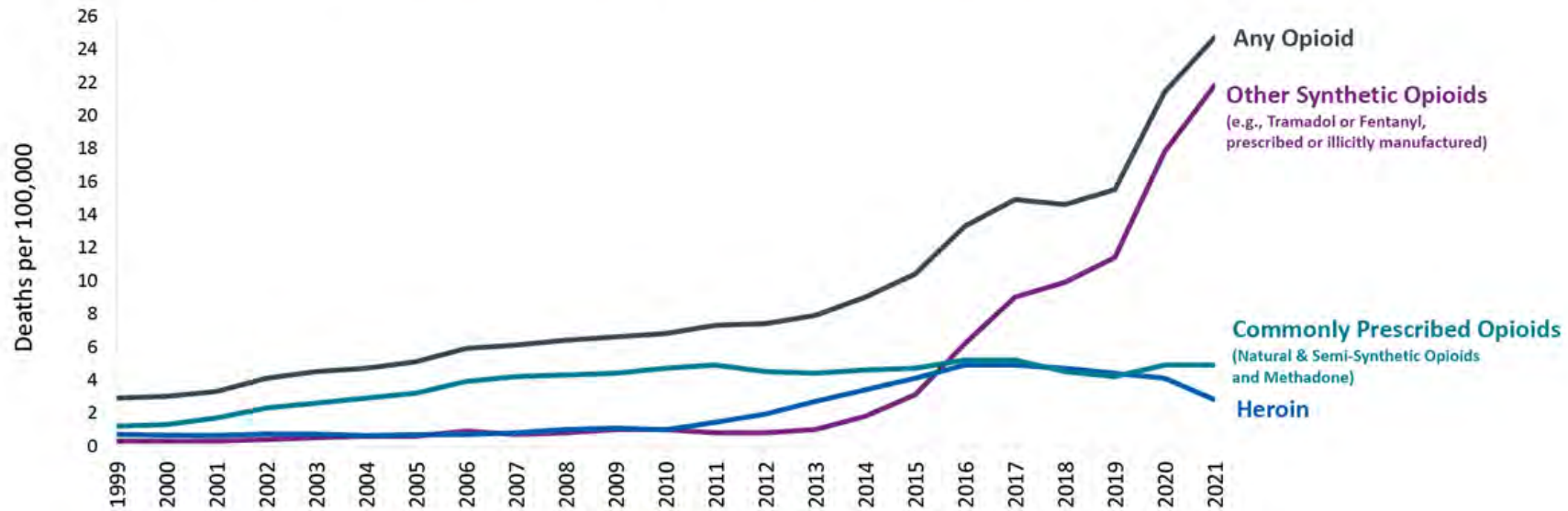
- Having an opioid use disorder
- Taking opioids by injection
- Resumption of opioid use after an extended period of abstinence (e.g. following detoxification, release from incarceration, cessation of treatment)
- Using prescription opioids without medical supervision
- Taking higher doses of opioids
- Using opioids in combination with alcohol and/or other substances or medicines that suppress respiratory function such as benzodiazepines, barbiturates, anesthetics or some pain medications
- Having concurrent medical conditions such as HIV, liver or lung diseases or mental health conditions.
- Populations at higher risk: males, people of older age and people with low socio-economic status are at higher risk of opioid overdose than women, people of young age groups and people with higher socioeconomic status



# + Deaths Related to Opioids

## . Overdose deaths

### Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



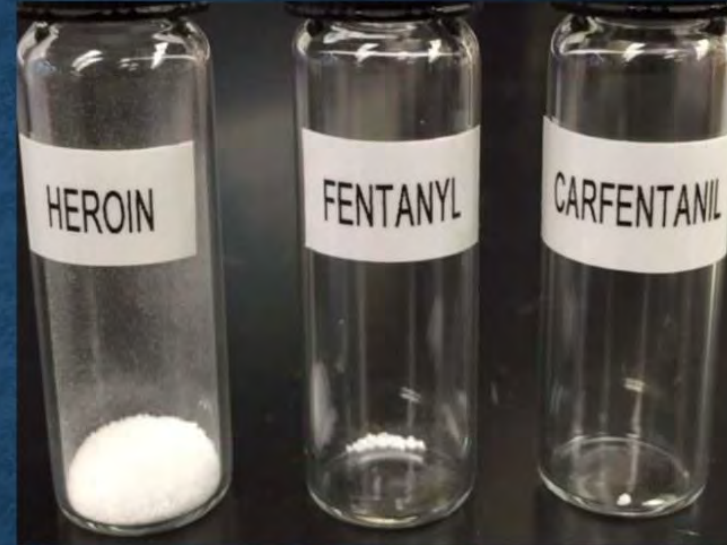
↑  
Wave 1: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in the 1990s

↑  
Wave 2: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths Started in 2010

↑  
Wave 3: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in 2013

SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

# Lethal Doses of Illicit Opioids



**LETHAL DOSE**

# Suicide Concerns

- The relationship between opioid prescribing and suicide risk is complex and difficult to assess
- Prescription opioids may be associated with both increased and decreased suicide risk
- Factors include:
  - opioids
  - mental health
  - pain
  - other medical comorbidities
- Suicide related to opioid use disorder
- Suicide related to discontinuation of opioids
  - Suicide due to suffering and untreated pain after opioids abruptly discontinued

**Q: Why do we use opioids to treat pain?**

**Overview of the role of prescription opioids in pain management**



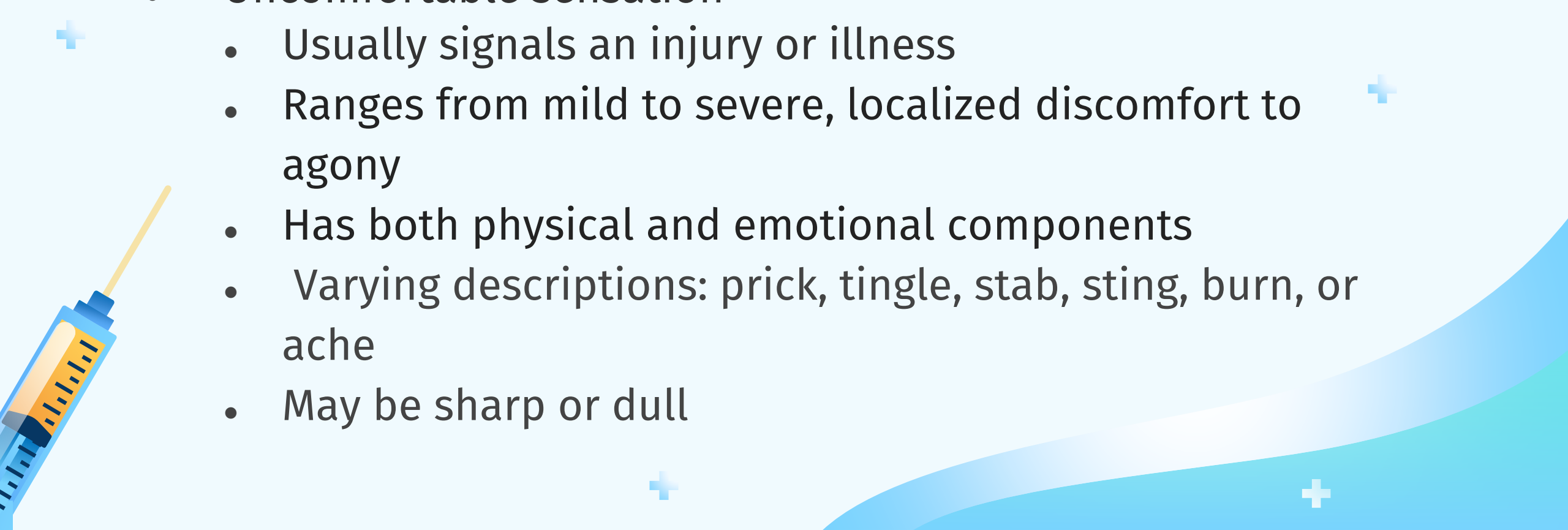
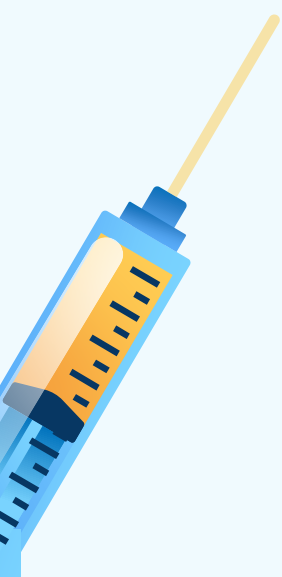
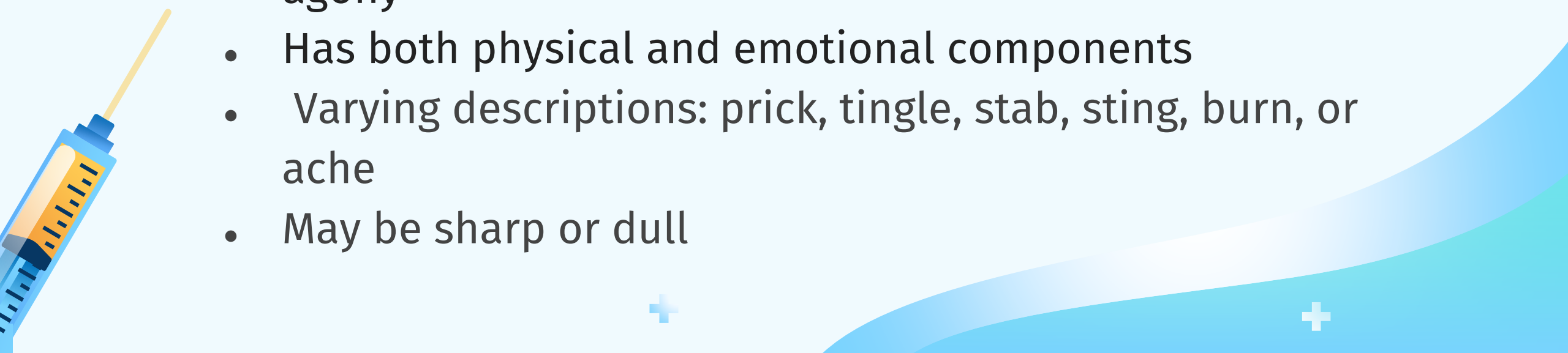
Q:

**What is pain  
and what are  
different types  
of pain?**





# Pain Definitions

- No one agreed upon definition
  - Derived from Latin word "poena" - meaning a fine, a penalty
  - Uncomfortable sensation
    - Usually signals an injury or illness
    - Ranges from mild to severe, localized discomfort to agony
    - Has both physical and emotional components
    - Varying descriptions: prick, tingle, stab, sting, burn, or ache
    - May be sharp or dull
- 
- 
- 

# Definition of Pain

## Four Decades Later: Revision of the IASP Definition of Pain and Notes

The current definition was established in 1979 by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP).



In 2018, the IASP updated its definition of pain to be more force with evidence and to include the social and cultural context in which suffering occurs. The new definition asks, "Does this sufferer have an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with, or resembling that associated with, actual or potential tissue damage?"



### 2020 Revised Definition of Pain

An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with, or resembling that associated with, actual or potential tissue damage



verbal  
to  
man

The revised IASP definition of pain: concepts, challenges, and compromises

Raja et al. (2020) | Pain

DOI: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000001939

**PAIN**<sup>®</sup>

# Classification of Pain

- **Acute**

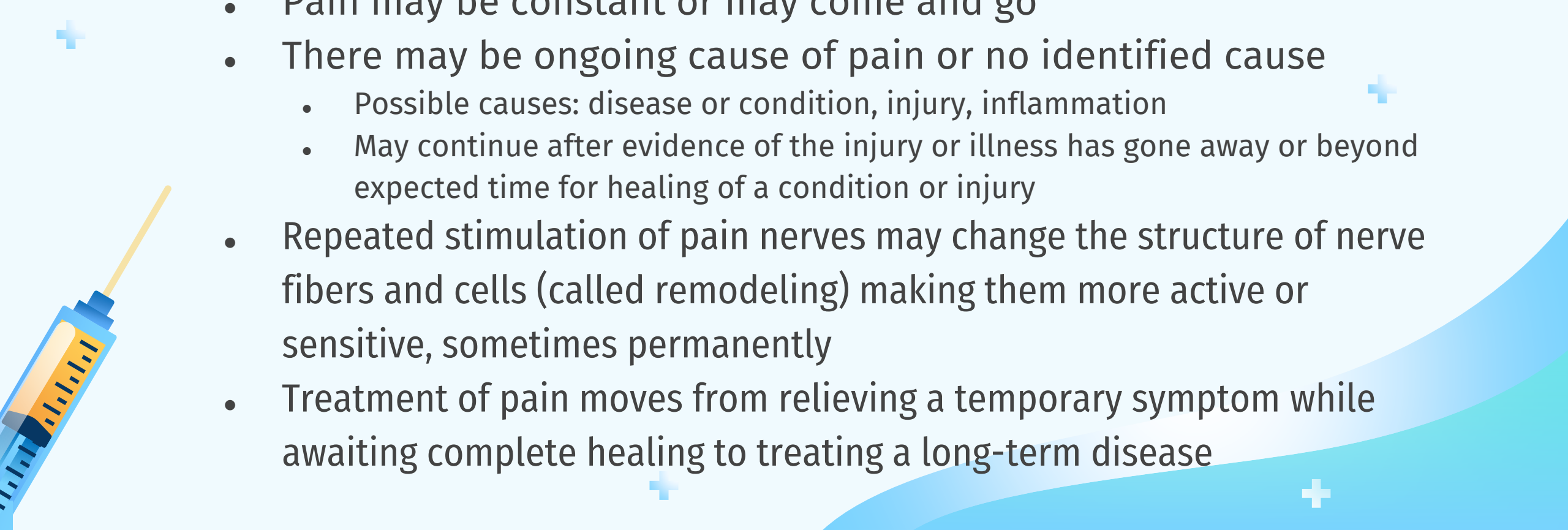
- Timeframe: less than 4 weeks
- Warning signal/purpose
- Tied to an “acute process” such as an injury, trauma labor pain, surgery or infection

- **Subacute**

- Timeframe: 4– 12 weeks
- “In between acute and chronic pain”
- Undertreated acute and subacute pain can lead to chronic pain



# Classification of Pain

- **Chronic pain (Persistent pain)**
    - Timeframe: More than 12 weeks/3 months
    - Pain may be constant or may come and go
    - There may be ongoing cause of pain or no identified cause
      - Possible causes: disease or condition, injury, inflammation
      - May continue after evidence of the injury or illness has gone away or beyond expected time for healing of a condition or injury
    - Repeated stimulation of pain nerves may change the structure of nerve fibers and cells (called remodeling) making them more active or sensitive, sometimes permanently
    - Treatment of pain moves from relieving a temporary symptom while awaiting complete healing to treating a long-term disease
- 



# Types of Pain

## Nociceptive

- caused by damage to body tissue – stimulates pain receptors
- various descriptions: sharp, stabbing, aching, throbbing, etc.
- Somatic pain - skin, muscles, joints, and bone
- Visceral pain – internal organs
- Examples: arthritis, pulled muscle, low back pain, appendicitis

## Neuropathic

- caused by damage or disease directly affecting the nervous system
- various descriptions: shooting, burning, tingling (pin-prick), numbness
- Evoked pain – brought on by normally non-painful stimuli such as touch
- Examples: diabetic neuropathy, shingles, multiple sclerosis

## “Other”

- considered disorder of pain regulation or neurological “dysfunction” or dysregulation
- no evidence of structural abnormalities, laboratory abnormalities or disease process
- diagnosed based on symptoms and ruling out other causes
- Examples: fibromyalgia, complex regional pain syndrome

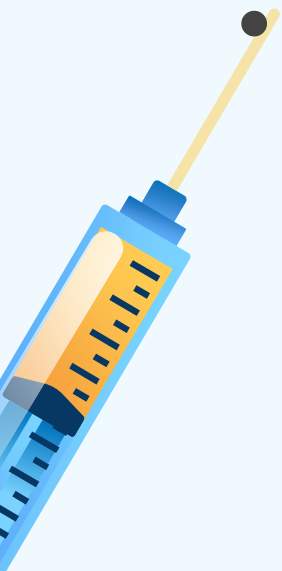




# + Combinations and Other Classifications of Pain

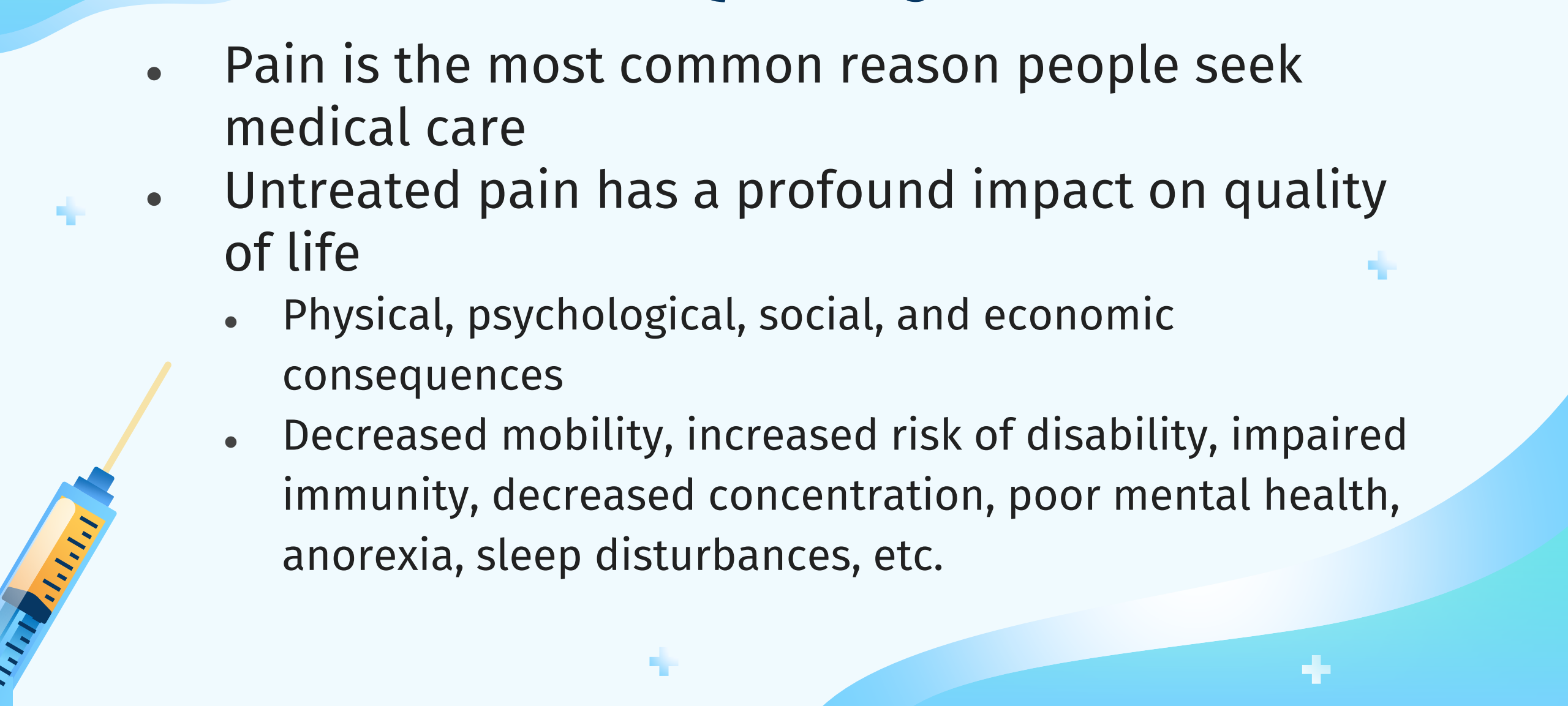
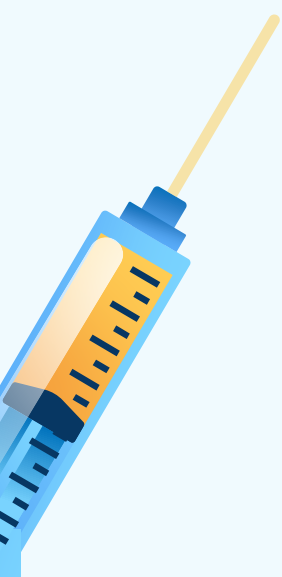


- Types of pain combine and/or overlap
  - Acute/Chronic
  - Nociceptive/Neuropathic/Other
- Severity – mild/moderate/severe
- Additional classifications:
  - Cancer / Non-cancer (non-malignant pain)
  - Referred





# Pain and Quality of Life

- Pain is the most common reason people seek medical care
  - Untreated pain has a profound impact on quality of life
    - Physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences
    - Decreased mobility, increased risk of disability, impaired immunity, decreased concentration, poor mental health, anorexia, sleep disturbances, etc.
- 
- 

# Impact of Chronic Pain on Quality of Life

## Physical

- Functional ability
- Strength/fatigue
- Sleep and rest
- Nausea
- Appetite
- Constipation

## Social

- Caregiver burden
- Roles and relationships
- Affection/sexual function
- Appearance



## Psychological/Emotional

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Enjoyment/leisure
- Pain distress
- Happiness
- Anger
- Fear
- Cognition/attention

## Spiritual

- Suffering
- Meaning of pain
- Religiosity

# Goals of Pain Management

The background features a light blue gradient with several decorative elements: a large, irregular light blue shape in the center, smaller light blue shapes in the corners, and various icons including pills (red and blue capsules, blue tablets) and plus signs scattered throughout.

**Safely reduce pain and  
enhance function**



Q:

**What are other  
non-opioids  
options in  
managing pain?**



# Non-medication treatments

- RICE
  - Rest
  - Ice
  - Compression
  - Elevation
- Superficial Heat
- Physical activity
- Yoga/Tai-chi
- Weight loss
- Massage
- Chiropractic
- Physical / occupational therapy
- Cognitive-behavior therapy (CBT)
- Relaxation techniques/mindfulness
- Acupuncture/acupressure
- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulator (TENS)
- Smoking cessation
- Others

# Non-opioid therapies

- **Over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription options**
- **Some better for nociceptive pain others for neuropathic pain**

- **Topical treatment**

- diclofenac (Voltaren®) gel
- muscle creams
- lidocaine patches

- **Analgesics**

- acetaminophen (Tylenol®)
- Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
  - ibuprofen (Motrin®)
  - naproxen (Aleve®)
  - meloxicam
  - celecoxib

- **Antidepressants**

- duloxetine (Cymbalta®)
- venlafaxine (Effexor®)
- amitriptyline
- nortriptyline

- **Anticonvulsants**

- gabapentin (Neurontin®)
- pregabalin (Lyrica®)

- **Dietary and herbal supplements**

- glucosamine
- chondroitin
- others

# Procedures

- Steroid injections
  - joint
  - epidural
  - trigger point
- Nerve blocks
- Radiofrequency ablation
- Spinal cord stimulator
- Intrathecal pain pumps
- Others



# Non-medication and non-opioid treatments don't always meet pain goals

- Reasons why non-medication and non-opioid therapy can't be used or are insufficient therapies:
  - Lack of efficacy
  - Side effects
  - Contraindications
  - Cost barriers
- **Opioids only indicated as “last-line” options, in most cases**
- **Multi-modal therapy is recommended**
  - non-medication therapies and non-opioid therapies (unless contraindicated or intolerable) +/- opioid

# Guideline Directed Medical Therapy (GDMT)

- Evidence (research)-based
- Goal to improve outcomes
  - improve communication between clinicians and patients about the benefits and risks of treatments
- Well proven in some disease states such as heart failure
- Some clinical guidelines exist for conditions where pain is a symptom (guidelines for different types of arthritis)
- States have enacted a variety of regulations and initiatives intended to improve the safety opioid prescribing based on guidelines
- **Challenge: limited research and evidence as to the “best” treatment in many areas of pain management**



# Guideline - Brief Summary

## CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain — United States, 2022

Deborah Dowell, MD<sup>1</sup>; Kathleen R. Ragan, MSPH<sup>1</sup>; Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH<sup>2</sup>; Grant T. Baldwin, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Roger Chou, MD<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Division of Overdose Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC;*

<sup>2</sup>*Office of the Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC;*

<sup>3</sup>*Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center and Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon*

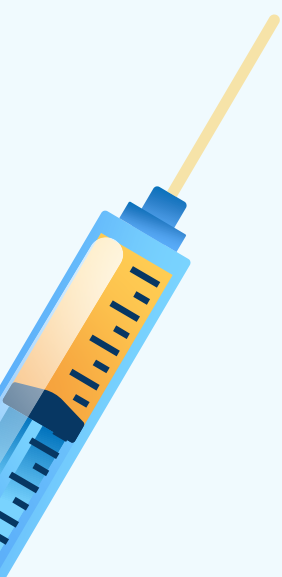
# Determining Whether or Not to Initiate Opioids for Pain : Acute Pain

- **Nonopioid therapies – At least as effective as opioids :**
  - Common acute pain conditions
  - Minor surgeries typically associated with minimal tissue injury and mild postoperative pain
- Maximize use of nonopioid pharmacologic and non-medication therapies
  - topical or oral NSAIDs, acetaminophen
  - ice, heat, elevation, rest, immobilization, or exercise

# + Determining Whether or Not to Initiate Opioids for Pain : Acute Pain



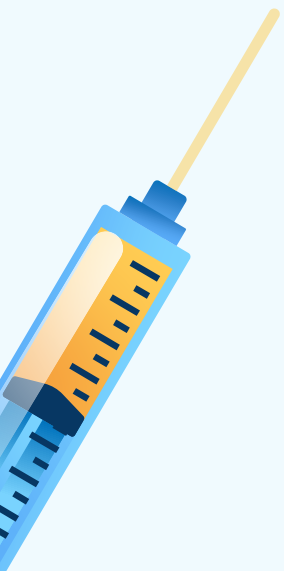
- **Opioid therapy - important role for:**
  - Acute pain related to severe traumatic injuries
  - Invasive surgeries typically associated with moderate to severe postoperative pain
  - Other severe acute pain when NSAIDs and other therapies are contraindicated or likely to be ineffective



# + Determining Whether or Not to Initiate Opioids for Pain : Subacute and Chronic Pain



- **Non-opioid therapies are PREFERRED**
- Maximize use of nonpharmacologic and nonopioid pharmacologic therapies as appropriate for the specific condition and patient
- **Opioids**
  - only consider if expected benefits for pain and function are anticipated to outweigh risks to the patient



# Misinterpretation of 2016 Guidelines: Collateral Damage

**“There’s a need to recognize first of all that there is a large number of patients who are in significant pain, and their lives and livelihood are impaired by it. They don’t choose to be in pain and on opioids. These patients should not be denied their opioid prescriptions because of the blanket application of recent guidelines, but it’s a growing trend to deny them.”**

**-- Elliot J. Krane, MD, keynote speaker, American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting 2017**



# Misinterpretation of 2016 Guidelines: Collateral Damage

- Guidelines are **NOT** intended to be:
  - Used as an inflexible, rigid standard of care or absolute limits to policy or practice;
    - they are intended to be guideposts to help inform clinician, patients, organizations, health care systems, and government entities
- **Misapplication** of the recommendations to populations outside the scope of the guideline.
- **Avoid patient abandonment**
  - Barriers to access for opioids used for legitimate medical purposes
  - Increase suffering, disabilities and decreased quality of life
  - Abrupt discontinuations
  - Overdose deaths from illicit drugs in patients previous on prescription opioids managed by healthcare providers
  - Reported suicides due to lack of pain management

# Assessing Risk and Addressing Potential Harms of Opioid Use

- Before starting and periodically during continuation of opioid therapy, clinicians should discuss and evaluate risks and benefits of opioids with individual patients
- Clinicians should work with patients to incorporate + into the management plan strategies to mitigate risk
- Patients should be involved meaningfully in decisions about starting and continuing opioid therapy

# Risk Mitigation Strategies

- When opioids are indicated:
  - Lowest dose for shortest duration (no greater quantity than needed)
    - Many states have quantity limits on new opioids prescriptions
  - Consider situations to taper opioids down or off
  - Close monitoring is warranted
    - Benefits and risks
    - Toxicology screening (urine drug screen monitoring)

# + Risk Mitigation Strategies- Naloxone

- Offer naloxone and educate patients on overdose prevention and naloxone use and offer to provide education to members of their household
- **Naloxone – opioid antagonist (“blocker”)**
  - blocks opioid receptors
  - displaces opioids from receptor sites in the brain and reverses respiratory depression that usually is the cause of overdose deaths
  - rapidly reverses opioid overdoses



# Naloxone - Particularly For Patients At Increased Risk of Opioid Overdoses

- History of overdose
- History of substance use disorder
- Sleep-disordered breathing
- Taking higher dosages of opioids (e.g.,  $\geq 50$  MME/day)
- Taking benzodiazepines with opioids
- At risk for returning to a high dose to which they have lost tolerance (e.g., patients undergoing tapering or recently released from prison).



## DIRECTIONS

**NARCAN**<sup>®</sup>  
Naloxone HCl Nasal Spray 4 mg

### Emergency Treatment of Opioid Overdose

#### Important:

- For use in the nose only
- Do not test nasal spray device before use
- 1 nasal spray device contains 1 dose of medicine
- Each device sprays 1 time only



#### 1 CHECK



#### Step 1: CHECK if you suspect an overdose:

- **CHECK** for a **suspected overdose**: the person will not wake up or is very sleepy or not breathing well
  - yell "Wake up!"
  - shake the person gently
- if the person is not awake, go to Step 2

Unfold for  
*Directions*

#### 2 GIVE



#### Step 2: Give 1st dose in the nose

- **HOLD** the nasal spray device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger
- **INSERT** the nozzle into either NOSTRIL
- **PRESS** the plunger firmly to give the 1st dose
- 1 nasal spray device contains 1 dose

Unfold for  
*Directions*

#### 3 CALL



#### Step 3: Call 911

- **CALL 911** immediately after giving the 1<sup>st</sup> dose

#### 4 WATCH/GIVE



#### Step 4: WATCH & GIVE

- **WAIT** 2-3 minutes after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose to give the medicine time to work
- if the person **wakes up**: Go to Step 5
- if the person does **not wake up**:
  - **CONTINUE TO GIVE** doses every 2-3 minutes until the person wakes up
  - it is safe to keep giving doses

#### 5 STAY



#### Step 5: STAY

- **STAY** until ambulance arrives: even if the person wakes up
- **GIVE** another dose if the person becomes very sleepy again
- You may need to give all the doses in the pack

**EMERGENT**<sup>™</sup>

For opioid emergencies, call 911. For questions on NARCAN, call 1-844-4NARCAN (1-844-462-7226) or go to [www.narcan.com](http://www.narcan.com).

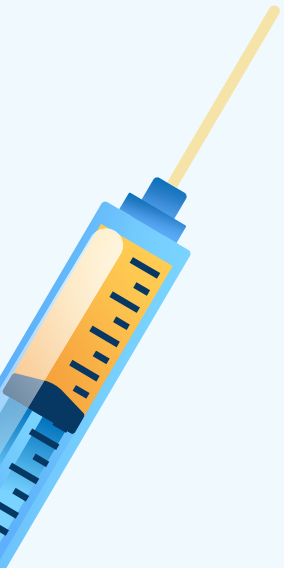
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# Risk Mitigation Strategies– Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP)

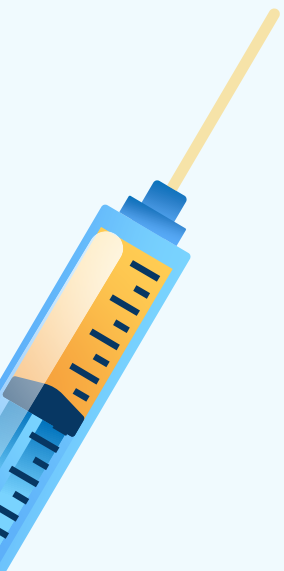


- **PDMP** - electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions in a state for pharmacies and clinicians
- Clinicians should:
  - Review the state prescription drug monitoring program to determine whether the patient is receiving opioid dosages or combinations that put the patient at high risk for overdose
  - Not dismiss patients from their practice on the basis of PDMP information
    - Doing so can adversely affect patient safety and could result in missed opportunities to provide potentially lifesaving information



# + Risk Mitigation Strategies - Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)

- Drug safety program that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can require for certain medications with serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits of the medication outweigh its risks
- **Program includes element to assure safe use:**
  - **communication to the patient** – Medications Guides
  - **communication to healthcare providers, pharmacists and healthcare settings (training, policies/procedures)**
  - **required activities or clinical interventions (training/certification required laboratory monitoring)**



# Risk Mitigation Strategies

- Avoid using opioids with other medications that cause central nervous system depression (e.g. alcohol, benzodiazepines)
- Ensure that treatment for depression and other mental health conditions is optimized
- Use extra caution and increased monitoring in patients with kidney impairment, liver impairment, and for patients aged  $\geq 65$  years

# Risk Mitigation Strategies– Proper Disposal

- **Medication Take-Back Option preferred**
  - Remove all personal information
  - Locate at site or event at pharmacies, law enforcement facilities, community sites
    - DEA or National Associations of Boards of Pharmacy, website to locate permanent disposal boxes
    - Google Maps – type in “drug (or medication) disposal near me”
    - DEA – National Prescription Drug Take Back Events





# Risk Mitigation Strategies– Proper Disposal

- Alternative when cannot reach a drug take back location promptly, or there is none available in community
- Remove or scratch out personal information from bottles
- FDA recommends **mixing with unpalatable substances and placing in a non-descript container in the trash**:
  - Coffee grounds
  - Kitty litter
  - Dirt
  - Packets from pharmacy (biodegradable gel)
- Some long-acting opioids (extended-release-ER) and other opioids are recommended to be flushed due to dangers – **FDA Opioid Flush List**
  - Morphine ER, Oxycodone ER (Oxycontin®), fentanyl patches

Follow these simple steps to dispose of medicines in the household trash

**MIX**  
Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds;

**PLACE**  
Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;

**THROW**  
Throw the container in your household trash;

**SCRATCH OUT**  
Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose of the container.

The infographic is a vertical stack of four colored panels. The top panel is brown and shows a pile of coffee grounds with a few pills. The second panel is orange and shows a white plastic bag filled with the mixture. The third panel is yellow and shows a metal trash can with its lid open. The bottom panel is green and shows a hand using a black marker to scratch out information from a white pill bottle label. The text is in white and bold fonts, with the step names in larger, bold letters.



Q:

**What are the  
“take home  
points” from  
this  
presentation?**

# Prescription Opioid Use - Balance

**Pain management should include multi-modal therapy**

**Side Effects**

**Preferred use of non-medication and non opioid therapy**

**Continued Education and Research**

**A Patient's Right to accessible pain management**

**Healthy People 2023 - Reduce (chronic) pain and misuse of prescription pain relievers**

**Opioid Use Disorder**

**Risk Mitigation Strategies/  
Assess for Risk of Opioid Overdoses**

**Focus pain therapies on individual needs of the patient**

**Opioids are last line but do provide potential benefit**

**Opioids Overdose Deaths**

**BALANCED approach and partnership between Patients, Clinicians/Health Care Providers and Policy Makers**



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- Luo C, Chen K, Doshi R, Rickles N, Chen Y, Schwartz H, Asetline RH. The association of prescription opioid use with suicide attempts: An analysis of statewide medical claims data. PLoS One. 2022 Jun 30;17(6):e0269809. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0269809. PMID: 35771866; PMCID: PMC9246186

# Understanding Addiction as a Chronic Disease: Implications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders

Doug Burgess, MD  
Medical Director of Addiction Services  
University Health  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
University of Missouri- Kansas City



- I have no conflicts of interest to disclose

- Learning Objectives:
  - List 3 similarities between substance use disorders and other chronic diseases
  - Identify 3 neuroadaptations associated with transition to drug addiction
  - Describe the general principles of a Medication First, Low Threshold model of care
- Behavioral Outcome:
  - Participants will gain an appreciation for the biological underpinnings of addiction and use this knowledge to identify inherent biases and barriers to care within traditional addiction treatment models

# What is a chronic disease?

- **MedicineNet**- *condition lasting 3 months or more, by the definition of the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics. Chronic diseases generally cannot be prevented by vaccines or cured by medication, nor do they just disappear*
- **Wikipedia**- *a human health condition or disease that is persistent or otherwise long-lasting in its effects or a disease that comes with time. The term chronic is often applied when the course of the disease lasts for more than three months. Common chronic diseases include arthritis, asthma, cancer, COPD, diabetes and viral diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS*
- **CDC**- *A condition that lasts greater than 1 year and requires ongoing medical attention or limits activities of daily living or both.*
- **WHO**- *are not passed from person to person. They are of long duration and generally slow progression. The four main types ... are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructed pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.*
- **Australian Institute for Health and Welfare**- *a condition with complex causality, with multiple factors leading to their onset; a long development period, for which there may be no symptoms; a prolonged course of illness, perhaps leading to other health complications; associated functional impairment or disability.*

## Some Common Characteristics of Chronic Diseases

- Heritable
- Environmental and Behavioral Influences common
- Biological underpinnings
- Long lasting with periods of remission and periods of acute exacerbation
- Medication management is frequently first line and most effective with behavioral augmentation
- Without effective treatment they progress
- Treatment (medications) can control symptoms but they often return when treatment is stopped

# Heritability

- Heritability of substance use disorders has been widely studied
  - Siblings with parents diagnosed with alcohol use disorder (AUD): 49.3%-50% of brothers and 22.4%-25% of sisters developed AUD
  - Consistent pattern across substance use disorders

Substance Use Disorder in Parents	Life Time Relative Risk in Siblings
Cannabis	1.78
Cocaine	1.71
Nicotine	1.77

# Heritability of Opioid Use Disorder

- Twin and Family studies estimate heritability percentages from 23%- 54% (Kendler et al 2000, Tsuang et al. 1998)
  - Numerous candidate genes have been identified as potentially playing a role. (Crist et al. 2019)
    - Why the Wide variability?
      - Multifactorial
      - Hypothesis Driven
  - Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS)
    - SUDs are unique in that they require exposure



# Environmental Factors

- Diabetes

- Neighborhoods

- Food Deserts
- Access to safe parks, gyms etc

- Finances/Access to Care

- Trauma

- Lifestyle Choices

- Chronically elevated blood sugars cause physical changes in pancreas and cells within the body.

- Substance Use Disorders

- Neighborhoods

- Region of the country/world
- Prevalence in the area, Peer groups

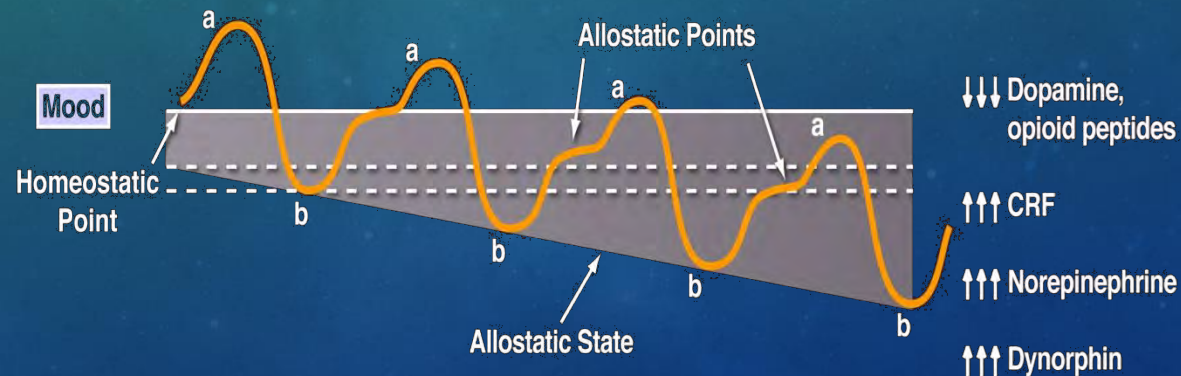
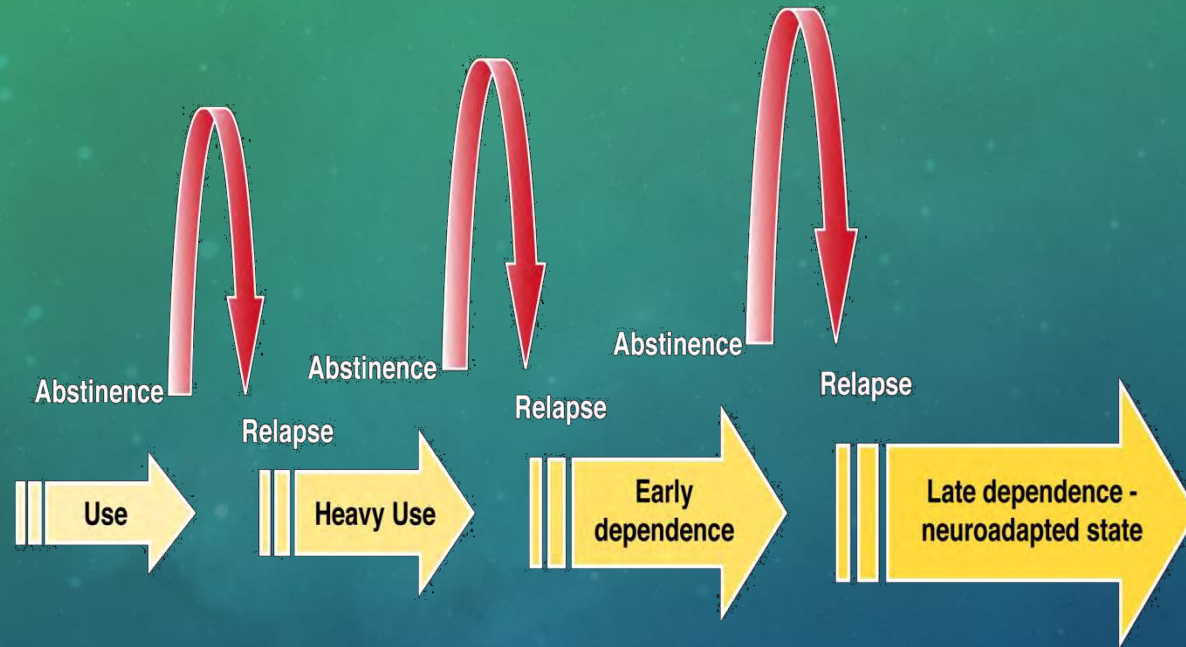
- Finances/Access to Care

- Trauma

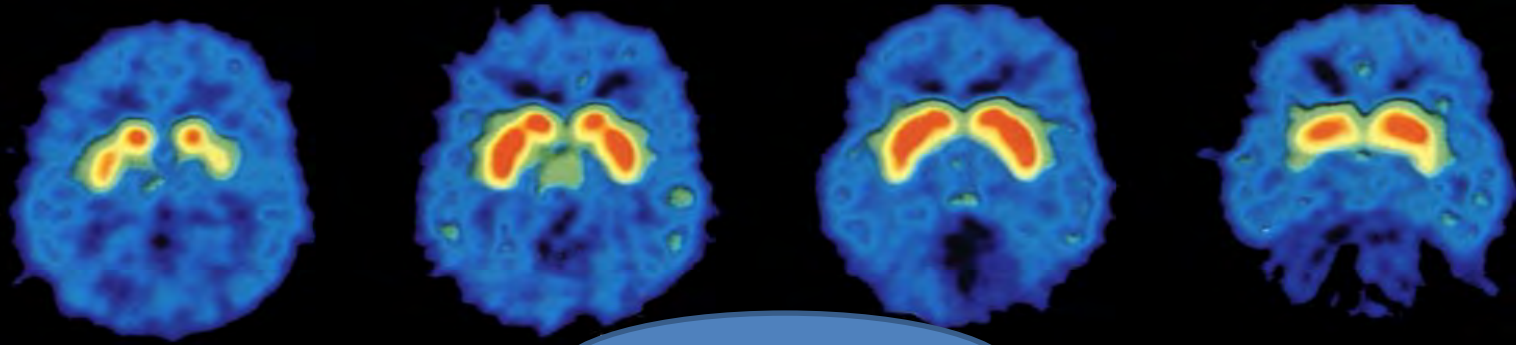
- Lifestyle Choices

- Chronic exposure to substances cause **physical changes** in brain and nervous system within the body.

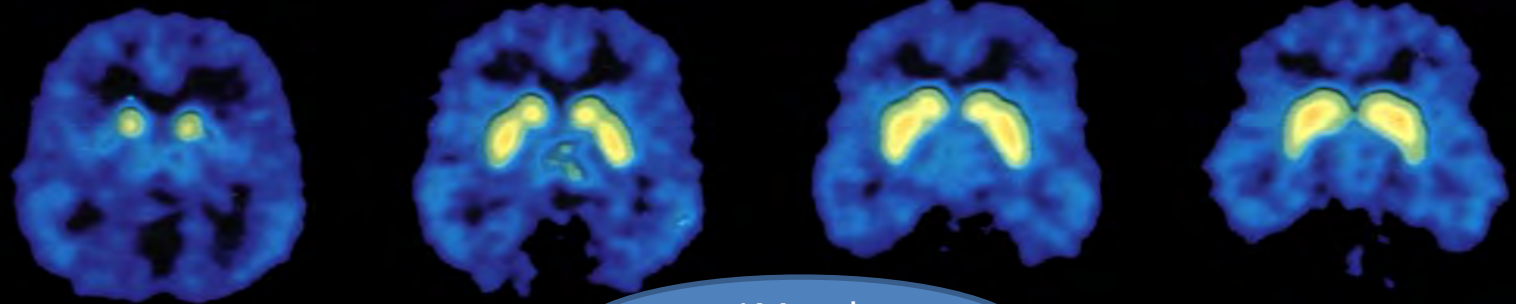
# ALLOSTATIC CHANGE IN EMOTIONAL STATE ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSITION TO DRUG ADDICTION



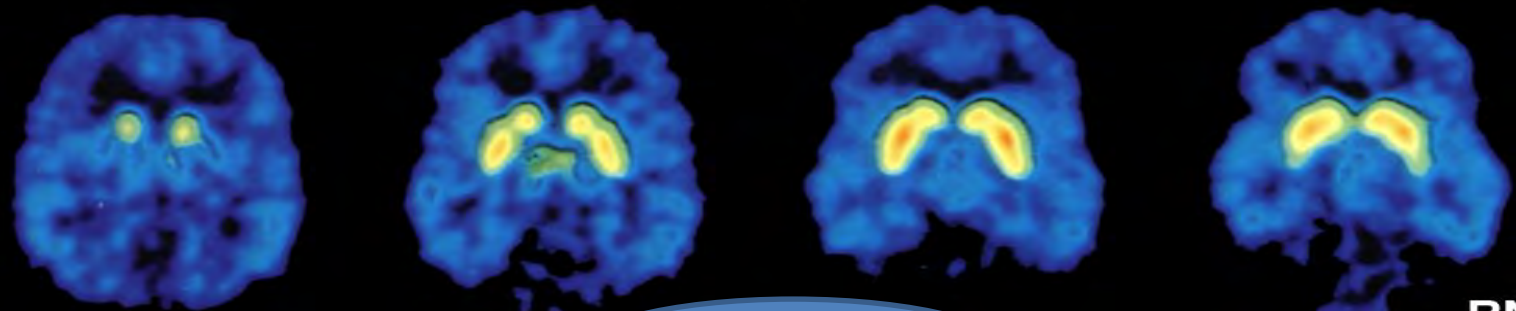
From: Heilig M, Koob GF. Trends Neurosci, 2007, 30:399-406 [topGF, Le Moal M. Neuropsychopharmacology, 2001, 24:97-129 [bot]; Koob tom]



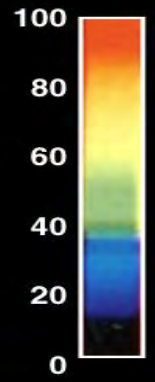
Control



1 Month  
Abstinence



2 Months  
Abstinence

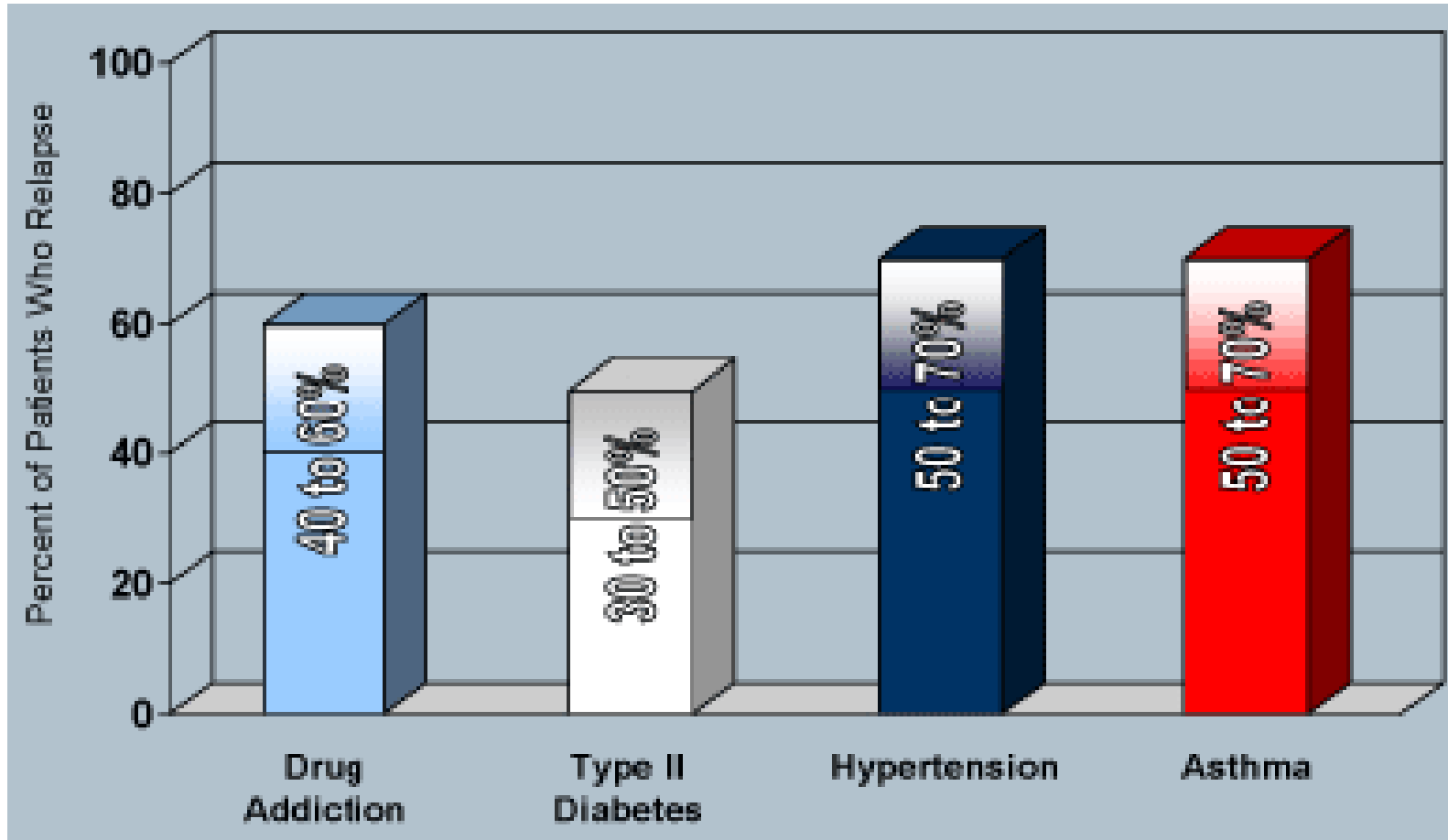


BNL/SUNY

# Course of chronic illness

- Treatment often involves medication and lifestyle change
  - Medication often 1<sup>st</sup> line in advanced cases
  - No arbitrary restrictions on treatment
- Variable response is common early on in treatment
- Full or partial remission is often followed by intermittent flare ups and the need for additional treatment.
- *With most chronic diseases, sustained, uncomplicated remission is the exception, not the rule.*
  - *Trend towards improved health and wellness*
  - *Manage the symptoms and harm associated with the disease.*
  - *Danger in framing response to treatment as “all or nothing”*

# Relapse Rates of other Chronic Diseases



McLellan, A. T., Lewis, D. C., O'Brien, C. P., & Kleber, H. D. (2000). Drug dependence, a chronic medical illness: implications for treatment, insurance, and outcomes evaluation. *JAMA*, 284(13), 1689–1695. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.284.13.1689>

# Chronic Disease Management

- You have a family member with diabetes for over 5 years. Her blood sugars have been under good control but at a recent visit, tests indicate significantly elevated blood sugars. Which of the following approaches would you expect the clinic to take?
  - A) Continue treatment unchanged - your family member will not improve until she decides she wants to.
  - B) Discharge your family member from clinic for not following the diet, exercise and medication plan. She is a relapsed diabetic.
  - C) Mandate completion of a residential treatment program as a condition of continued treatment in the clinic
  - D) Explore recent life events, dietary changes, exercise habits and medication adherence to provide a personalized adjustment to the current treatment. Increase frequency of follow up to assess for response to changes.



# Chronic Disease Management

- You have a family member with opioid use disorder for over 5 years. Her urine toxicology tests have been consistent with no drug use, but several recent tests indicate use of opiates. Which of the following approaches would you expect the clinic to take?
  - A) Continue treatment unchanged- your family member will not change until she decides she wants to.
  - B) Discharge your family member from clinic for not following the treatment plan. She is a relapsed opioid addict.
  - C) Mandate completion of a residential treatment program as a condition of continue care.
  - D) Explore recent live events, psychological changes, relapse prevention strategies and medication adherence to provide a personalized adjustment to the current treatment. Increase frequency of follow up to assess for response to changes.

Should we be using medications as first line treatment?



# Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

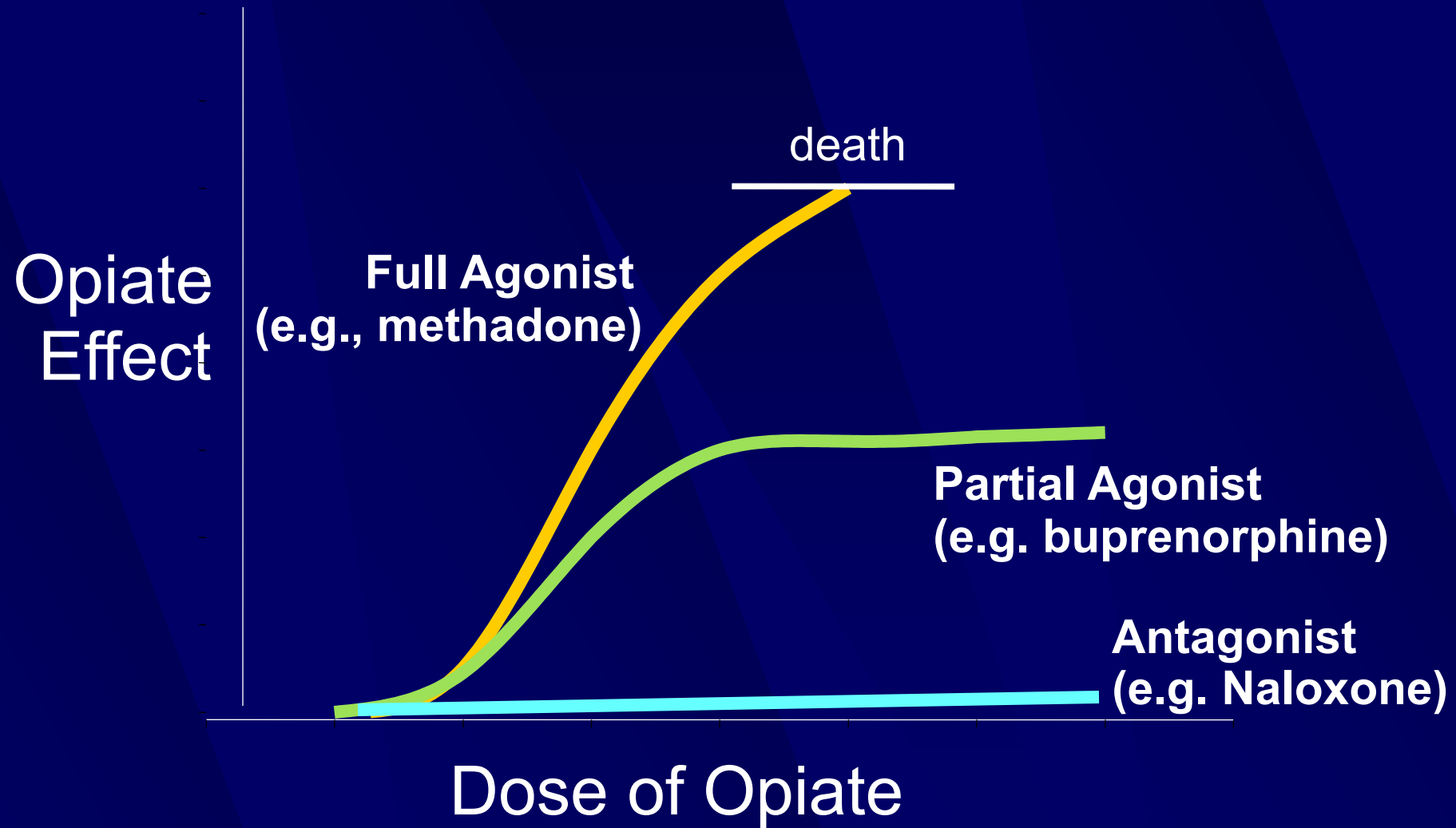
## *Protracted Symptoms*

- Deep muscle aches and pains
- Insomnia, disturbed sleep
- Poor appetite
- Reduced libido, impotence, anorgasmia
- Depressed mood, anhedonia
- Drug craving and obsession

# Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) of Opioid Use Disorder

- Pharmacological
  - Methadone:
    - Full Agonist
    - reduces mortality and morbidity, illicit drug use, criminal activity
  - Buprenorphine (Suboxone):
    - Partial Agonist
    - more accessible, less potential for overdose
  - Naltrexone:
    - Full Antagonist
    - Some controversy over studies that demonstrated efficacy

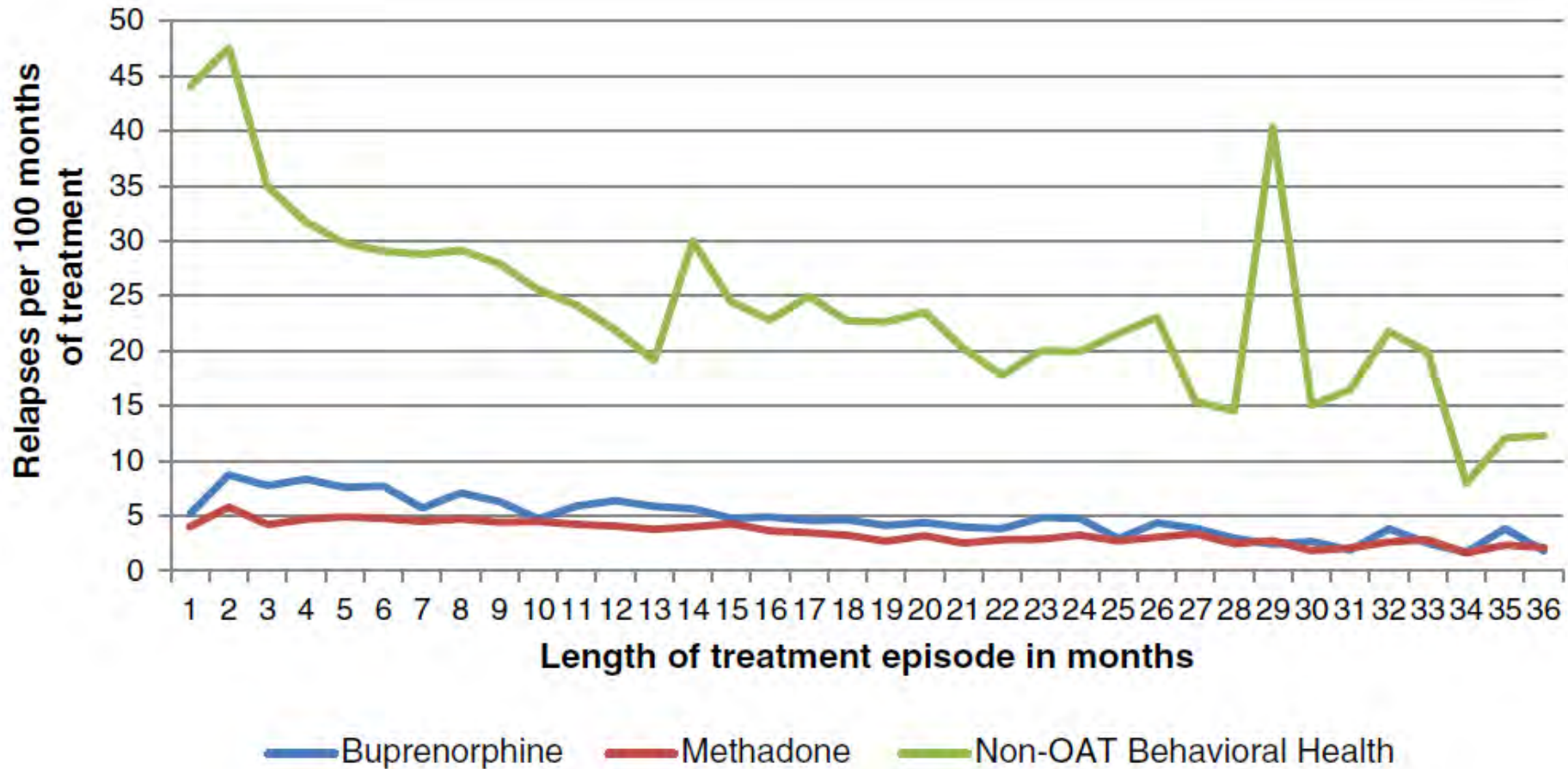
# Partial vs. Full Opioid Agonist





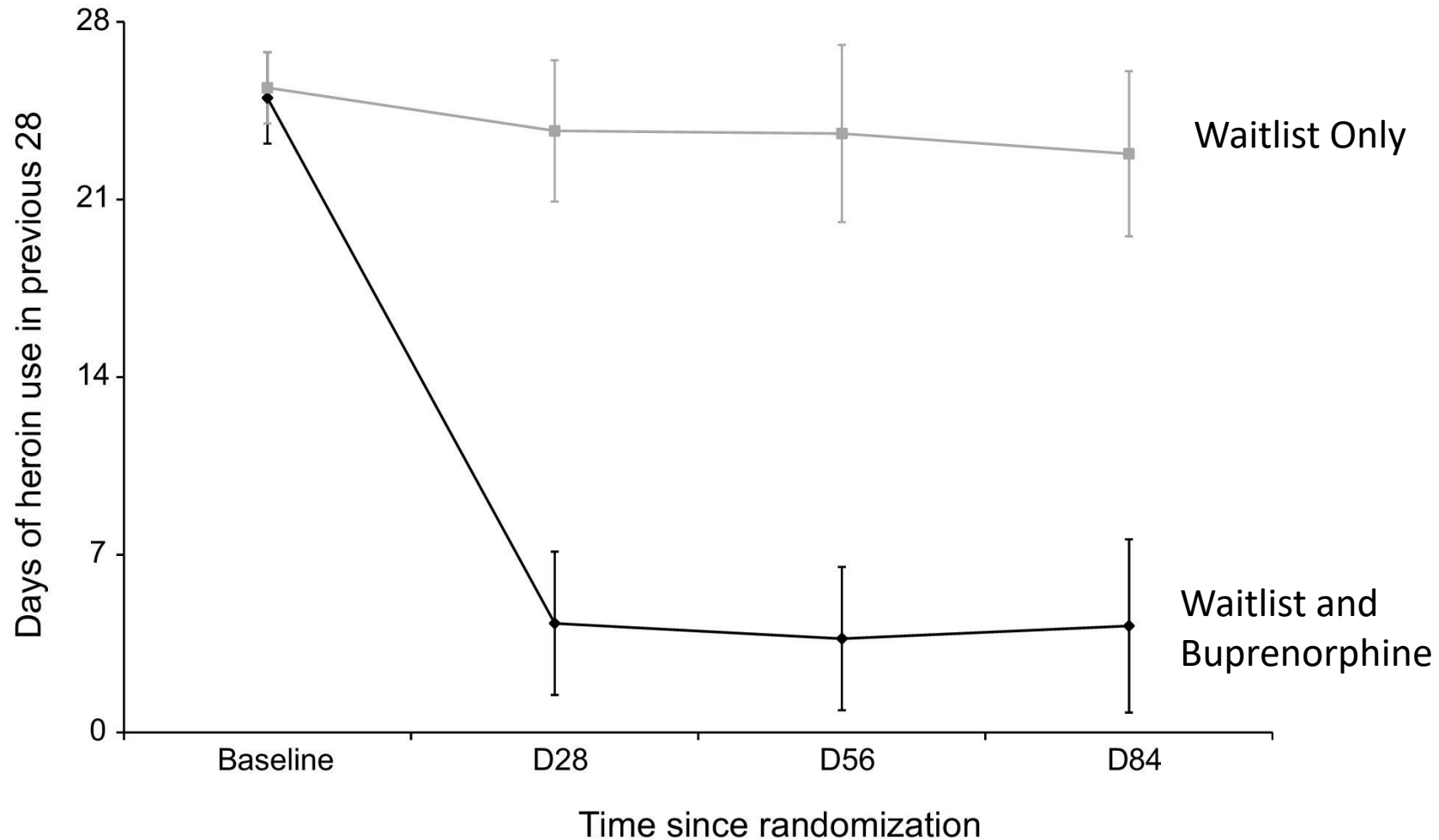
Should we be using medications as first line treatment?

# Medication Alone versus Psychosocial Interventions Alone



Clark, R. E., Baxter, J. D., Aweh, G., O'Connell, E., Fisher, W. H., & Barton, B. A. (2015). Risk Factors for Relapse and Higher Costs Among Medicaid Members with Opioid Dependence or Abuse: Opioid Agonists, Comorbidities, and Treatment History. *Journal of substance abuse treatment*, 57, 75–80. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsat.2015.05.001>

# Waitlist Buprenorphine

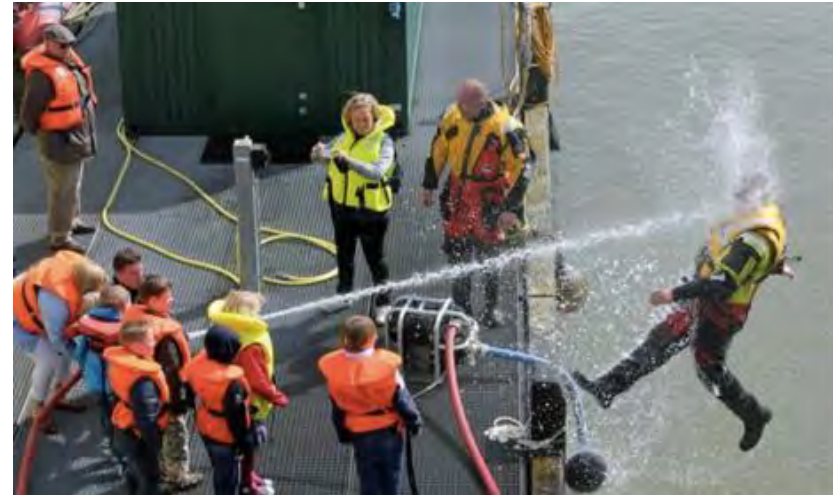


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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2015.07.030>

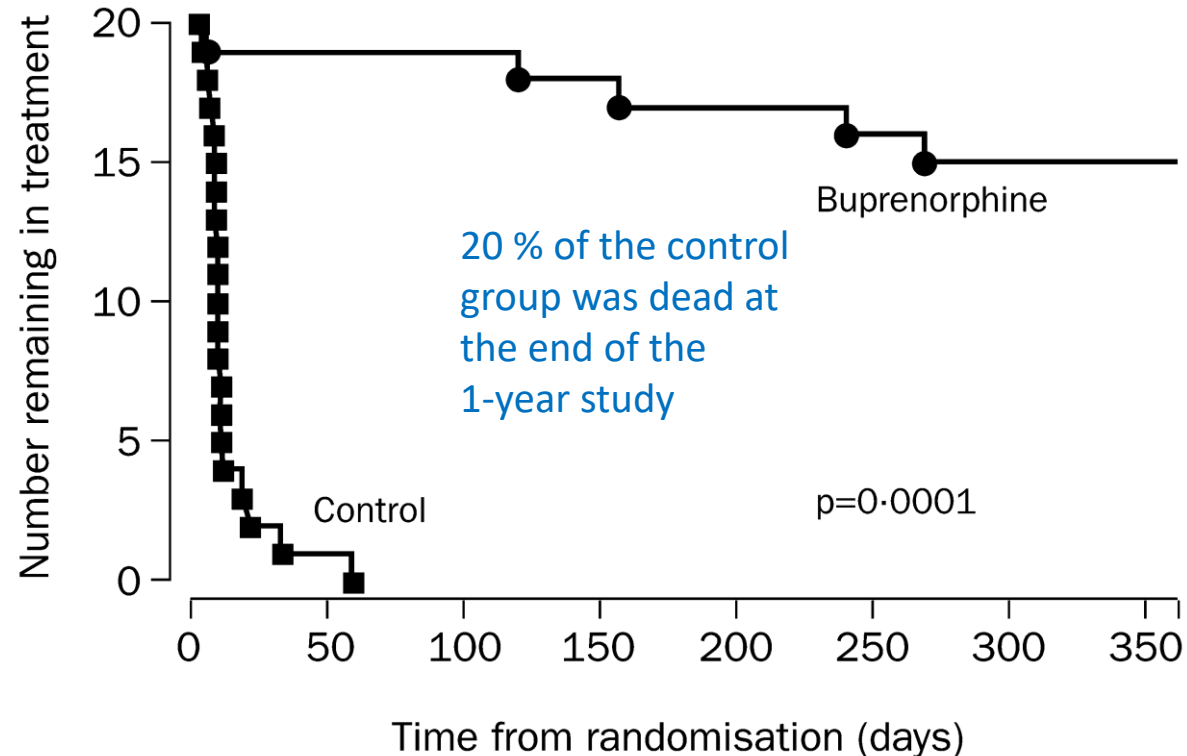
# Where Are We Failing?

- In 2020, there were about 1.1 million people in treatment for a SUD
- Estimated prevalence of substance use disorders in the US is about 20 million
- We are unable to meet the need for treatment if we only rely on specialty care clinics/providers
- In 2020, only 11% of treatment programs offered medication to treat OUD
  - 9% wouldn't allow it
  - 49% allow it if you bring it with you



Source: imgflp Accessed January 9, 2023

# Buprenorphine with Intensive Psychosocial Interventions v.s. Intensive Psychosocial Interventions Alone

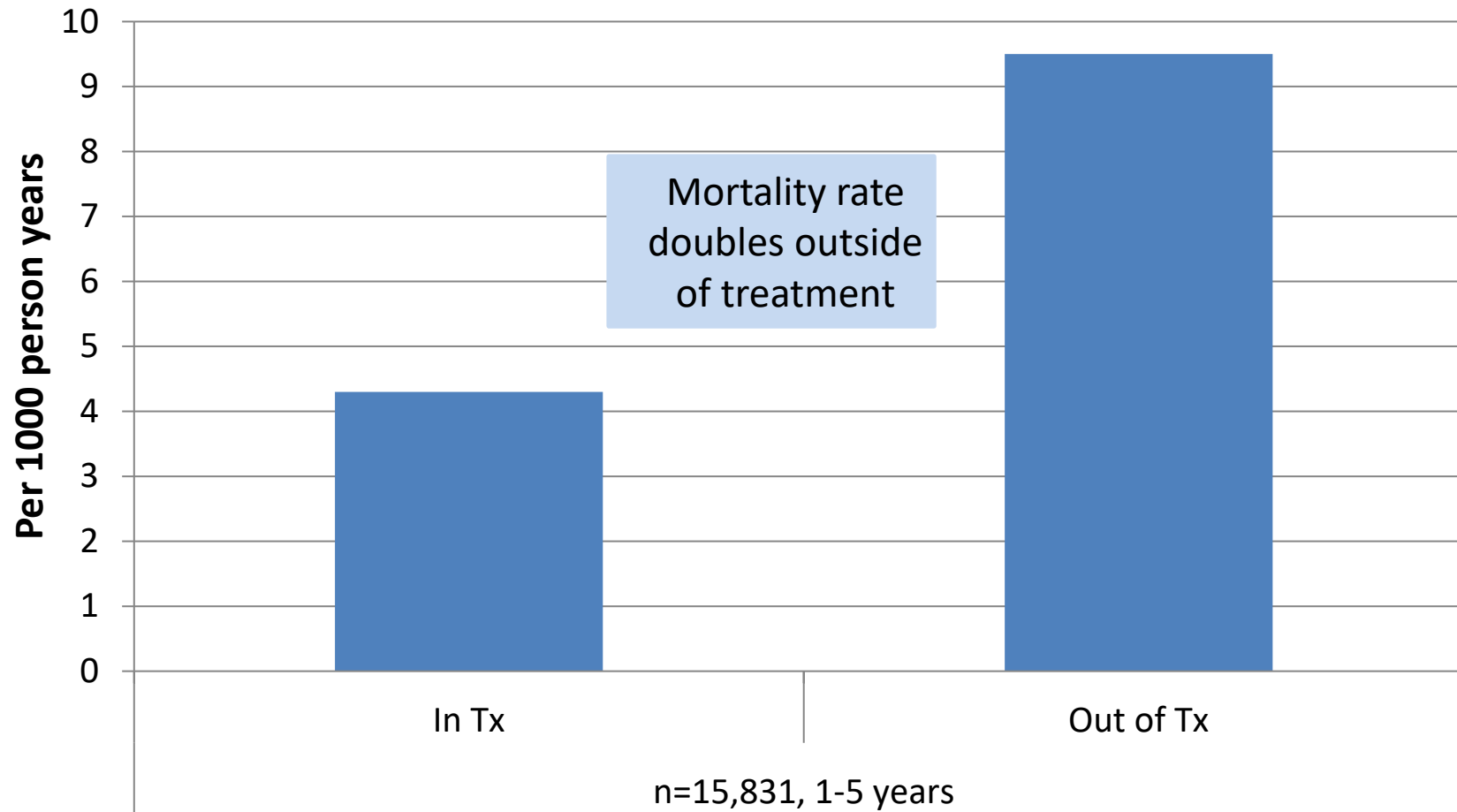


Kakko, J., Svanborg, K. D., Kreek, M. J., & Heilig, M. (2003). 1-year retention and social function after buprenorphine-assisted relapse prevention treatment for heroin dependence in Sweden: a randomised, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet (London, England)*, 361(9358), 662–668. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(03\)12600-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(03)12600-1)

# How can we fix this?

- Medication First Model of Care
  - Rapid access to medication
  - Prioritize Patient Choice
  - Psychosocial interventions offered but not mandated
  - High threshold for discontinuation of medication
    - Medical interventions should never be discontinued without clear evidence they are exacerbating the patient's condition.
    - Medications should not be withdrawn based on arbitrary timelines or protocols
- Is this person healthier and more likely to continue to improve in treatment or out of treatment?

# Mortality Risk in and out Buprenorphine Treatment



Sordo, L., Barrio, G., Bravo, M. J., Indave, B. I., Degenhardt, L., Wiessing, L., Ferri, M., & Pastor-Barriuso, R. (2017). Mortality risk during and after opioid substitution treatment: systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies. *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)*, 357, j1550.

<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j1550>



# Rhode Island Example

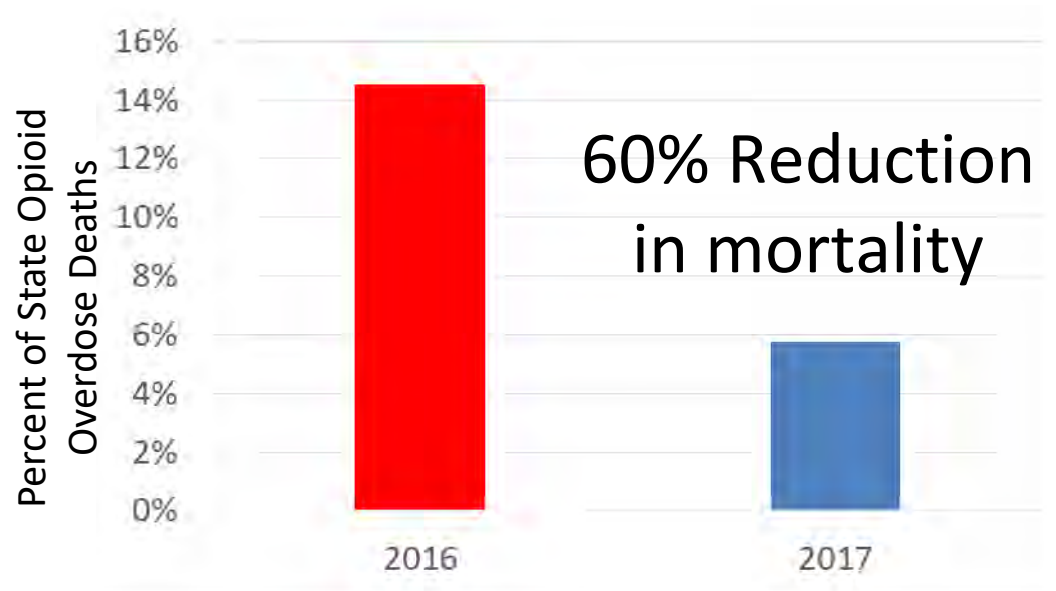
- In July 2016, the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) instituted a program to address the overdose crisis
  - Increased risk of overdose death in recently incarcerated
  - Treatment initiated and maintained during incarceration
  - Care coordinated with 12 centers of excellence
  - Program was implemented as presence of fentanyl was increasing significantly

# Characteristics

Table 2. Characteristics of Individuals Incarcerated in Rhode Island From January 1 to June 30, 2016, and From January 1 to June 30, 2017

Characteristic	First 6 mo of 2016	First 6 mo of 2017
Admission for incarceration, No.	4822	4512
Release from incarceration, No.	4005	3426
No. of inmates receiving MAT monthly, mean (SD)	80 (18) <sup>a</sup>	303 (39)
No. of inmates receiving a specific MAT drug monthly, mean (SD)		
Buprenorphine	4 (3)	119 (15)
Methadone	74 (16)	180 (25)
Naltrexone	2 (1)	4 (1)
Naloxone kits dispensed at release from incarceration, No.	72	35

# The Impact



- NNT to Prevent one death: 11
- 12.3% reduction in overdoses statewide

# Dispelling Myths

- If you don't require people to go to groups and counseling, they won't do it

# Buprenorphine and Psychosocial interventions

- 173 persons in office based treatment prescribed buprenorphine followed for 6 months.
  - No limit on duration of buprenorphine prescription
  - Not required to attend 12-step meetings as a condition of treatment

Parran, T. V., Mace, A. G., Dahan, Y. J., Adelman, C. A., & Kolganov, M. (2017). Buprenorphine/Naloxone Maintenance Therapy: an Observational Retrospective Report on the Effect of Dose on 18 months Retention in an Office-Based Treatment Program. *Substance abuse : research and treatment*, 11, 1178221817731320.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1178221817731320>

# At 18 months, the 76% of patients on continuous buprenorphine treatment

- Less likely to report
  - Using any substance
  - Using heroin
  - Damaging a close relationship
  - Doing regretful things
  - Hurting family
  - Negative personality changes
  - Failure to meet obligations
  - Taking foolish risks
  - Being unhappy
  - Having money problems
- More likely to report
  - Having a “home group”
  - Having a sponsor
  - Attending 3+ 12-step meetings per week
  - Attending Individual Therapy
  - Employment at follow up

# Dispelling Myths

- If you don't require people to go to groups and counseling, they won't do it.
- You are just replacing one addiction for another addiction.



# DSM- 5 Criteria for Opioid Use Disorder

- 2 or more of the following:
  - Failure to fulfill obligations at work, home or school
  - Recurrent use in hazardous situations
  - Continued use despite recurrent social or interpersonal problems
  - Tolerance
  - Withdrawal
  - Larger amounts/longer period than intended
  - Persistent desire to cut back/quit
  - “Great” deal of time using or recovering from use
  - Social, occupational, recreational activities given up
  - Continued use despite knowledge of physical, psychological consequences
  - Intense Cravings
- Severity based on number of symptoms (mild, moderate or severe)
- Active use, early full remission, full sustained remission, partial remission and in remission while in a controlled environment
- If opioids are prescribed, you don’t consider the tolerance and withdrawal criteria

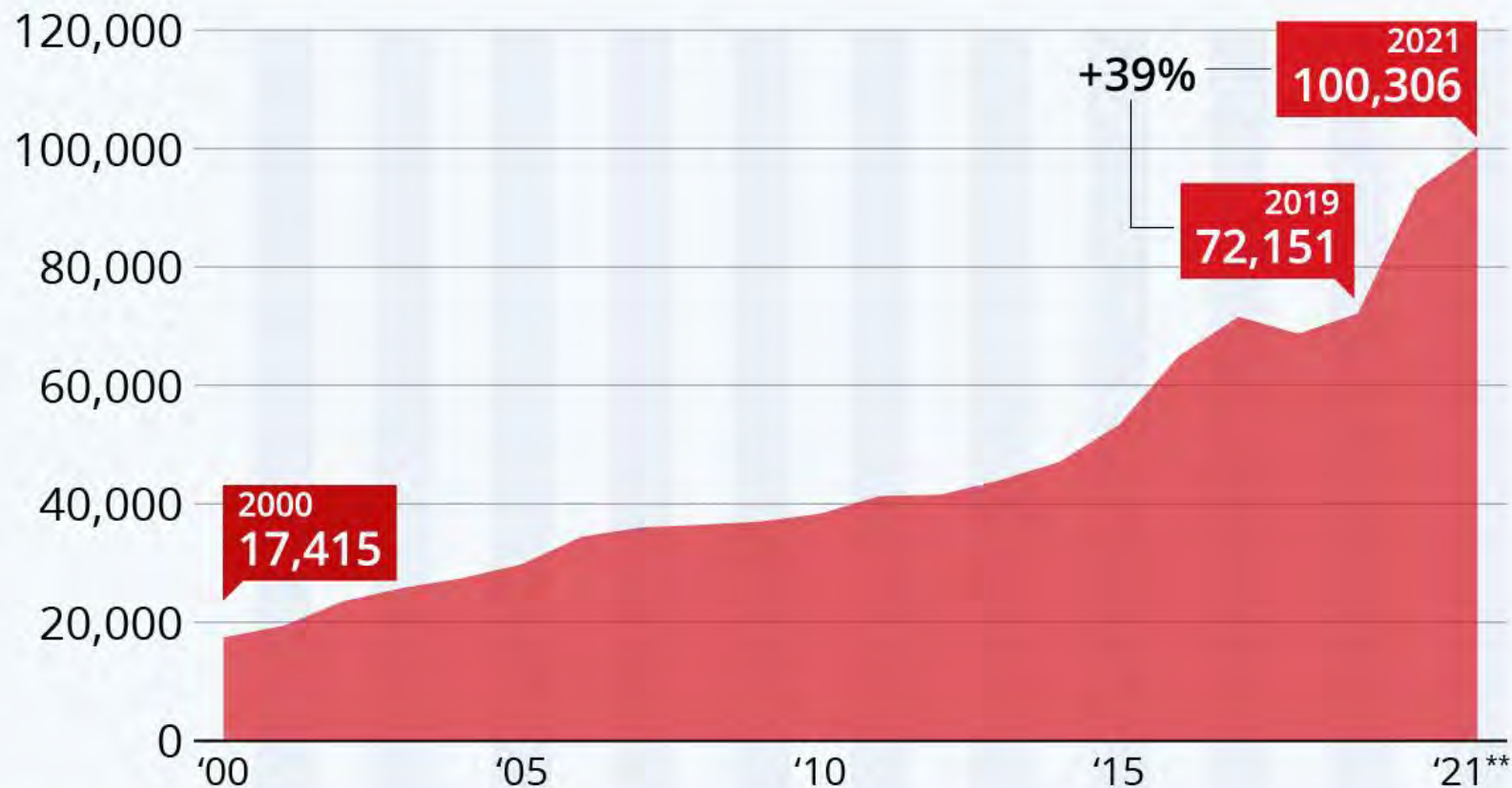
(American Psychiatric Association, 2013)

# Dispelling Myths

- If you don't require people to go to groups and counseling, they won't do it.
- You are just replacing one addiction for another addiction.
- **People need to hit rock bottom before they will be ready to change**

# U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Spike Amid the Pandemic

Number of drug overdose deaths in the United States\*



\* Estimates for 2020 and 2021 are based on provisional data.

\*\* 2021 estimate refers to 12-month period ending April 2021

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Visual Representation of Lethal Dosages

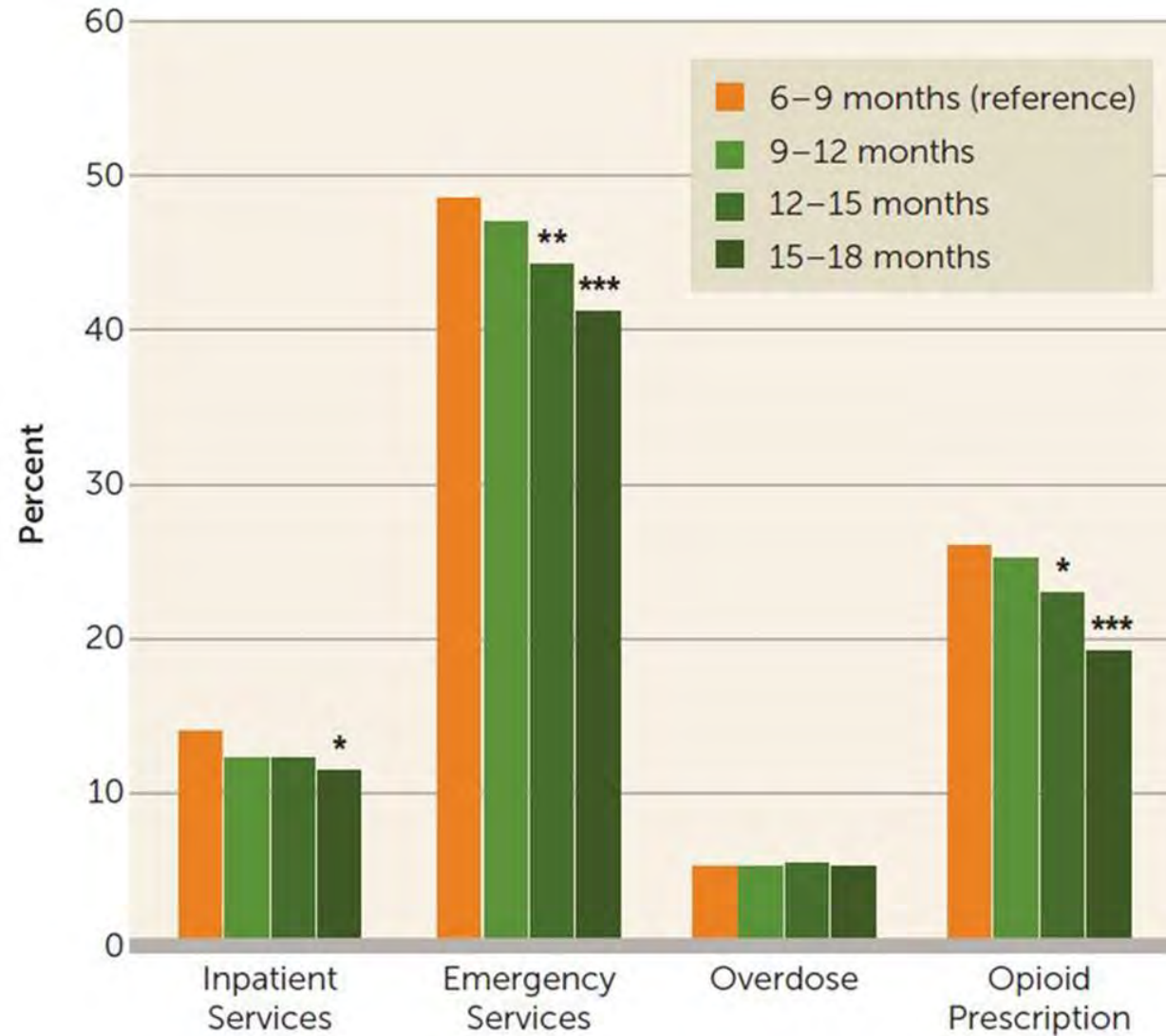


Lethal doses of heroin compared to "synthetic" opioids.  
*New Hampshire State Police Forensic Lab*

# Dispelling Myths

- If you don't require people to go to groups and counseling, they won't do it.
- You are just replacing one addiction for another addiction.
- People need to hit rock bottom before they will be ready to change
- **People shouldn't take medication long term**

# Duration of Treatment



Williams, A. R., Samples, H., Crystal, S., & Olsson, M. (2020). Acute Care, Prescription Opioid Use, and Overdose Following Discontinuation of Long-Term Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder. *The American journal of psychiatry*, 177(2), 117-124. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2019.19060612>

# Dispelling Myths

- If you don't require people to go to groups and counseling, they won't do it.
- You are just replacing one addiction for another addiction.
- People need to hit rock bottom before they will be ready to change
- People shouldn't take medication long term
- **Addiction is just a consequence of bad choices**







# Things to remember

- Access to care for substance use disorders is underfunded and not readily available
  - Early intervention for less severe disorders can prevent the need for specialty care.
- Unlike any other chronic disease, success or failure tends to be measured in terms of “abstinence”.
- Alcohol, nicotine and opioids are the only substances with FDA approved medications for treatment.
  - Medications for other conditions are often first line and the most effective intervention we have (particularly in advanced cases)
- Stigma remains a major barrier to asking for help and a major reason patients discontinue treatment with effective medications.

# What can help with stigma?

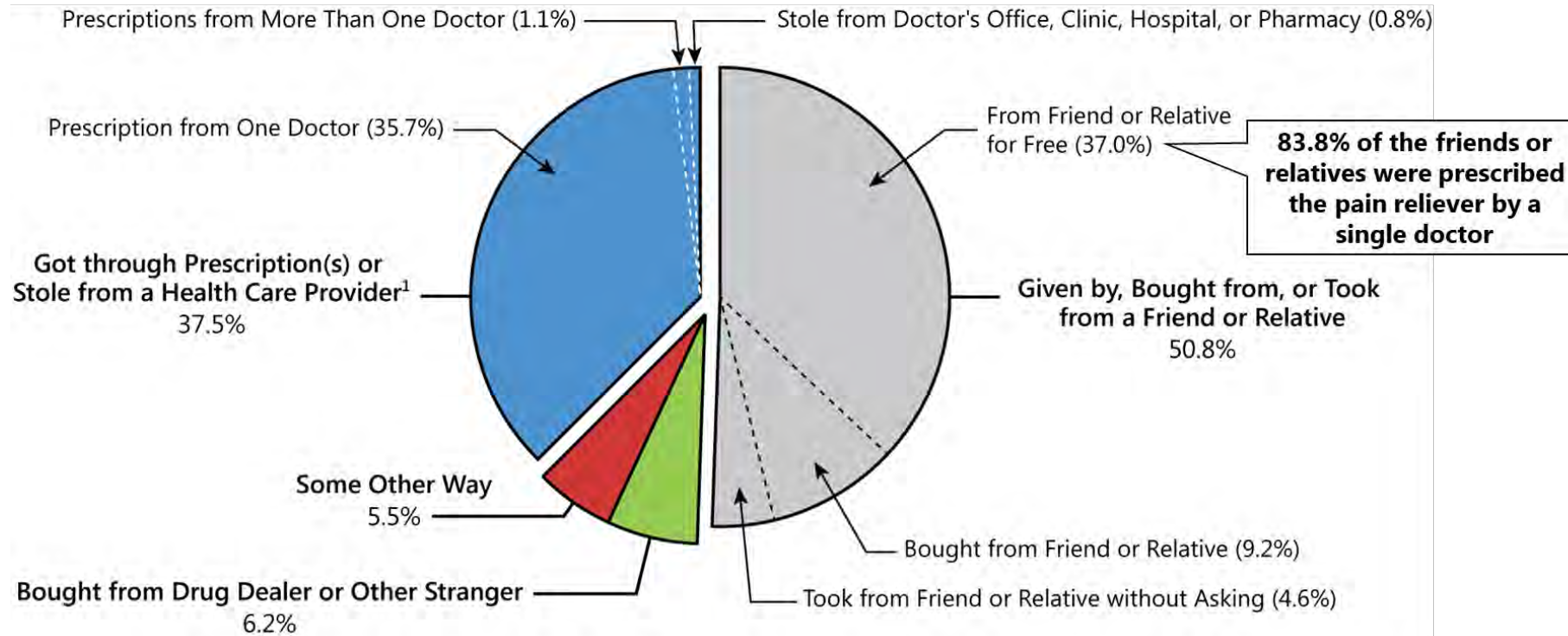
- Training and education
- Embrace and approach this as a chronic disease
  - Normalize conversations around treatment
  - Treat individuals with dignity and respect
  - Increase support during times of struggle
- Language matters
  - Abuse, Detoxification, Habit, Drug of choice, Addict, Dirty Urine etc.
  - <https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/health-professions-education/words-matter-terms-to-use-avoid-when-talking-about-addiction>
- Identify and highlight successes
  - Measure success and outcomes in manner similar to other conditions we treat
  - Recognize and emphasize any improvement or attempt at change
  - Avoid framing recovery as all or nothing

# Summary

- Substance use disorders are chronic conditions that stem from physical changes in the brain and nervous system.
- Genetics along with life experiences and other environmental factors can impact the likelihood that individuals will develop a substance use disorder.
- As with other chronic conditions, lifestyle modification can influence the prognosis but is often difficult to implement and sustain.
- For opioid use disorders, medication management is the most effective intervention.
- A low threshold medication first model of care is an effective approach to engaging patients in care and reducing the harm associated with opioid use disorder.

# Opioid Use Disorder

PAST YEAR, 2019 NSDUH, 12+



**83.8% of the friends or relatives were prescribed the pain reliever by a single doctor**

**9.7 Million People Aged 12 or Older Who Misused Prescription Pain Relievers in the Past Year**

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# The Opioid and Addiction Crisis: A Primer

Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH, MPH  
CAPT, US Public Health Service  
Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# Historical Perspective



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Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# Some Key Milestones in U.S. Drug Policy

- Federal versus State laws
- 1914 - Harrison Narcotics Tax Act
- 1920s-1960s - Bureau of Narcotics
- 1937 Marijuana Tax Act
- 1950s Boggs Act and Narcotic Control Act
- 1970 - Controlled Substances Act
- 1973 – Creation of DEA
- 1984 – Crime Control Act of 1984
- 1986 - Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986
- 1988 – Omnibus Drug Abuse Act
- 1990s – Changing views on pain and Pain as the 5<sup>th</sup> Vital Sign
- 1990s-2000s – Opioid Prescribing Changes
- 2000 – Drug Addiction Treatment Act
- 2006 – Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005
- 2010s – Focus on decreasing opioid prescribing
- 2010s-2020s – Resurgence of heroin and emergence of illicit fentanyl
- 2020s – Various state laws related to decrim. and legalization of various substances
- 2022 – Removal of DEA DATA waiver

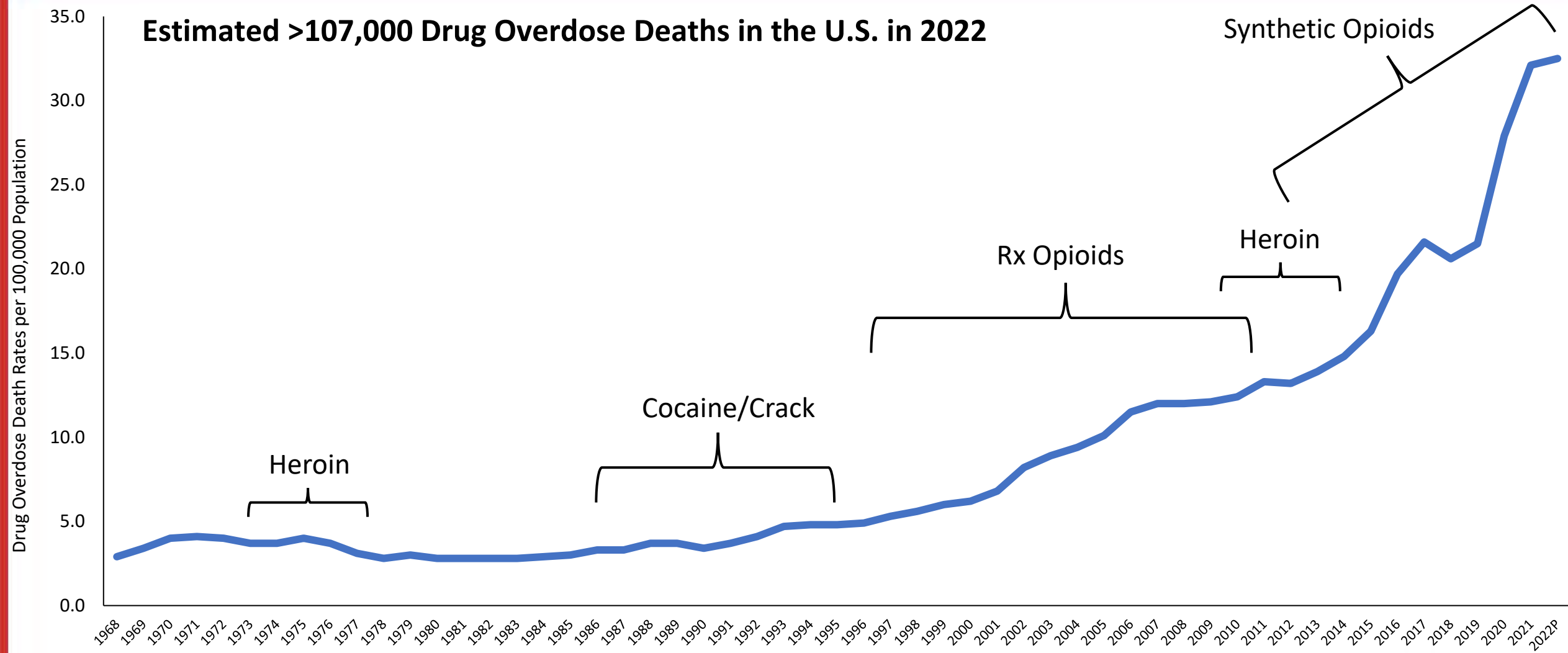
**Consistent Themes Over Time: Criminalization; Stigma; Discrimination**

# Current Overdose Trends



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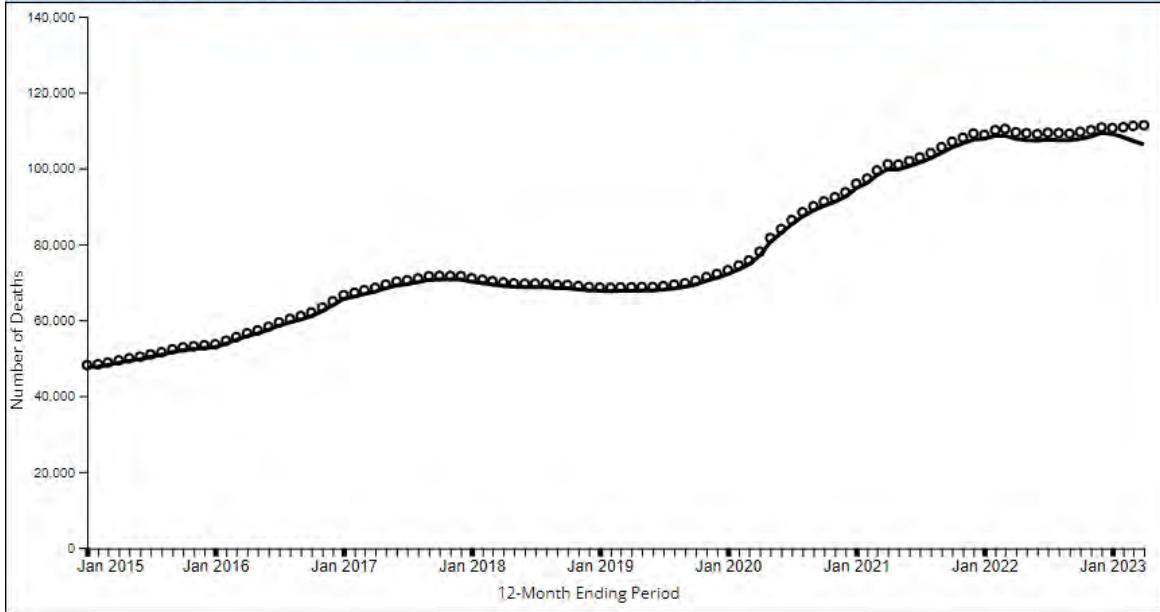
# Historically High Levels of Overdose Deaths in the U.S.





# Provisional Predicted Mortality Data Through April 2023

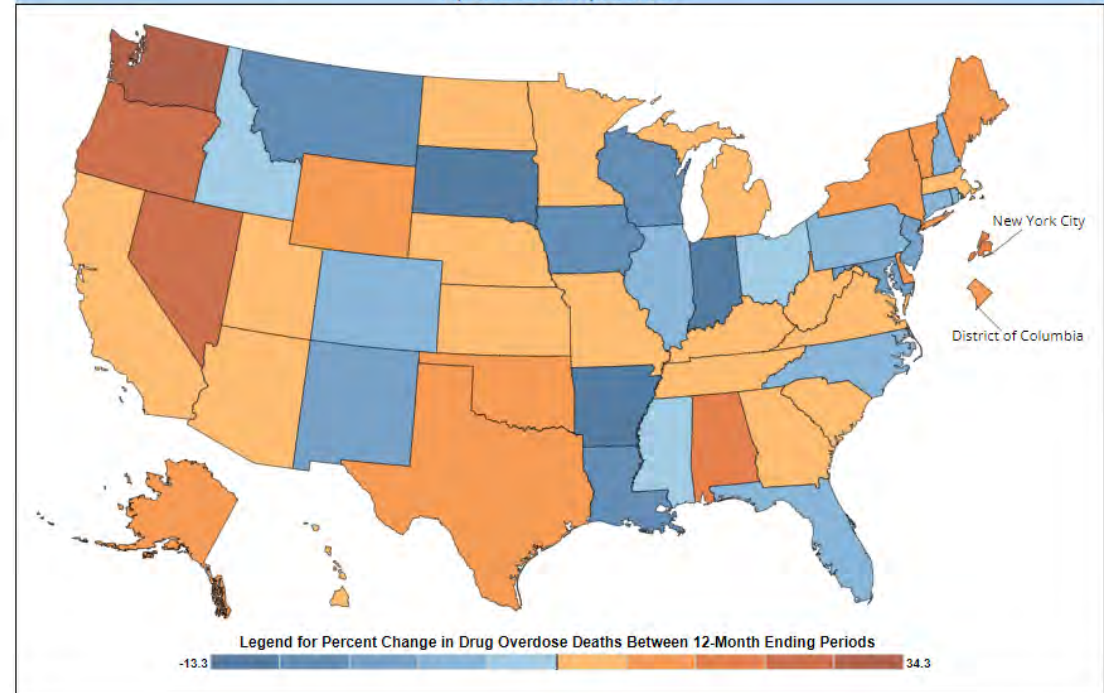
Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: United States



Select Jurisdiction  
United States

○ Predicted Value  
■ Reported Value

Figure 1b. Percent Change in Predicted 12 Month-ending Count of Drug Overdose Deaths, by Jurisdiction: April 2022 to April 2023

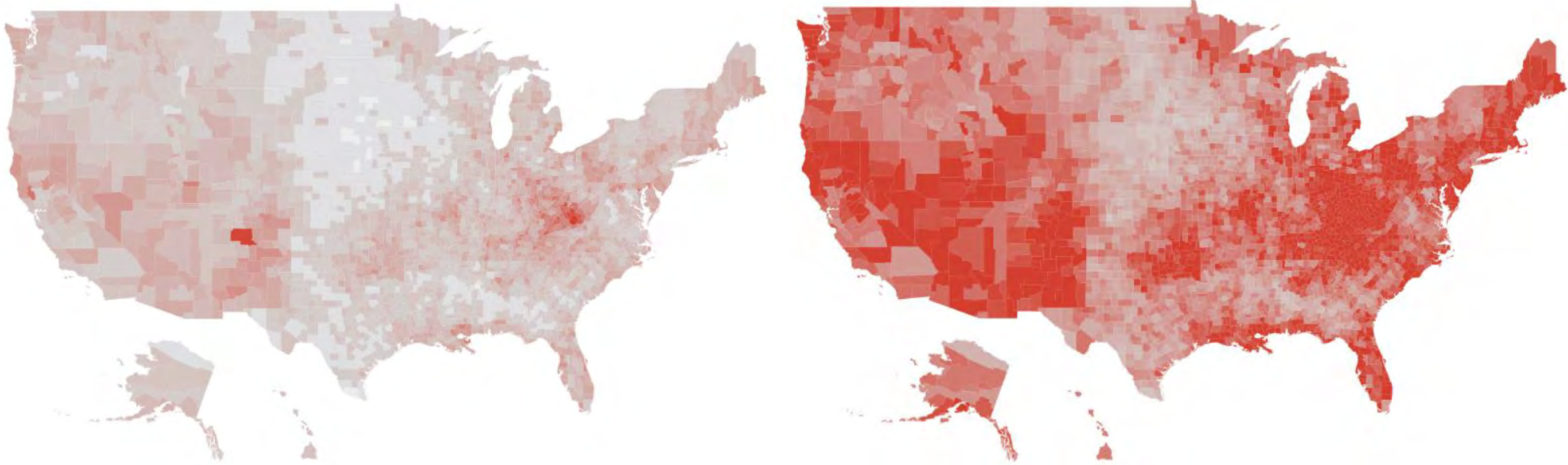


[Products - Vital Statistics Rapid Release - Provisional Drug Overdose Data \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalstatistics/rapid-release/drug-overdose)

# The Impact on Communities – County Drug Overdose Death Rates – 2003 and 2020

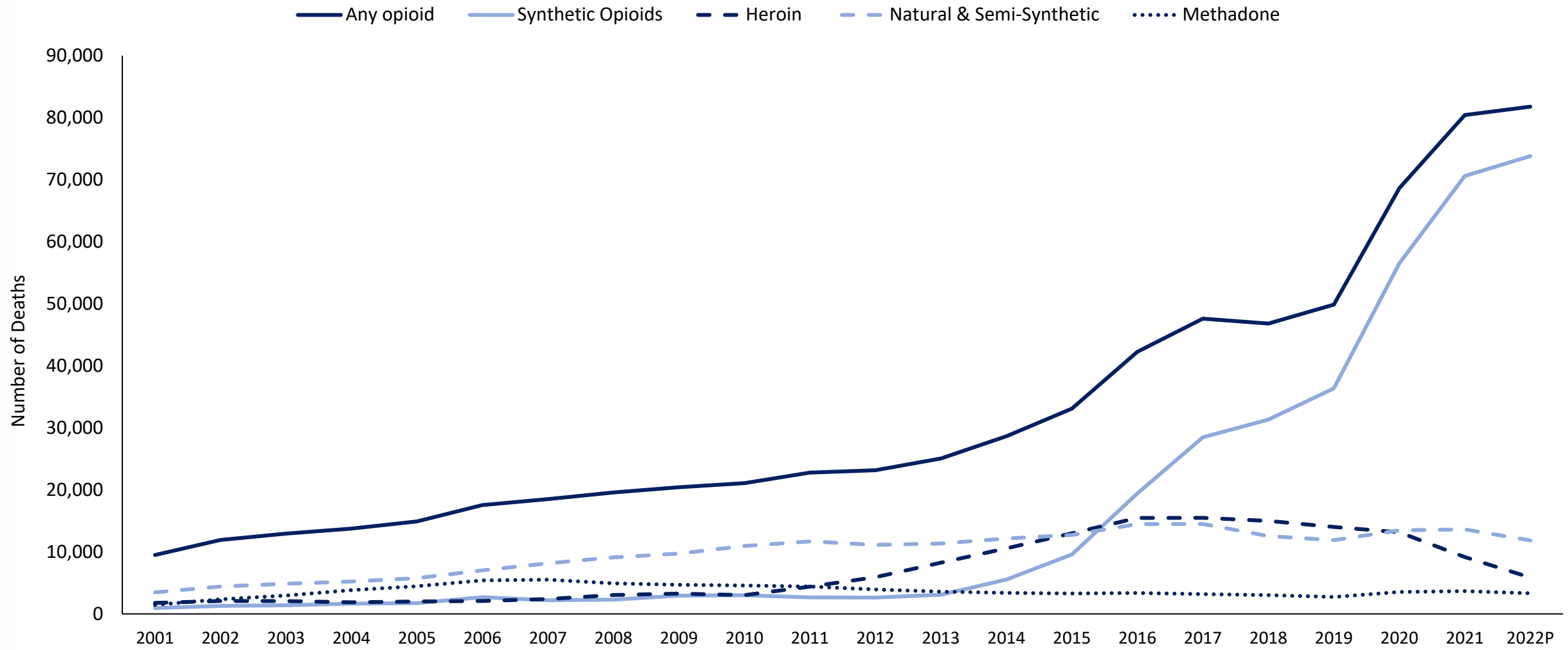
2003

2021



0.00 40.00

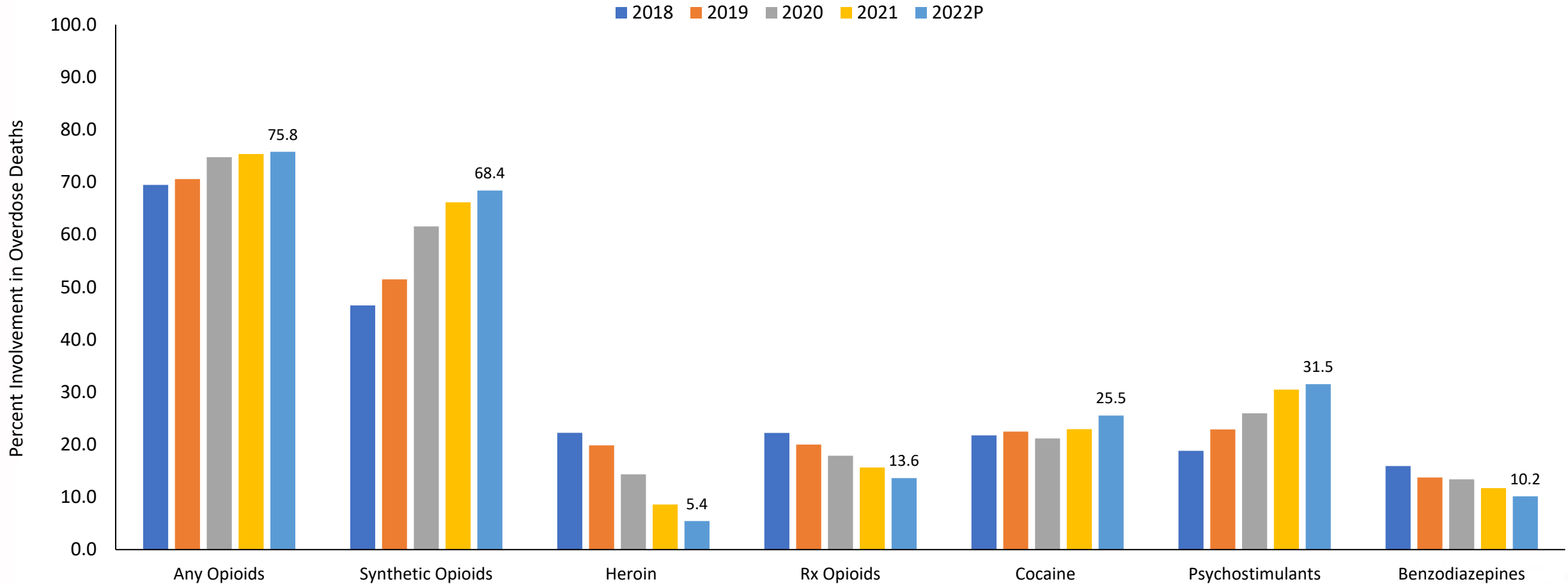
# Long-term Trends in Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths, by Opioid Type, 2001-2022P



# Substances Involved in Overdose Deaths, Percentages

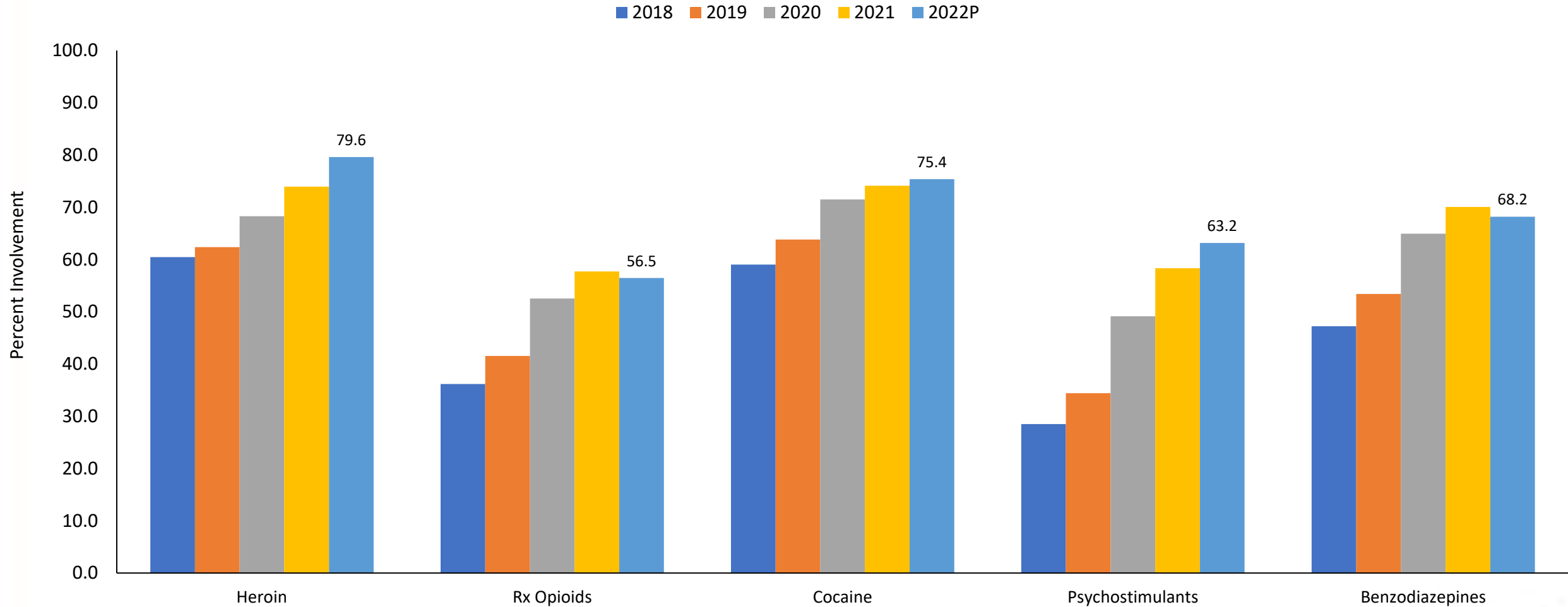
## Estimated > 107,000 Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. in 2022

Percent of Overdose Deaths Involving Specific Drug/Drug Class



# Synthetic Opioid Involvement in Overdose Deaths

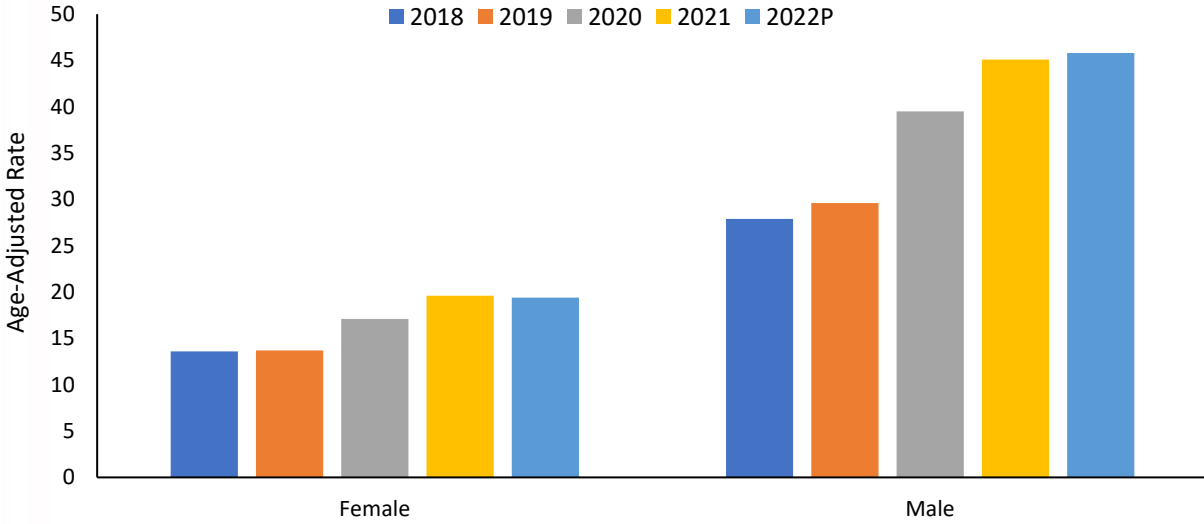
Percent of Overdose Deaths by Specific Drug or Drug Category Also Involving Synthetic Opioids



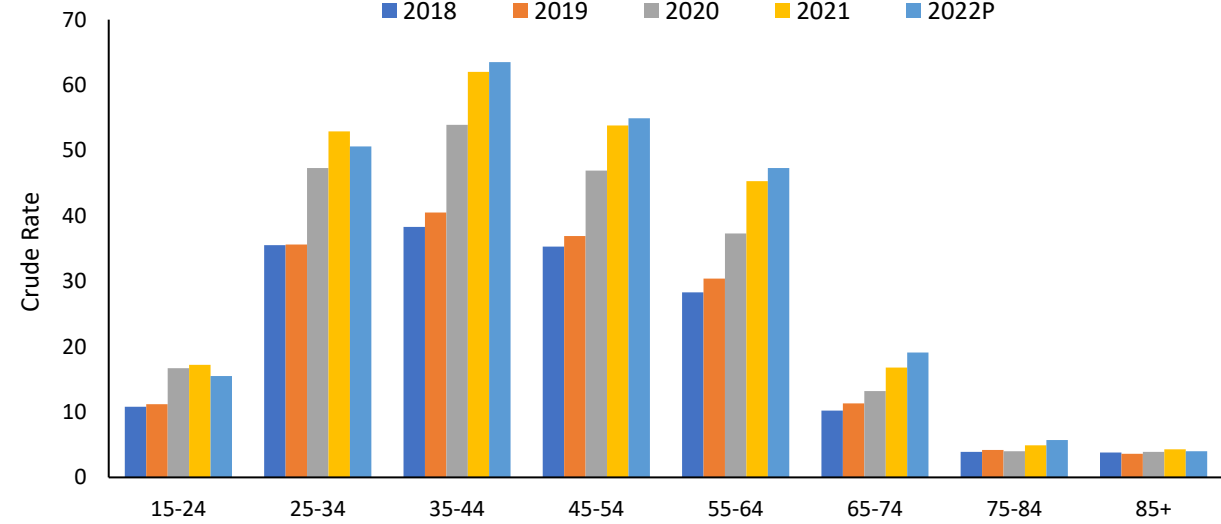
# Drug Overdose Death Trends by Select Demographics, 2018-2022P

Source: CDC NCHS. NVSS/WONDER, 2023. 2022 data are provisional as of 9/25/23

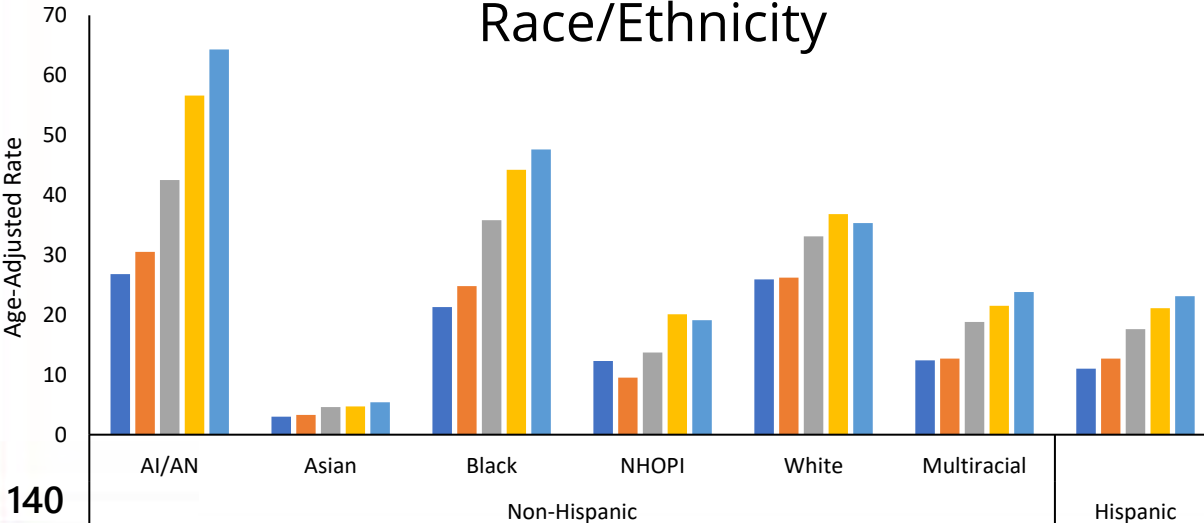
## Gender



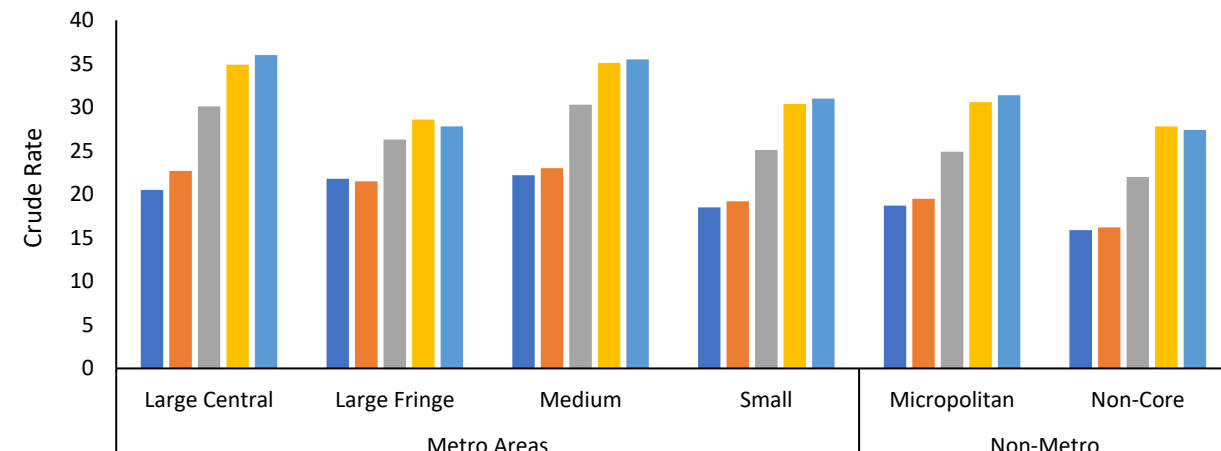
## Age



## Race/Ethnicity

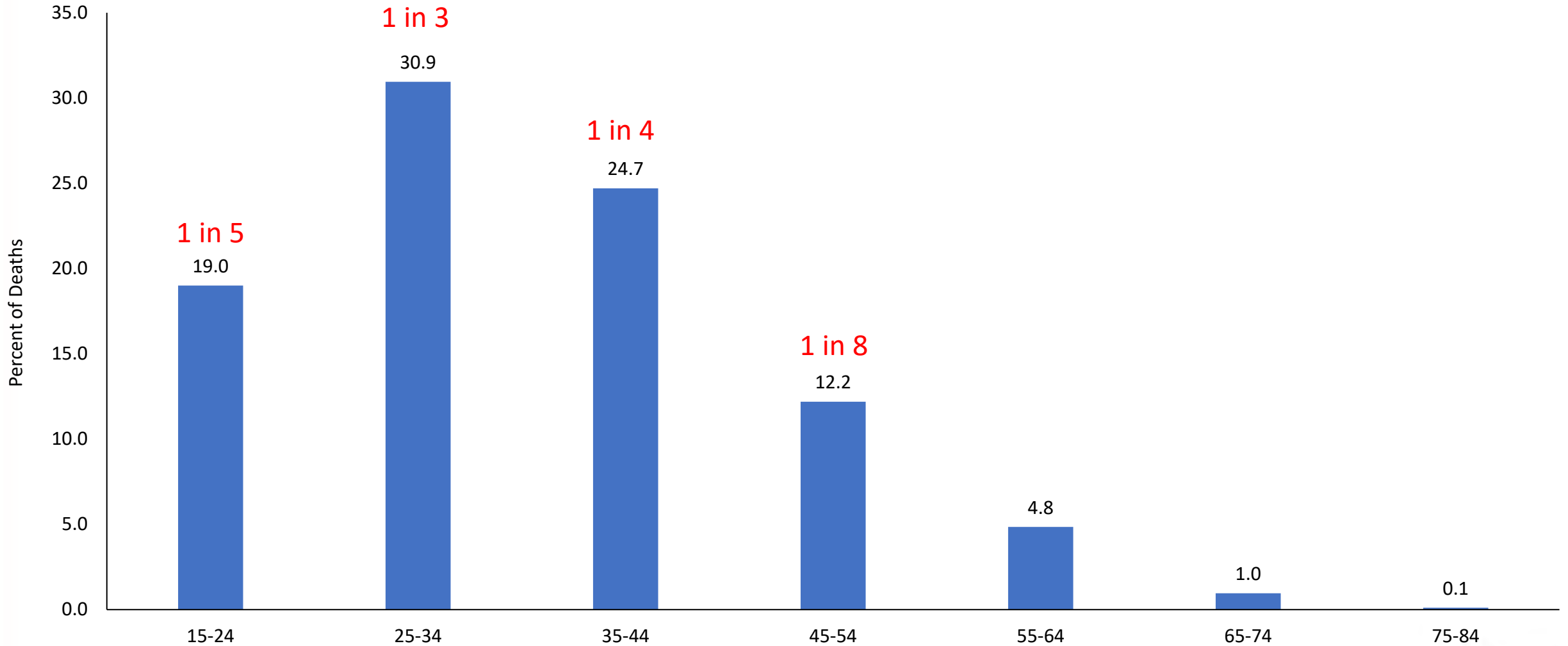


## Urbanization





# Percent of All Deaths by Age Group Due to Drug Overdose, 2022P

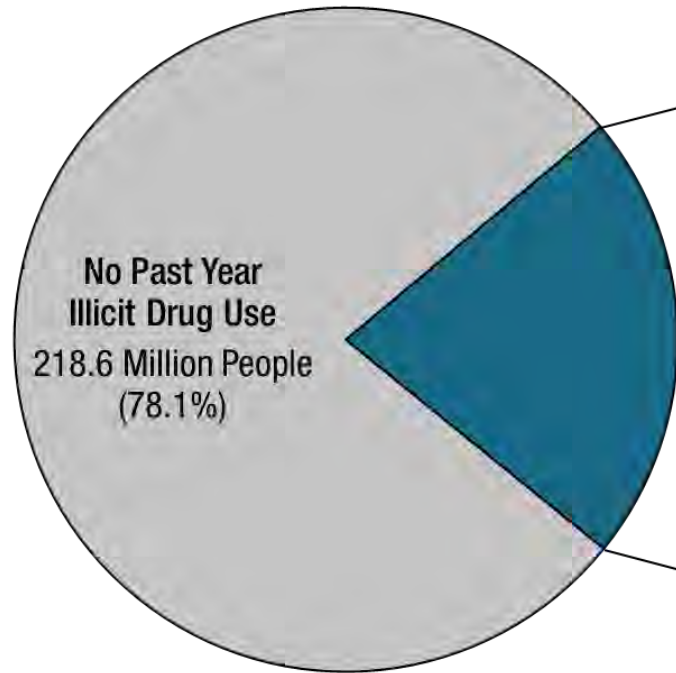


# Current Substance Use Trends

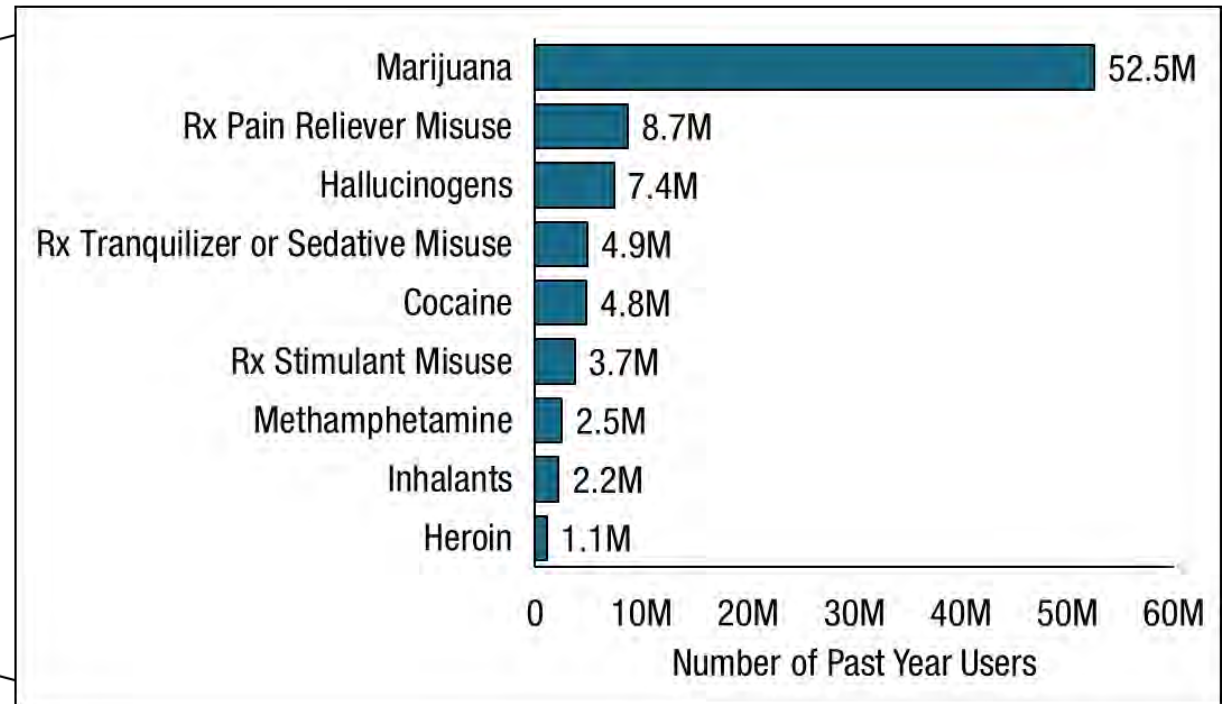


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# Past Year Illicit Drug Use: Among People Aged 12 or Older; 2021



Past Year  
Illicit Drug Use  
61.2 Million People  
(21.9%)



- 61.6M Past-month tobacco or nicotine vaping
- 133.0M Past-month alcohol use
- 60.0M Past-month binge alcohol use
- 16.3M Past-month heavy alcohol use

Rx = prescription.

Note: The estimated numbers of past year users of different illicit drugs are not mutually exclusive because people could have used more than one type of illicit drug in the past year.

Source: SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2021

# Past Year Substance Use Disorder (SUD): Among People Aged 12 or Older; 2021



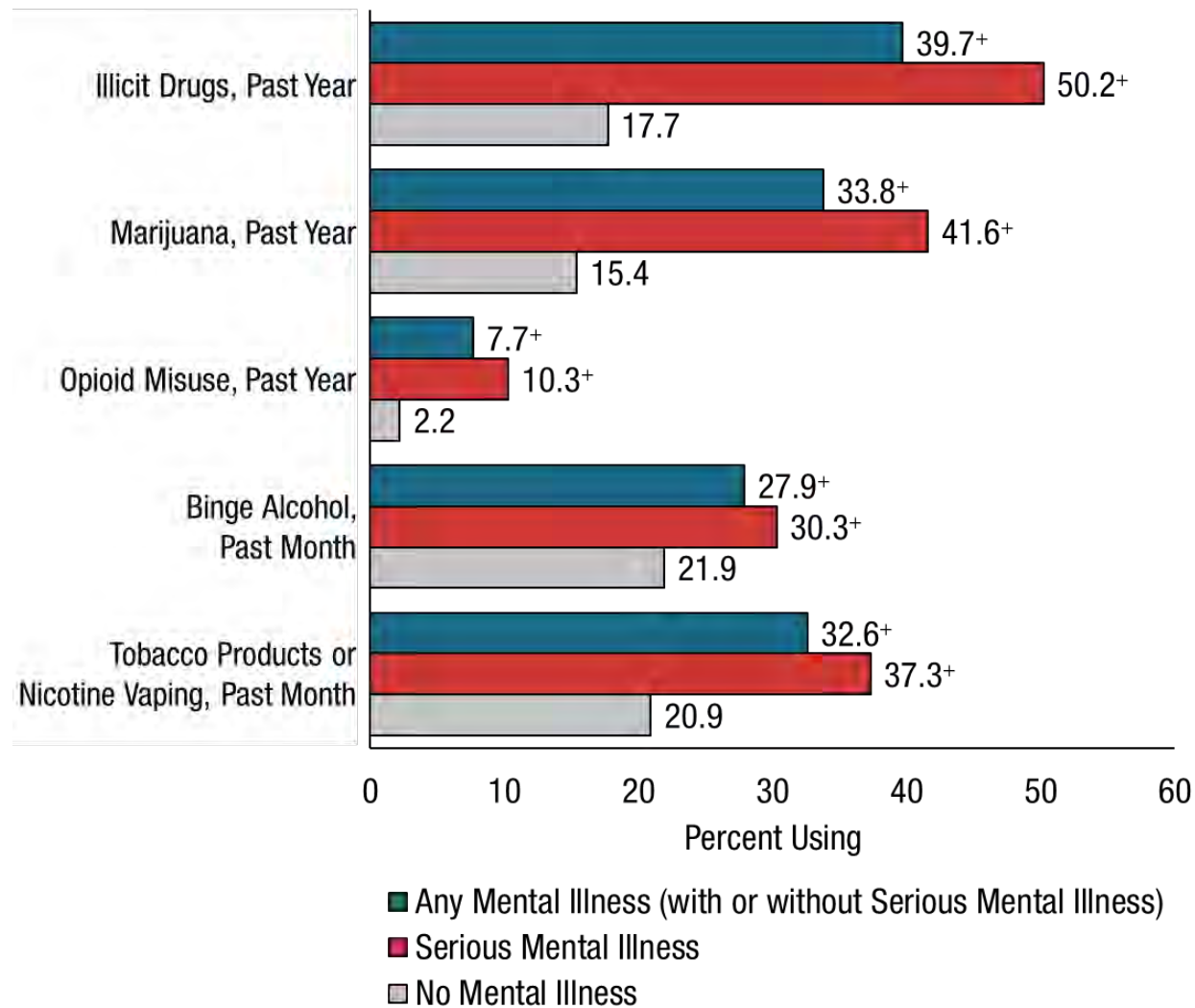
Note: The estimated numbers of people with substance use disorders are not mutually exclusive because people could have use disorders for more than one substance.

<sup>1</sup> Includes data from all past year users of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, methamphetamine, and prescription psychotherapeutic drugs (i.e., pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives).

<sup>2</sup> Includes data from all past year users of the specific prescription drug.

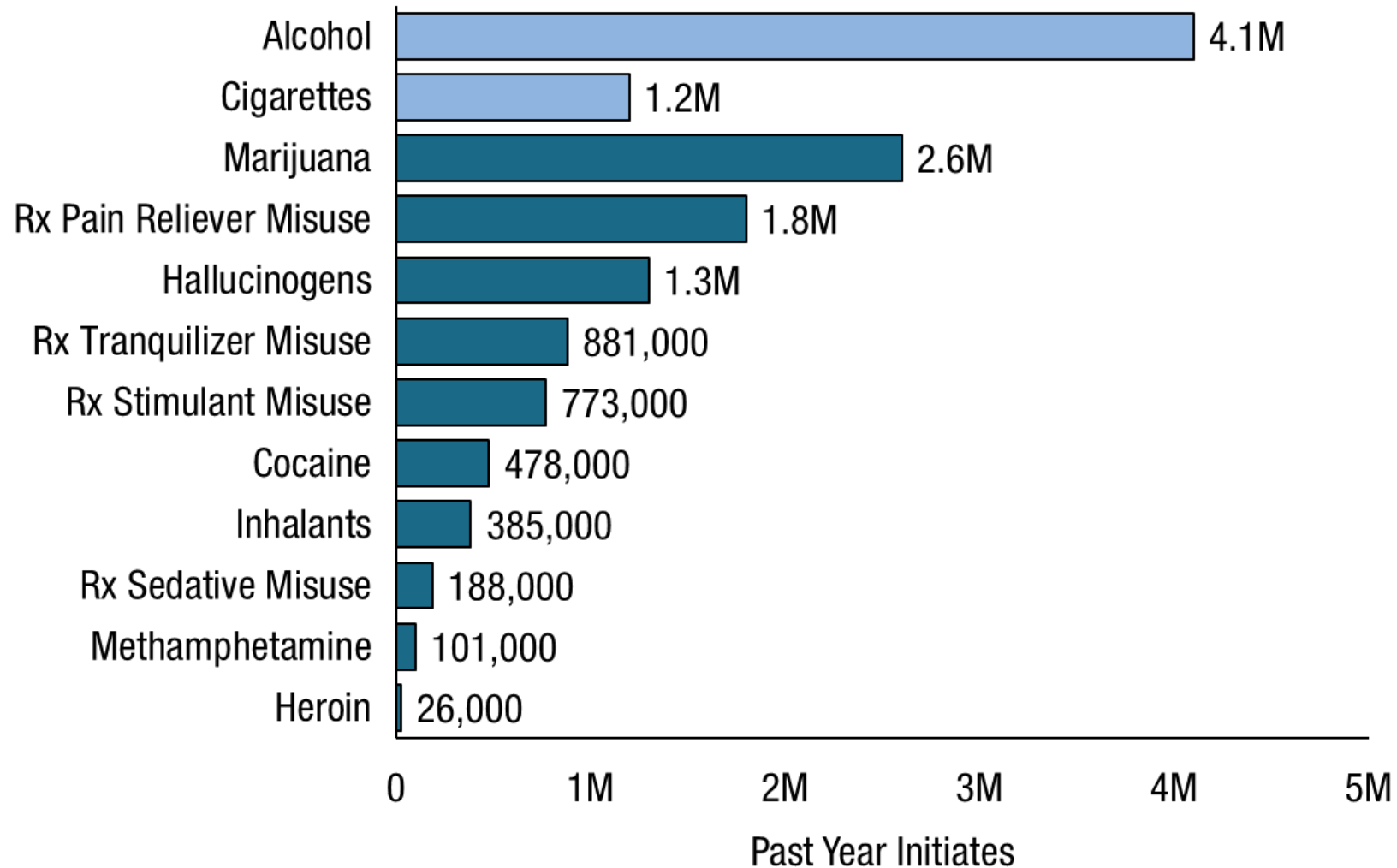
Source: SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2021

# Substance Use: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older; by Mental Illness Status, 2021



+ Difference between this estimate and the estimate for adults aged 18 or older without mental illness is statistically significant at the .05 level.

# Past Year Initiates of Substances: Among People Aged 12 or Older; 2021

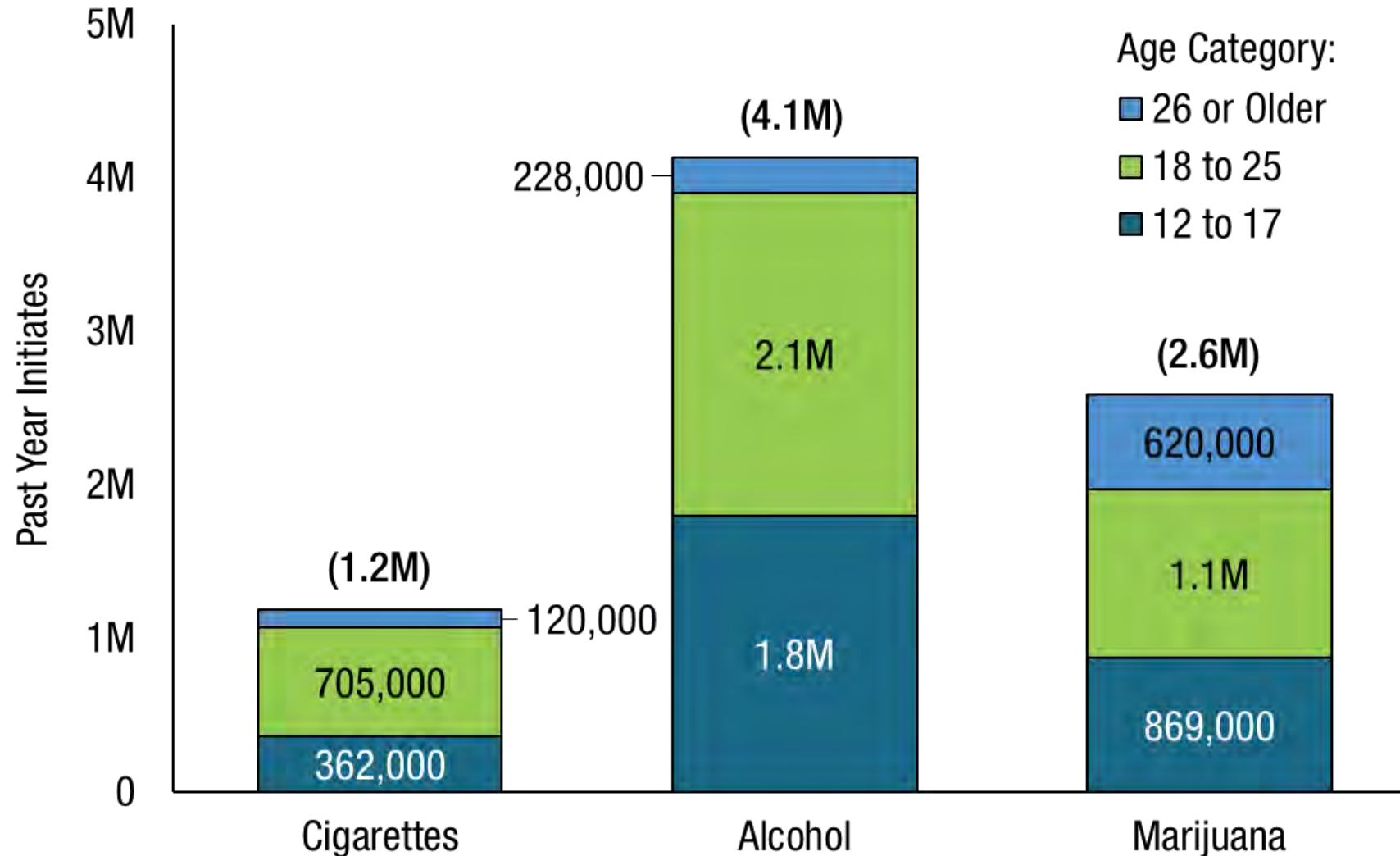


Rx = prescription.

Note: Estimates for prescription pain relievers, prescription tranquilizers, prescription stimulants, and prescription sedatives are for the initiation of misuse.



# Past Year Cigarette, Alcohol, and Marijuana Initiates: Among People Aged 12 or Older; 2021



Note: The number in parentheses above each bar shows the total number of past year initiates aged 12 or older for that category.

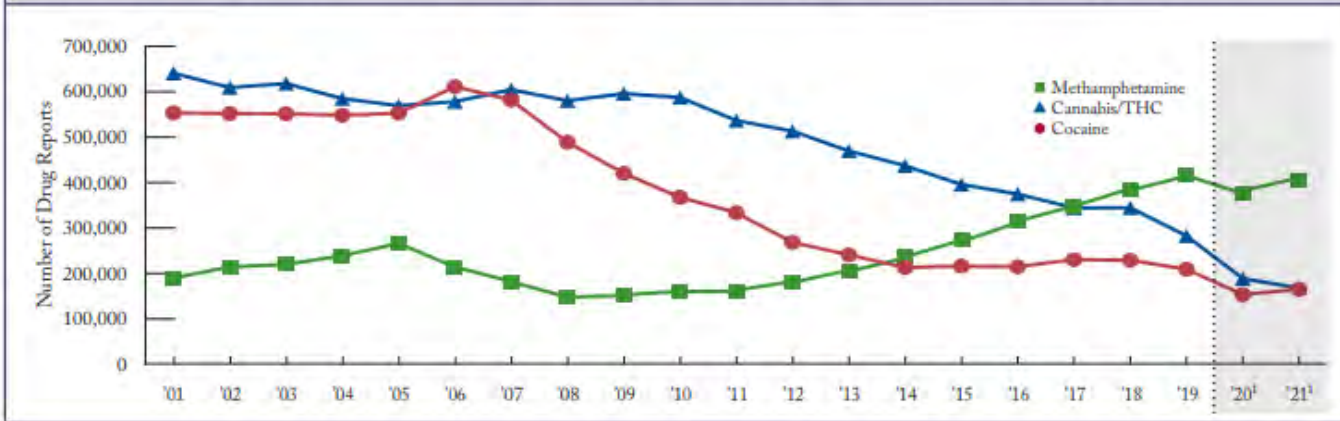
# Resurgent Methamphetamine



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# Historically High Levels of Availability, Purity, Potency, and Low Cost

**Figure A.3** National trend estimates for methamphetamine, cannabis/THC, and cocaine, January 2001–December 2021

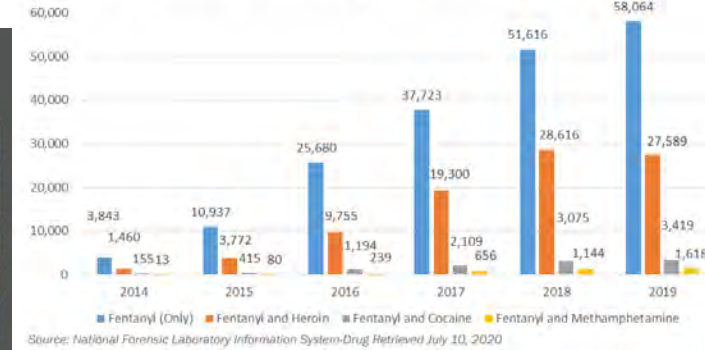


**Figure 49.** Counterfeit Adderall Tablets Containing Methamphetamine seized in Michigan



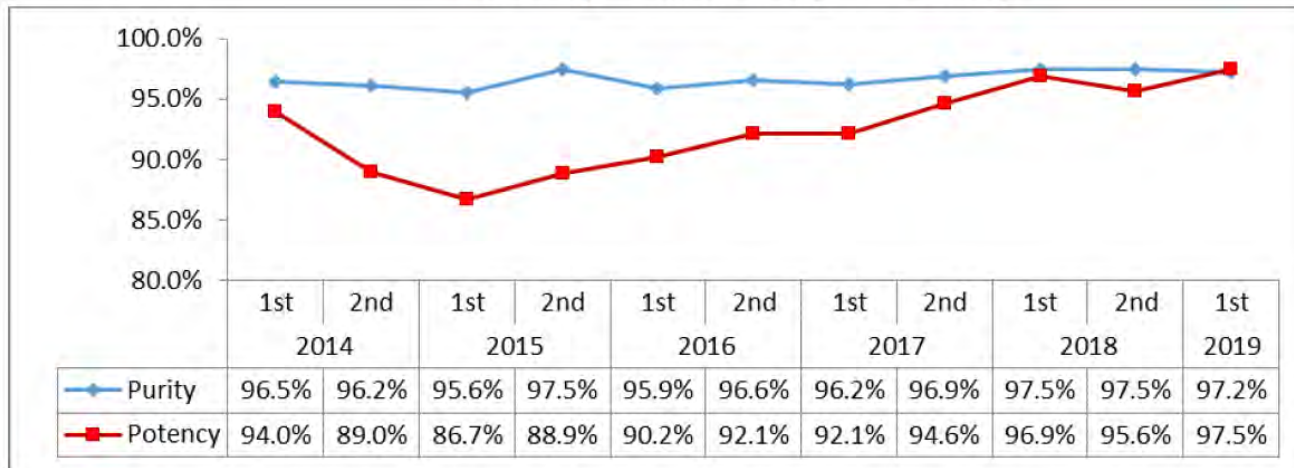
Source: Michigan State Police

**Figure 4.** Fentanyl Combination Reports to NFLIS-Drug, 2014 – 2019



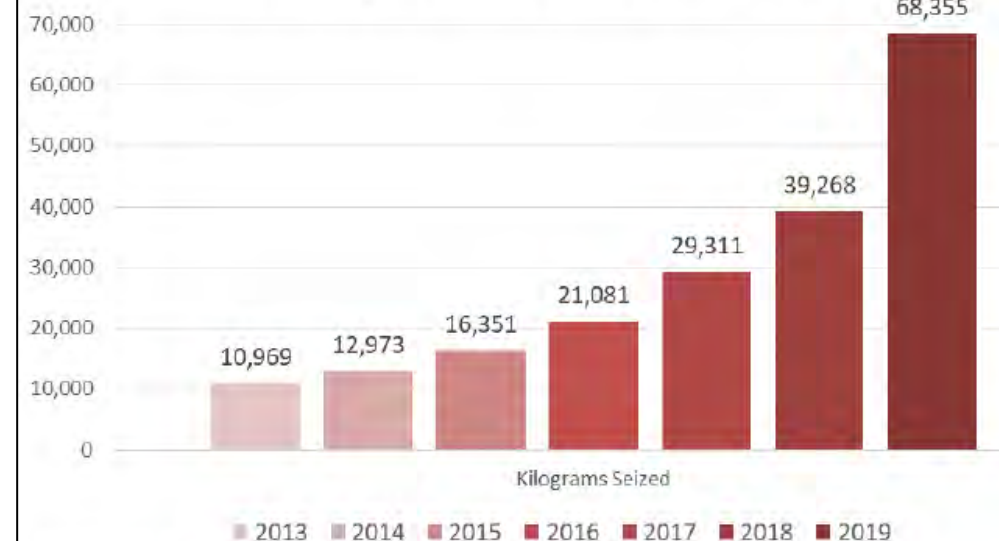
Source: National Forensic Laboratory Information System-Drug Retrieved July 10, 2020

**Methamphetamine Purity and Potency**



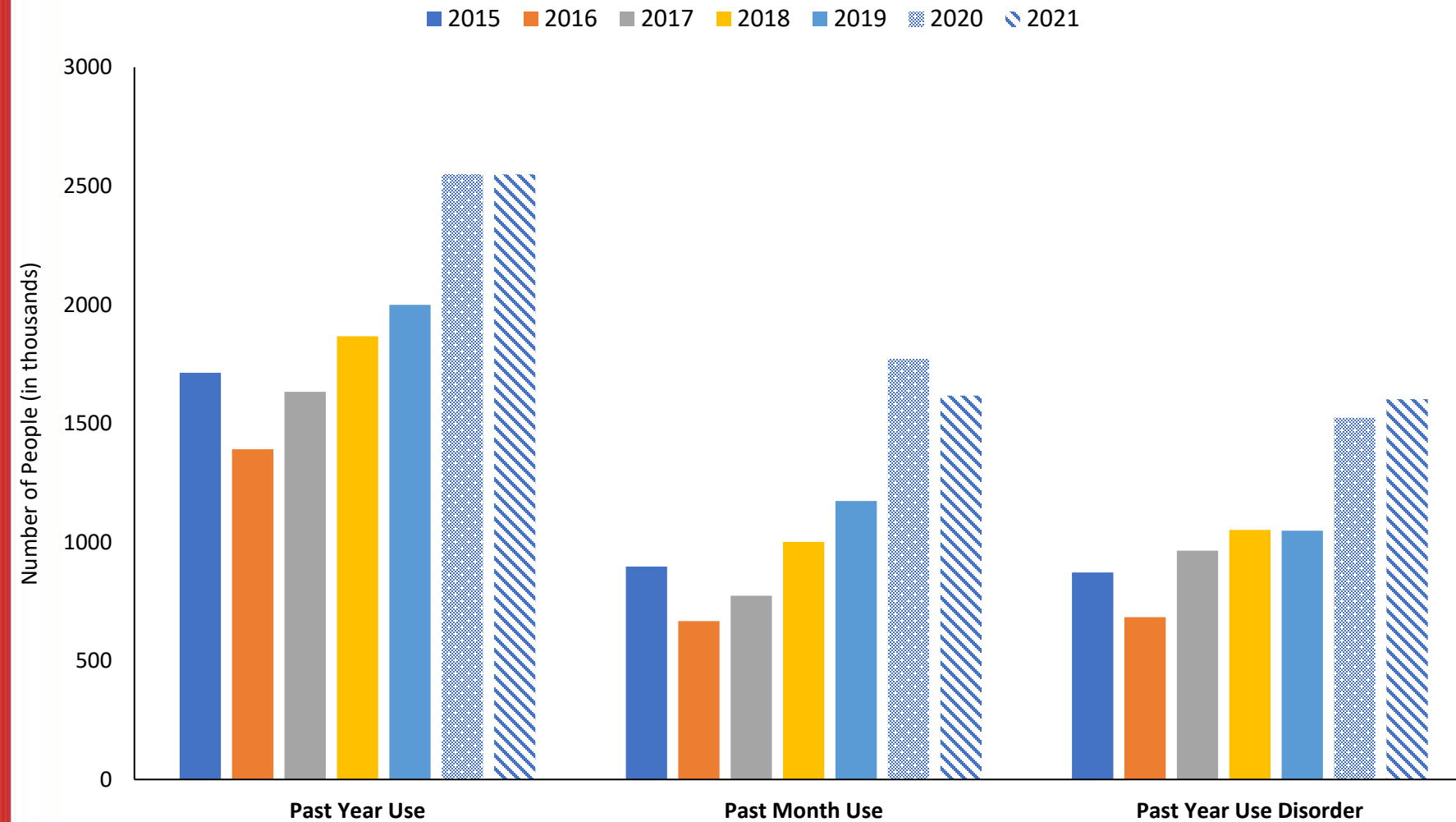
Source: DEA Methamphetamine Profiling Program

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection Southwest Border Methamphetamine Seizures, 2013 – 2019**



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

# Methamphetamine Trends – Community Data

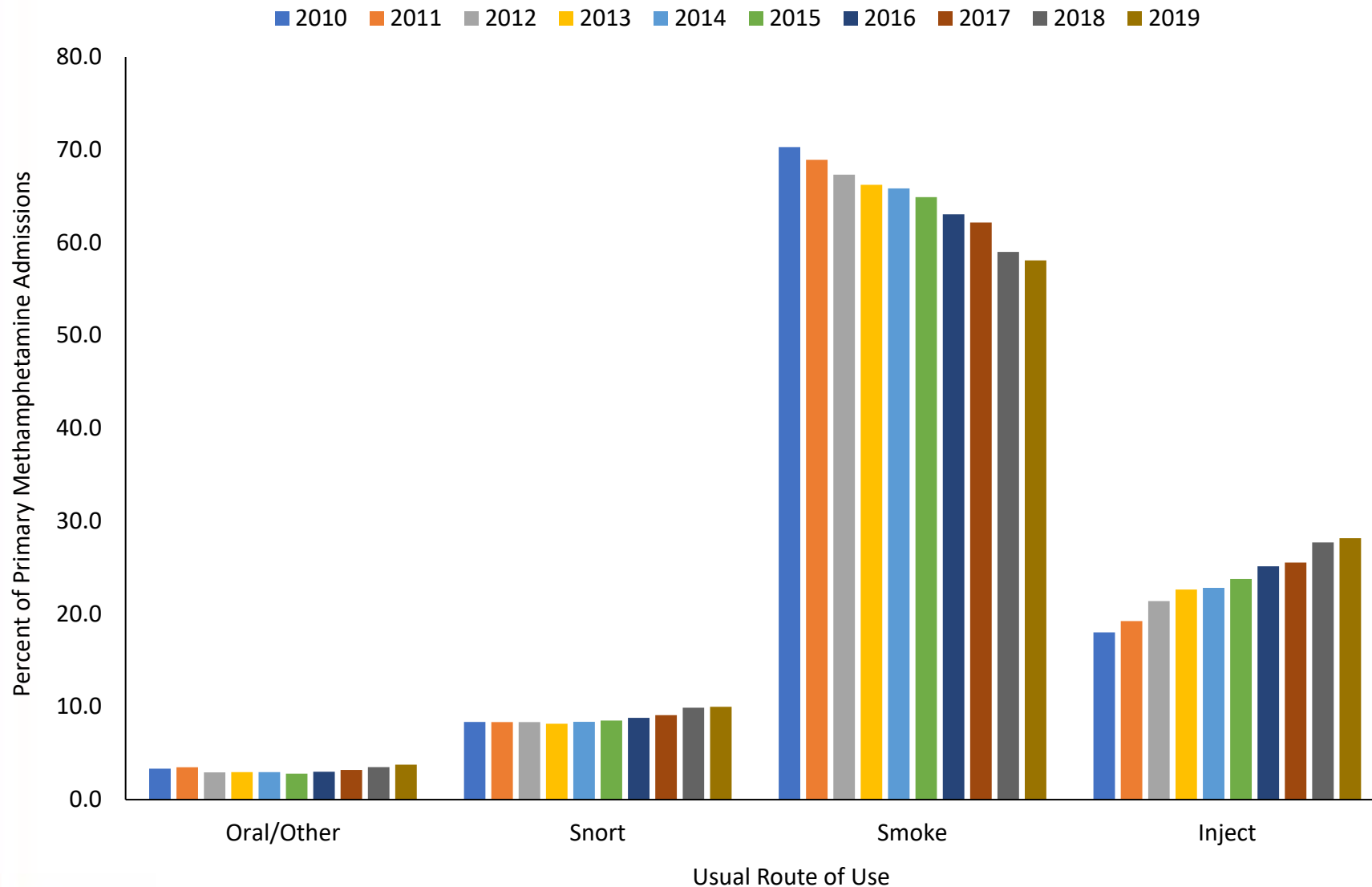


Due to changes in data collection, directly comparing 2020 and 2021 to prior years is not possible

From 2015 to 2019

- 43% Increase in methamphetamine use
- 66% Increase in frequent use
- 105% Increase in use disorder without injection
- Use disorder or injection more common than use without use disorder or injection each year from 2017-2019
- Increases were seen among most demographic groups

# Methamphetamine Trends – Treatment Data



- Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased from 1 in 8 admissions in 2010 to 1 in 4 in 2019
- Increases seen among:
  - Men and women
  - All age groups
  - Most racial/ethnic groups
  - All census regions
- Injection increased ~60%
  - Increases seen among most demographic groups
- In 2019, among those injecting
  - 56.0% reported heroin use
  - 44.8% reported Rx opioid use
  - 43.7% reported benzo use
  - 31.2% reported cocaine use
  - 28.6% reported marijuana use
  - 27.5% reported alcohol use

# Trends in Psychostimulant-Involved Overdose Deaths

**SINCE 2013**

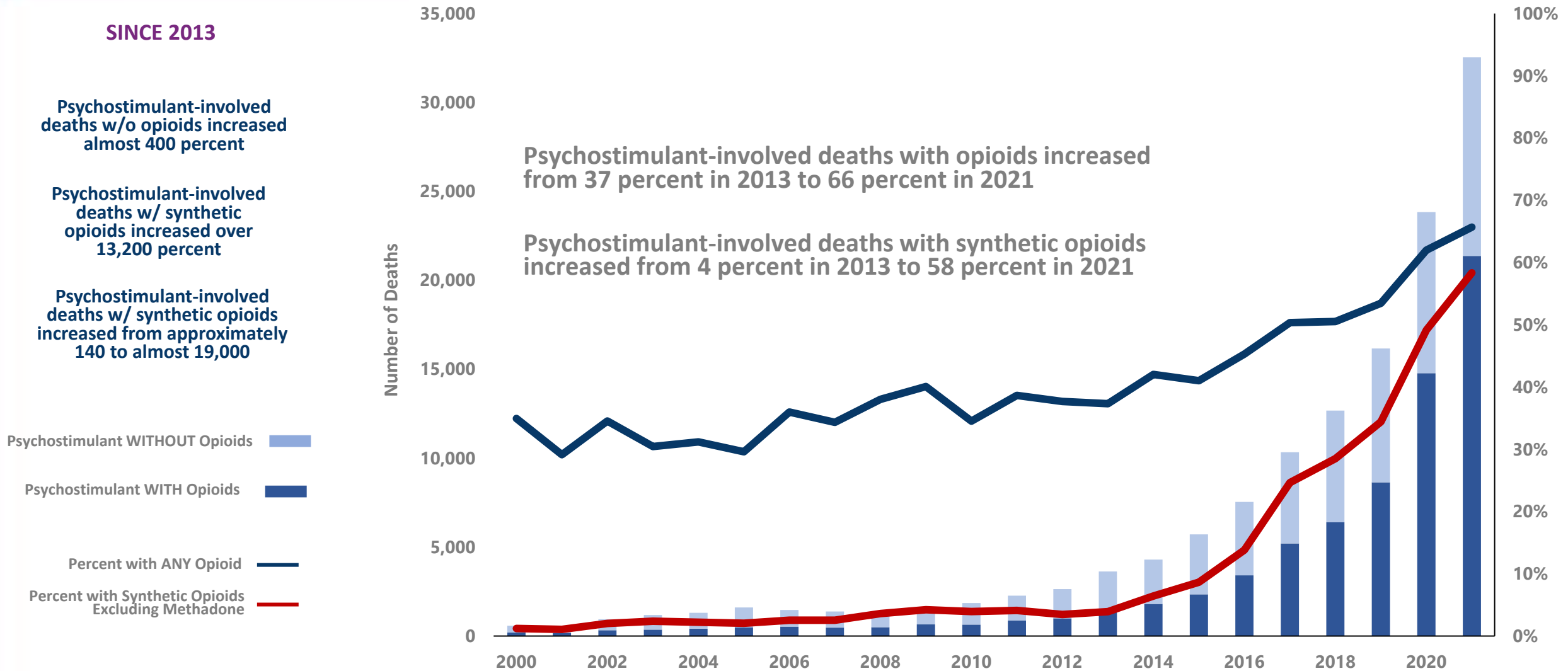
Psychostimulant-involved deaths w/o opioids increased almost 400 percent

Psychostimulant-involved deaths w/ synthetic opioids increased over 13,200 percent

Psychostimulant-involved deaths w/ synthetic opioids increased from approximately 140 to almost 19,000

Psychostimulant-involved deaths with opioids increased from 37 percent in 2013 to 66 percent in 2021

Psychostimulant-involved deaths with synthetic opioids increased from 4 percent in 2013 to 58 percent in 2021



# Youth Substance Use



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Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration



# Prevalence of High School Student Substance Use Generally Trending in Right Direction

## Alcohol and Other Substance Use Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Among High School Students — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021

Brooke E. Hoots, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Jingjing Li, PhD, MD<sup>2</sup>; Marci Feldman Hertz, MS<sup>2</sup>; Marissa B. Esser, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Adriana Rico, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Evelyn Y. Zavala, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH<sup>4</sup>

- **Approximately one third** of students (29%) reported current use of alcohol or marijuana or prescription opioid misuse
- Among those reporting current substance use, **approximately 34% used two or more substances** in 2021.

Behavior/Substance	Prevalence							Linear change <sup>†</sup>
	2009 %	2011 %	2013 %	2015 %	2017 %	2019 %	2021 %	
<b>Current use<sup>1</sup></b>								
Alcohol	41.8	38.7	34.9	32.8	29.8	29.2	22.7	Decreased 2009–2021
Marijuana	20.8	23.1	23.4	21.7	19.8	21.7	15.8	Decreased 2009–2021
Binge drinking	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.5	13.7	10.5	Decreased 2017–2021
Prescription opioid misuse	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.2	6.0	—
<b>Lifetime use</b>								
Alcohol	68.4	66.7	63.4	60.9	56.5	56.5	47.4	Decreased 2009–2021
Marijuana	36.8	39.9	40.7	38.6	35.6	36.8	27.8	Decreased 2009–2021
Inhalants	11.7	11.4	8.9	7.0	6.2	6.4	8.1	Decreased 2009–2021
Ecstasy	6.7	8.2	6.6	5.0	4.0	3.6	2.9	Decreased 2009–2021
Cocaine	6.4	6.8	5.5	5.2	4.8	3.9	2.5	Decreased 2009–2021
Methamphetamine	4.1	3.8	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.1	1.8	Decreased 2009–2021
Heroin	2.5	2.9	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.8	1.3	Decreased 2009–2021
Injection drug use	2.1	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.4	Decreased 2009–2021
Synthetic marijuana	NA	NA	NA	9.2	6.9	7.3	6.5	Decreased 2015–2021
Prescription opioid misuse	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.0	14.3	12.2	Decreased 2017–2021



# Youth Substance Use = Health Equity Issue

## Alcohol and Other Substance Use Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Among High School Students — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021

Brooke E. Hoots, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Jingjing Li, PhD, MD<sup>2</sup>; Marci Feldman Hertz, MS<sup>2</sup>; Marissa B. Esser, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Adriana Rico, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Evelyn Y. Zavala, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Christopher M. Jones, PharmD, DrPH<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Overdose Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC; <sup>2</sup>Division of Adolescent and School Health, National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC; <sup>3</sup>Division of Population Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC; <sup>4</sup>Office of the Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC

**TABLE 3. Prevalence of and changes in prevalence of current and lifetime use of specific substances among high school students, by race and ethnicity — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2019 and 2021\***

Behavior/Substance	Race and ethnicity <sup>†</sup>											
	Black or African American				White				Hispanic or Latino			
	2019 %	2021 %	PD (95% CI)	PR (95% CI)	2019 %	2021 %	PD (95% CI)	PR (95% CI)	2019 %	2021 %	PD (95% CI)	PR (95% CI)
<b>Current use<sup>§</sup></b>												
Alcohol	16.8	13.2 <sup>¶</sup>	-3.6 (-7.7 to 0.5)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	34.2	25.9	-8.3 (-11.4 to -5.3)**	0.8 (0.7 to 0.8)**	28.4	22.9 <sup>¶,††</sup>	-5.5 (-9.5 to -1.6)**	0.8 (0.7 to 1.0)**
Marijuana	21.7	20.5 <sup>¶</sup>	-1.2 (-5.4 to 2.9)	0.9 (0.8 to 1.2)	22.1	14.8	-7.3 (-10.2 to -4.5)**	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8)**	22.4	16.7 <sup>††</sup>	-5.7 (-9.2 to -2.2)**	0.7 (0.6 to 0.9)**
Binge drinking	6.2	4.1 <sup>¶</sup>	-2.2 (-4.8 to 0.5)	0.7 (0.4 to 1.0)	17.3	13.3	-4.0 (-6.6 to -1.4)**	0.8 (0.7 to 0.9)**	12.4	10.1 <sup>¶,††</sup>	-2.3 (-4.8 to 0.1)	0.8 (0.7 to 1.0)
Prescription opioid misuse	8.7	8.6 <sup>¶</sup>	-0.1 (-4.2 to 3.9)	1.0 (0.6 to 1.6)	5.5	4.6	-1.0 (-2.5 to 0.5)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	9.8	8.3 <sup>¶</sup>	-1.5 (-4.0 to 1.1)	0.9 (0.6 to 1.1)
<b>Lifetime use</b>												
Alcohol	47.2	39.4 <sup>¶</sup>	-7.8 (-13.5 to -2.0)**	0.8 (0.7 to 1.0)**	58.8	50.0	-8.8 (-12.0 to -5.6)**	0.9 (0.8 to 0.9)**	60.4	50.4 <sup>††</sup>	-10.0 (-14.5 to -5.5)**	0.8 (0.8 to 0.9)**
Marijuana	37.5	33.3 <sup>¶</sup>	-4.2 (-10.5 to 2.2)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	36.8	26.2	-10.7 (-14.1 to -7.2)**	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8)**	39.2	31.2 <sup>¶</sup>	-7.9 (-12.5 to -3.4)**	0.8 (0.7 to 0.9)**
Inhalants	7.2	7.0	-0.2 (-2.5 to 2.1)	1.0 (0.7 to 1.3)	6.3	8.3	1.9 (0.3 to 3.6)**	1.3 (1.1 to 1.6)**	6.6	8.2	1.6 (-0.1 to 3.3)	1.2 (1.0 to 1.6)
Ecstasy	3.8	2.7	-1.1 (-2.9 to 0.7)	0.7 (0.4 to 1.2)	2.7	2.9	0.1 (-0.9 to 1.2)	1.1 (0.7 to 1.5)	4.4	2.7	-1.7 (-2.7 to -0.7)**	0.6 (0.5 to 0.8)**
Cocaine	4.0	1.9	-2.1 (-3.8 to -0.4)**	0.5 (0.3 to 0.8)**	2.9	2.4	-0.5 (-1.4 to 0.4)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.1)	5.6	2.9	-2.7 (-4.4 to -1.0)**	0.5 (0.3 to 0.8)**
Methamphetamine	3.8	2.0	-1.9 (-3.7 to 0.0)	0.5 (0.3 to 0.9)**	1.2	1.4	0.2 (-0.3 to 0.7)	1.2 (0.8 to 1.7)	2.7	2.3 <sup>¶</sup>	-0.4 (-1.6 to 0.8)	0.9 (0.5 to 1.3)
Heroin	3.4	1.7	-1.7 (-3.4 to -0.1)**	0.5 (0.3 to 0.9)**	0.9	1.0	0.1 (-0.3 to 0.5)	1.2 (0.8 to 1.8)	2.4	1.6 <sup>¶</sup>	-0.9 (-2.1 to 0.4)	0.7 (0.4 to 1.1)
Injection drug use	2.9	1.9	-0.9 (-3.0 to 1.1)	0.7 (0.3 to 1.5)	0.8	1.1	0.3 (-0.3 to 0.8)	1.4 (0.8 to 2.4)	2.5	1.8	-0.7 (-1.8 to 0.3)	0.7 (0.4 to 1.2)
Synthetic marijuana	5.7	6.8	1.1 (-1.2 to 3.3)	1.2 (0.8 to 1.7)	6.7	6.5	-0.2 (-1.6 to 1.3)	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)	9.8	6.8	-3.1 (-4.9 to -1.3)**	0.7 (0.6 to 0.9)**
Prescription opioid misuse	15.3	13.6	-1.7 (-5.4 to 1.9)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	12.7	11.2	-1.4 (-3.7 to 0.8)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)	16.0	13.8	-2.2 (-5.5 to 1.2)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.1)

**TABLE 2. Prevalence of and changes in prevalence of current and lifetime use of specific substances among high school students, by sex — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2019 and 2021\***

Behavior/Substance	Sex							
	Male				Female			
	2019 %	2021 %	PD (95% CI)	PR (95% CI)	2019 %	2021 %	PD (95% CI)	PR (95% CI)
<b>Current use<sup>†</sup></b>								
Alcohol	26.4	18.8	-7.7 (-0.3 to -5.1) <sup>§</sup>	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8) <sup>§</sup>	31.9	26.8 <sup>¶</sup>	-5.1 (-8.3 to -1.9) <sup>§</sup>	0.8 (0.8 to 0.9) <sup>§</sup>
Marijuana	22.5	13.6	-8.9 (-1.3 to -6.4) <sup>§</sup>	0.6 (0.5 to 0.7) <sup>§</sup>	20.8	17.8 <sup>¶</sup>	-3.0 (-6.0 to 0.0)	0.9 (0.7 to 1.0)
Binge drinking	12.7	9.0	-3.7 (-5.6 to -1.7) <sup>§</sup>	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8) <sup>§</sup>	14.6	12.2 <sup>¶</sup>	-2.5 (-5.2 to 0.2)	0.8 (0.7 to 1.0)
Prescription opioid misuse	6.1	4.0	-2.1 (-3.5 to -0.8) <sup>§</sup>	0.7 (0.5 to 0.9) <sup>§</sup>	8.3	8.0 <sup>¶</sup>	-0.3 (-2.2 to 1.6)	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)
<b>Lifetime use</b>								
Alcohol	53.1	42.0	-11.1 (-14.2 to -8.0) <sup>§</sup>	0.8 (0.7 to 0.8) <sup>§</sup>	60.0	53.2 <sup>¶</sup>	-6.9 (-10.2 to -3.5) <sup>§</sup>	0.9 (0.8 to 0.9) <sup>§</sup>
Marijuana	37.0	24.8	-12.3 (-15.9 to -8.7) <sup>§</sup>	0.7 (0.6 to 0.8) <sup>§</sup>	36.5	30.9 <sup>¶</sup>	-5.6 (-9.3 to -1.9) <sup>§</sup>	0.9 (0.8 to 1.0) <sup>§</sup>
Inhalants	5.7	6.8	1.1 (-0.1 to 2.3)	1.2 (1.0 to 1.5)	6.9	9.4 <sup>¶</sup>	2.5 (1.1 to 3.9) <sup>§</sup>	1.4 (1.1 to 1.6) <sup>§</sup>
Ecstasy	4.6	2.9	-1.7 (-2.8 to -0.7) <sup>§</sup>	0.6 (0.5 to 0.8) <sup>§</sup>	2.4	2.7	0.4 (-0.5 to 1.3)	1.2 (0.8 to 1.7)
Cocaine	4.9	2.6	-2.3 (-3.3 to -1.4) <sup>§</sup>	0.5 (0.4 to 0.7) <sup>§</sup>	2.7	2.2	-0.5 (-1.6 to 0.5)	0.8 (0.5 to 1.2)
Methamphetamine	2.7	1.9	-0.8 (-1.6 to 0.0)	0.7 (0.5 to 1.0)	1.5	1.4	-0.1 (-0.8 to 0.6)	1.0 (0.6 to 1.5)
Heroin	2.3	1.6	-0.7 (-1.5 to 0.1)	0.7 (0.5 to 1.0)	1.0	0.8 <sup>¶</sup>	-0.3 (-0.9 to 0.4)	0.8 (0.4 to 1.5)
Injection drug use	2.1	1.7	-0.4 (-1.2 to 0.4)	0.8 (0.5 to 1.2)	1.1	0.9 <sup>¶</sup>	-0.2 (-0.9 to 0.6)	0.9 (0.4 to 1.8)
Synthetic marijuana	7.2	5.8	-1.4 (-2.9 to 0.1)	0.8 (0.6 to 1.0)	7.4	7.1	-0.3 (-1.9 to 1.3)	1.0 (0.8 to 1.2)
Prescription opioid misuse	12.4	9.5	-2.9 (-4.7 to -1.2) <sup>§</sup>	0.8 (0.7 to 0.9) <sup>§</sup>	16.1	14.8 <sup>¶</sup>	-1.4 (-3.9 to 1.1)	0.9 (0.8 to 1.1)






**TABLE 4. Prevalence of current and lifetime use of specific substances among high school students, by sexual identity — Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021\***

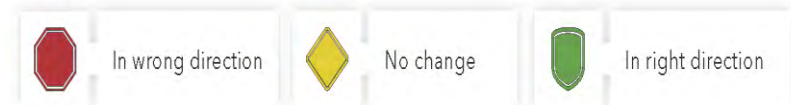
Behavior/Substance	Heterosexual %	Lesbian, gay, or bisexual %	Questioning or other %
<b>Current use<sup>†</sup></b>			
Alcohol	21.6	29.3 <sup>§</sup>	20.9 <sup>¶</sup>
Marijuana	14.0	25.6 <sup>§</sup>	16.5 <sup>¶,†</sup>
Binge drinking	10.3	13.6 <sup>§</sup>	7.6 <sup>¶,†</sup>
Prescription opioid misuse	4.3	11.7 <sup>§</sup>	10.3 <sup>§</sup>
<b>Lifetime use</b>			
Alcohol	45.8	58.0 <sup>§</sup>	46.2 <sup>¶</sup>
Marijuana	25.8	41.2 <sup>§</sup>	27.5 <sup>¶</sup>
Inhalants	6.0	15.1 <sup>§</sup>	13.4 <sup>§</sup>
Ecstasy	2.1	6.0 <sup>§</sup>	3.9 <sup>¶,†</sup>
Cocaine	1.8	4.4 <sup>§</sup>	3.1 <sup>§</sup>
Methamphetamine	1.1	3.4 <sup>§</sup>	3.0 <sup>§</sup>
Heroin	0.8	1.9 <sup>§</sup>	2.4 <sup>§</sup>
Injection drug use	1.0	1.9 <sup>§</sup>	2.7 <sup>§</sup>
Synthetic marijuana	5.9	9.7 <sup>§</sup>	6.1 <sup>¶</sup>
Prescription opioid misuse	9.4	21.5 <sup>§</sup>	18.6 <sup>§</sup>

# Nearly Every Indicator of Youth Mental Health is Getting Worse

IN 2021

- Nearly 60% of female students and nearly 70% of LGBTQ+ students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness.
- 10% of female students and more than 20% of LGBTQ+ students attempted suicide.
- Hispanic and multiracial students were more likely than Asian, Black, and White students to have persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness.

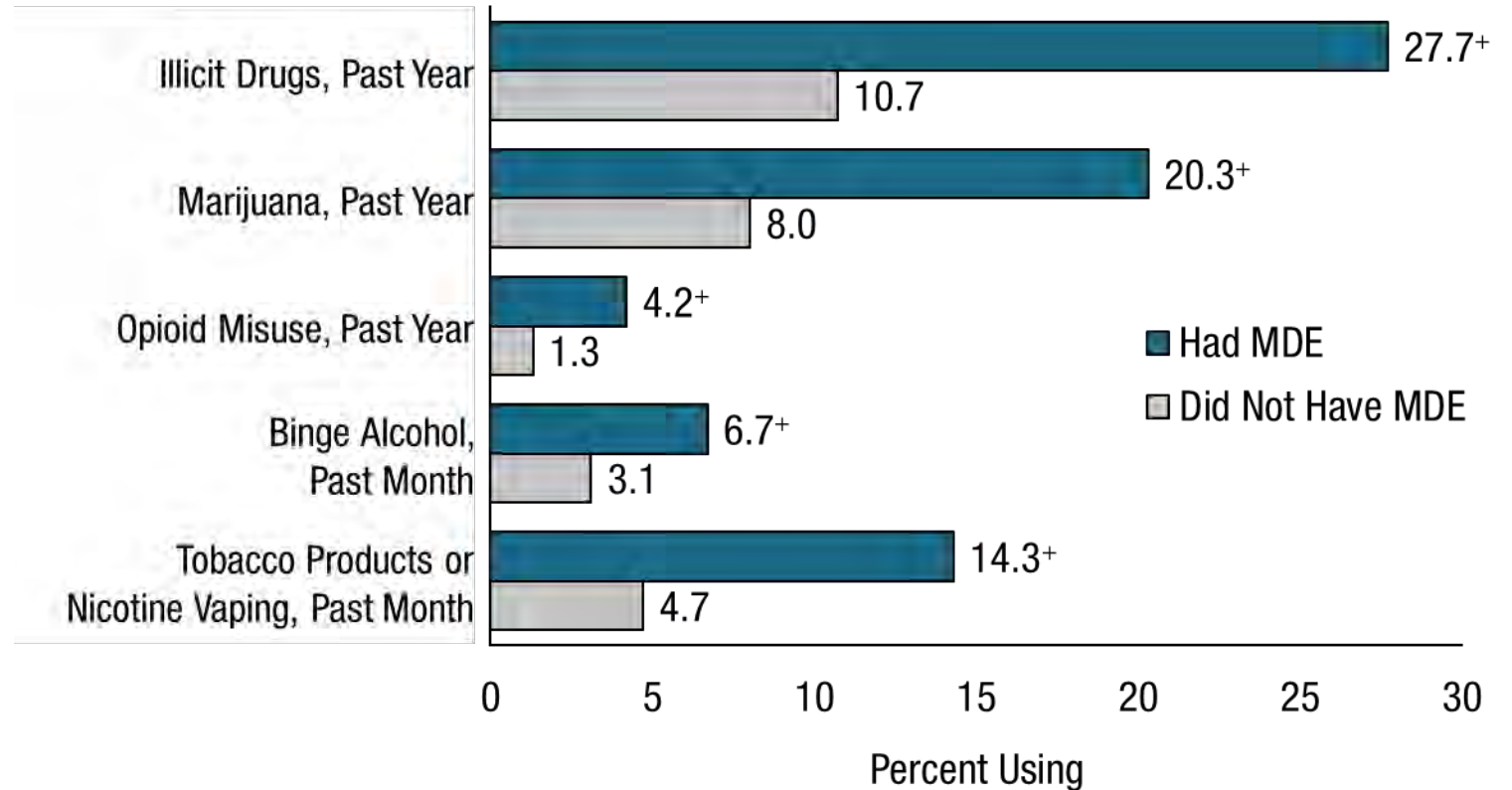
The Percentage of High School Students Who:*	2011 Total	2013 Total	2015 Total	2017 Total	2019 Total	2021 Total	Trend
Experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness	28	30	30	31	37	42	
Experienced poor mental health†	–	–	–	–	–	29	–
Seriously considered attempting suicide	16	17	18	17	19	22	
Made a suicide plan	13	14	15	14	16	18	
Attempted suicide	8	8	9	7	9	10	
Were injured in a suicide attempt that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	2	3	3	2	3	3	





# Connection Between Youth Mental Health and Substance Use

*Substance use among people 12-17 years old is greater if you had a Major Depressive Episode (MDE)*



+

Difference between this estimate and the estimate for youths without MDE is statistically significant at the .05 level.

Note: Youth respondents with unknown MDE data were excluded.

# The Substance Use Landscape Is Changing

## Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl–Involved Overdose Deaths with Detected Xylazine — United States, January 2019–June 2022

Mbabazi Kariisa, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Julie O'Donnell, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Sagar Kumar, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Christine L. Mattson, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Bruce A. Goldberger, PhD<sup>2</sup>

## Illicit Benzodiazepines Detected in Patients Evaluated in Emergency Departments for Suspected Opioid Overdose — Four States, October 6, 2020–March 9, 2021

Kim Aldy, DO<sup>1,2</sup>; Desiree Mustaquim, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Sharan Campleman, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Alison Meyn, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Stephanie Abston<sup>1</sup>; Alex Krotulski, PhD<sup>4</sup>; Barry Logan, PhD<sup>4,5</sup>; Matthew R. Gladden, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Adrienne Hughes, MD<sup>6</sup>; Alexandra Amaducci, DO<sup>7</sup>; Joshua Shulman, MD<sup>8</sup>; Evan Schwarz, MD<sup>9</sup>; Paul Wax, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Jeffrey Brent, MD, PhD<sup>10</sup>; Alex Manini, MD<sup>11</sup>; the Toxicology Investigators Consortium Fentalog Study Group

## Trends in Nonfatal and Fatal Overdoses Involving Benzodiazepines — 38 States and the District of Columbia, 2019–2020

Stephen Liu, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Julie O'Donnell, PhD<sup>1</sup>; R. Matt Gladden, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Londell McGlone, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Farnaz Chowdhury<sup>2</sup>

RESEARCH

Open Access

## Signals of increasing co-use of stimulants and opioids from online drug forum data

Abeed Sarker<sup>1\*</sup>, Mohammed Ali Al-Garadi<sup>1</sup>, Yao Ge<sup>1</sup>, Nisha Nataraj<sup>2</sup>, Christopher M. Jones<sup>2</sup> and Steven A. Sumner<sup>2</sup>



## Increases in Availability of Cannabis Products Containing Delta-8 THC and Reported Cases of Adverse Events

[Print](#)

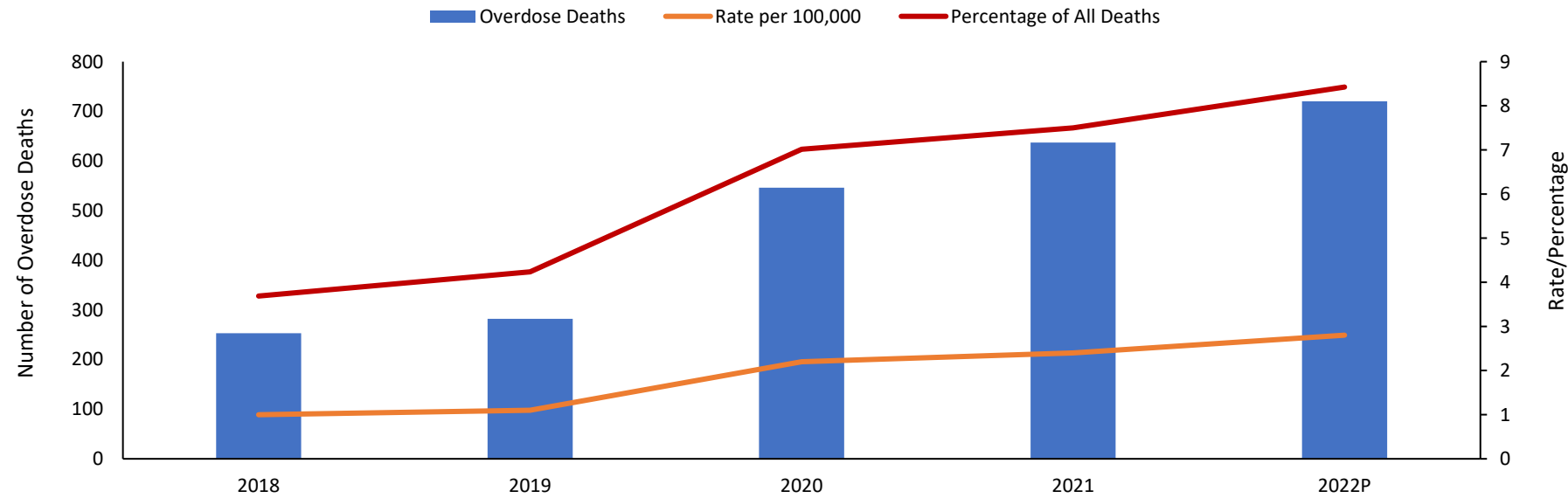


# Substance Use Has Never Been Riskier – Across the Spectrum



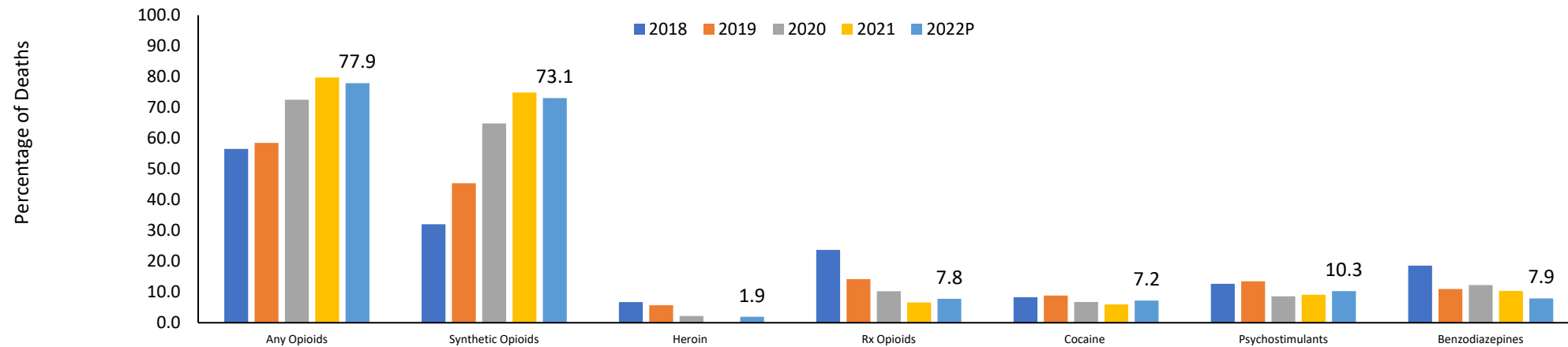
- The risk of drug overdose is elevated with any use of illicitly manufactured fentanyl, given its potency, lethality, and the variability in the illicit supply.
- Historically, risk for a non-fatal or fatal overdose grew as frequency of use grew.
- In a toxic and unpredictable drug environment facilitated by the continued proliferation of fake pills, the risk of death is elevated across the continuum – from those initiating to those with long-standing use disorders.
- The increases in deaths among youth and young adults as well as the increase in polydrug deaths involving fentanyl in all age groups are two markers of this elevated risk.

# Overdose Deaths Among 12-17 Year Olds Increasing In Recent Years



185% increase in OD deaths between 2018 and 2022

### Substances Involved in Overdose Deaths





# Expanding Prevention Efforts: Where do we go from here?



***SAMHSA***  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# Expanding How We Think About Risk & Protective Factors

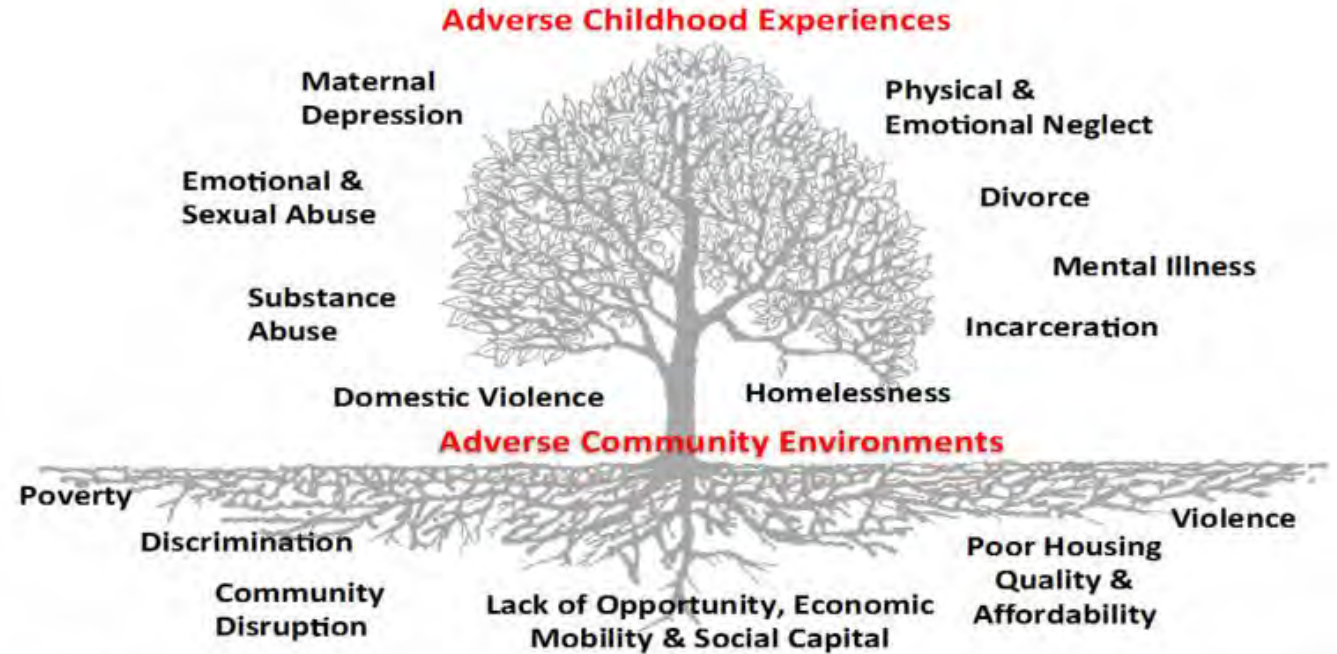
## Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health  
Copyright-free

Healthy People 2030

## The Pair of ACEs



Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. *Academic Pediatrics*. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011



**SAMHSA**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# Substance Use Risk Factors – Socioecological Model

## Individual

## Relationship

## Community

## Societal

- Genetic factors
- Initiating substance use early
- Low risk perception of use
- Peers who use substances
- Perception that use of substances among peers is high
- Emotional distress or aggressiveness that starts early and is persistent
- Mental health challenges

- Substance use in the family and home
- Parental mental health challenges
- Family conflict, abuse, or neglect
- Parents who favorably view or approve of substance use
- Lack of family connectedness

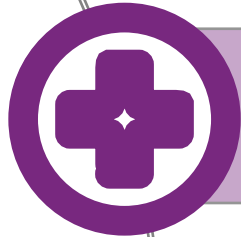
- Lack of community connectedness and supports
- Community norms favorable toward alcohol and drugs
- Violence in schools or community
- Availability and costs of drugs and alcohol
- Poverty

- Lack of economic and educational opportunities
- Inadequate housing
- Disinvestment
- Discrimination
- Social norms
- Laws and policy environment

# Where do we go from here?



Strengthen upstream prevention focusing on key risk & protective factors



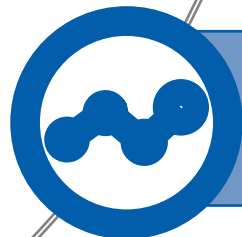
Support harm reduction and expand the provision and use of naloxone, and overdose prevention education



Expand treatment for substance use disorders (e.g., MOUD) and wrap around services and supports, including recovery support services



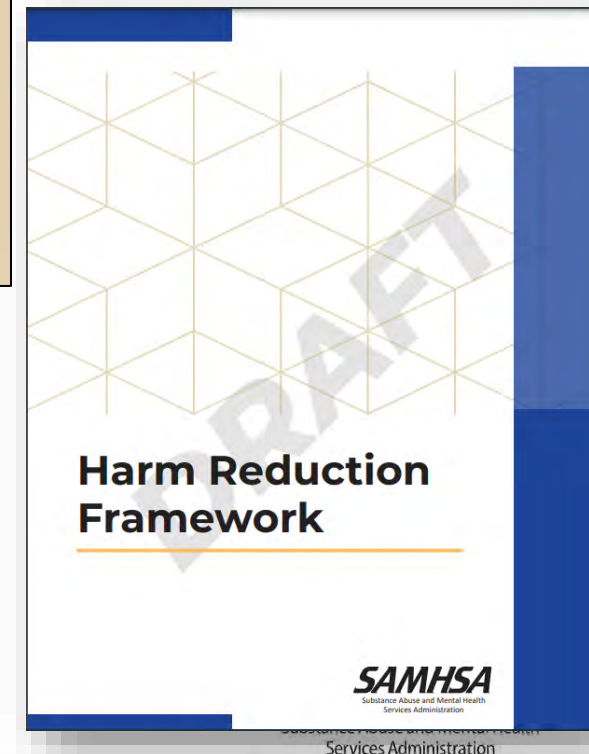
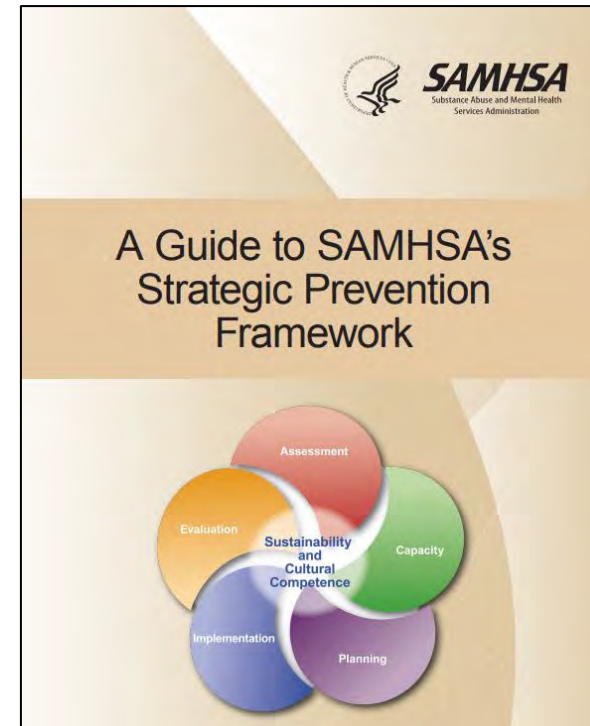
Intervene early with individuals at the highest risk for overdose



Improve detection of overdose outbreaks due to fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and other drugs to facilitate an effective response

# A Comprehensive Path Forward to Meet the Moment

- Data-driven incorporating the changing substance landscape
- Equity lens
  - Centered in the voices and experiences of the community(ies) being served
- Think comprehensively
  - Individual
  - Relationship
  - Community
  - Societal
- Evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence
- Broaden tent of partners
- Check assumptions and potential unintended consequences
- Evaluating, innovating, and continuing to build the evidence base are critical







# Questions?





# The Leading Provider of In-Home Addiction Treatment



Brian Holzer MD, MBA | CEO

Company snapshot | 2023

# At home with our clients since 2011

## Our Mission

We treat **addiction** differently by bringing **collaborative care** with **lived experience** to the **home**, empowering **individuals** and their **loved ones** to **thrive** and make **sustainable recovery** possible

## Our Vision

To relentlessly redefine **addiction treatment** in the **home** for truly **lasting recovery**

## Our Values

Compassion, **Collaboration**, **Connection**,  
Commitment, **Curiosity**

1

The leading fully in-home addiction treatment provider of scale, pioneering a novel approach to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment

2

### Unique Medical, Behavioral and Peer Model.

High touch, end-to-end program delivering fully integrated, longitudinal care model that connects levels of care across the spectrum of recovery services

3

### Unparalleled Outcomes.

Clinically effective care model with market leading engagement rates, substantial utilization reductions and PMPM total-care savings validated by third-party claims data

4

### Differentiated Payor Arrangements.

Deep relationships with national and large regional payors anchored by bundled payment contracts structured to transition to value- and risk-based models

5

### Strong Growth with Near-Term Path to Profitability.

Highly attractive unit economics with numerous pathways for robust, sustained and profitable growth

6

### Outstanding Leadership.

Experienced management team in place that possess profound experience across behavioral, payors, providers, home-care and broader healthcare services landscapes

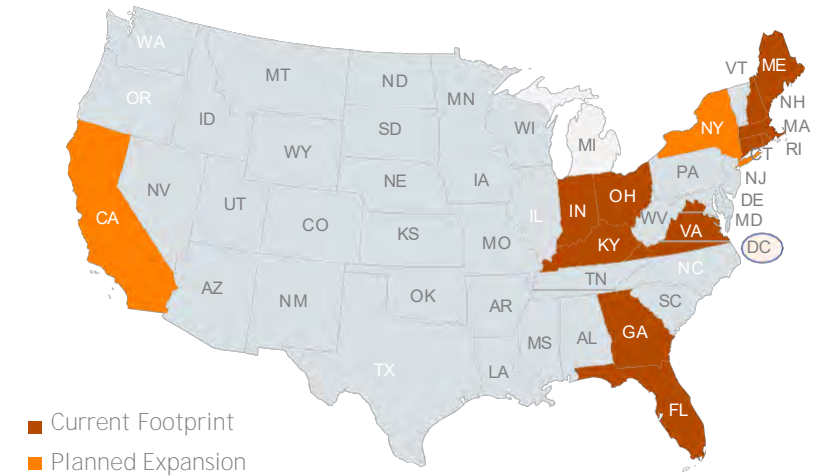
# Only scaled provider of in-home addiction treatment services

## Differentiated In-Home Care Model

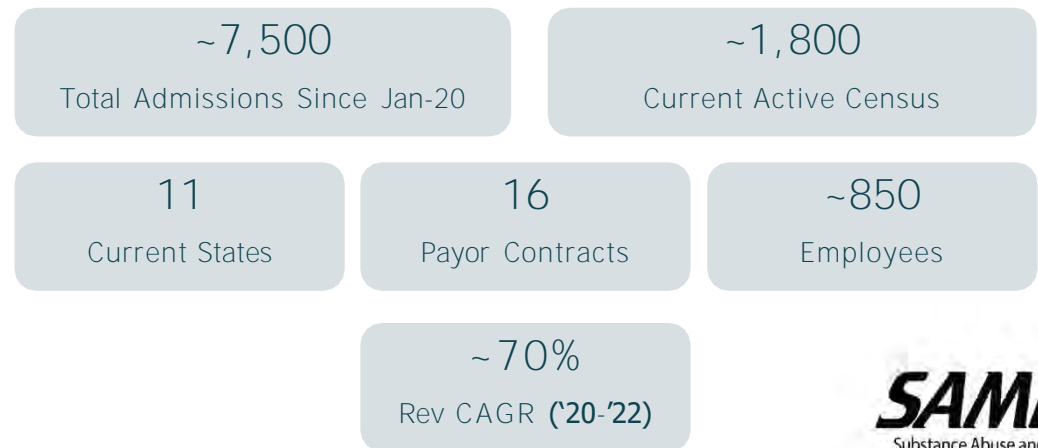
- 52-week, high-touch, longitudinal model that transforms the home into a treatment center
- Minimizes disruptions to work / school / childcare; eliminates extended leaves / absences, reduces employee turnover and increases productivity
- Treats addiction as a chronic disease through an ASAM-based program; customized Medical, Behavioral and Peer Support care model
- Uniquely broad inclusion criteria across individuals with primary SUD, including those often not a fit for residential or community settings
- 24 / 7 admissions with bespoke, white glove client engagement model

Note: ASAM refers to the American Society of American Medicine

## Geographic Roadmap

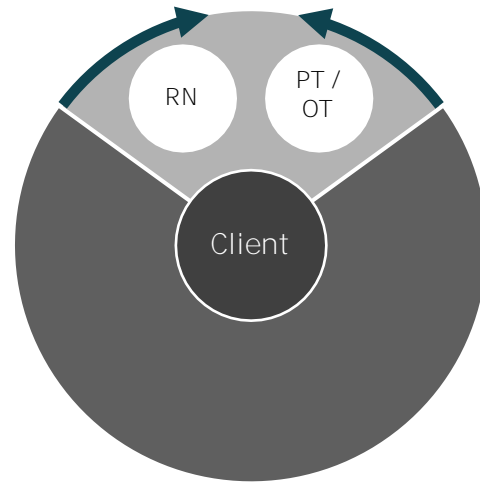


## Aware Recovery Care - By the Numbers

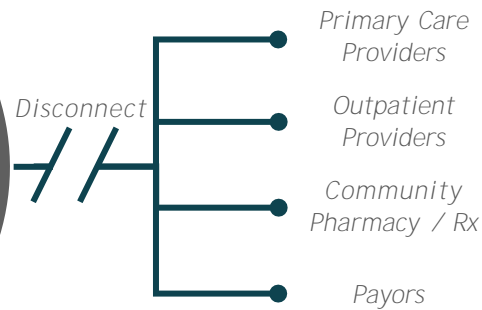


# Care model is distinct from traditional home health

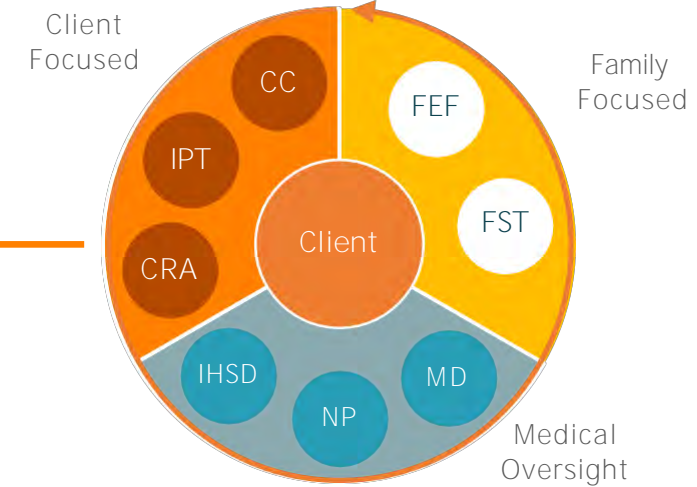
## Traditional Approach in Home Health



Aware's model coordinates with client's broader care team



## Connected Staff Enable Longitudinal Care



### Home Health Model

- Narrow scope of care providers; can lead to disintegrated care
- Episodic and short-term; limited by reimbursement landscape
- Impact measured by short-term treatment for complex, long-term medical issues
- Emphasis on reducing visits can overshadow need to deliver holistic treatment

- Broad scope of team skills ensures continuous delivery of whole-person care
- Routine touchpoints over 52-weeks focused on proactive behavior change
- Impact measured by engagement in long-term recovery support systems
- True alignment across stakeholders, supported by validated payor claims that demonstrate quantitative, long-term and sustained cost and quality outcomes

Care Legend

CRA = Certified Recovery Advisor  
CC = Care Coordinators

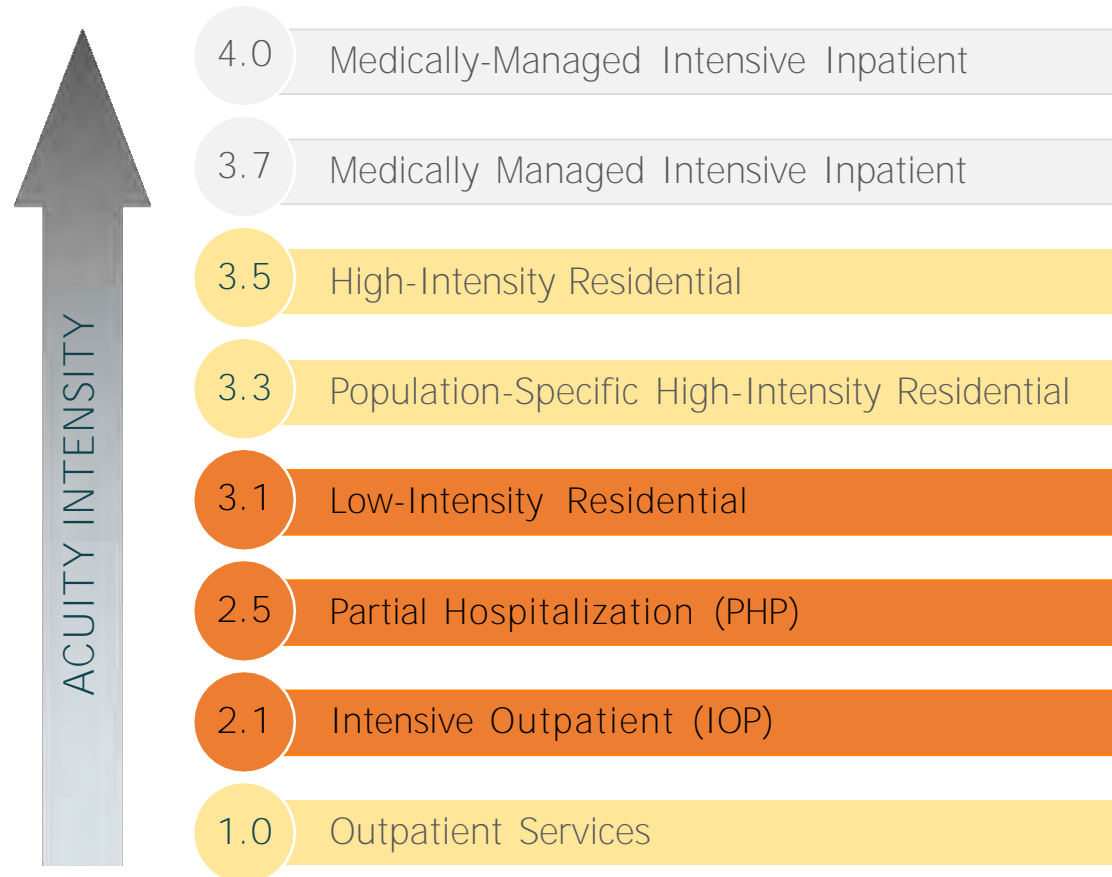
FEF = Family Education Facilitators  
IHSD = Integrated Health Service Director

IPT = Psychotherapist  
NP = Nurse Practitioner

FST = Family Systems Therapist  
MD = Medical Director

# Current client focus on 2.1-3.1 ASAM levels

## American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Levels of Care



## Aware's Client Focus

- Most clients enter Aware's 52-week program between ASAM 2.1 and 3.1 levels (IOP, PHP and low-intensity residential)
- Aware's intake process identifies clients that should (1) enroll directly into the flagship 52-week program or (2) first require detox treatment prior to enrollment, and initiate a ~1 to 2 week In-Home Medically Managed (IHMM) program for detox, prior to initiating into the 52-week program
- Aware seeks to discharge clients once they reach the 1.0 level, at program completion
- There are opportunities to build internal capabilities to serve adjacent levels of care, pending clinical delivery capacity

Current Service Footprint

Longer-Term  
Expansion Opportunity

Out of Scope



# We're home



## PHASE 1: Weeks 1 to 6

*Intense*  
Clinical Intervention

- Biopsychosocial assessments
- In-Home detox (if needed)
- In-home clinical engagement with virtual support
- Primary Care Physician (PCP) collaboration

- *“Residential without walls”* -

## PHASE 2: Weeks 7 to 12

*Moderate*  
Clinical Intervention

- Prescribes / administers bridge, short and long-term medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for AUD and OUD
- In-home clinical engagement with virtual support
- Family therapy and wellness program
- Ongoing PCP collaboration

- *“PHP/IOP without walls”* -

## PHASE 3: Months 4 to 6

*Maintenance*  
Ongoing Support

- Psychotherapy, family and behavior stabilization
- In-home clinical engagement with virtual support
- Monitoring for relapse
- Ongoing PCP collaboration

- *“IOP/OP without walls”* -

## PHASE 4: Months 7 to 12

*Community Integration*  
Enhancement of Life Skills

- Community support
  - Psychotherapy providers
  - NA/AA, sponsor, etc.
  - MAT prescribers
- Vocational / educational re-engagement
- Monitoring for relapse
- Ongoing PCP collaboration

- *“OP without walls”* -

Note: PHP is defined as partial hospitalization program; IOP is defined as intensive outpatient program; OP is defined as outpatient program



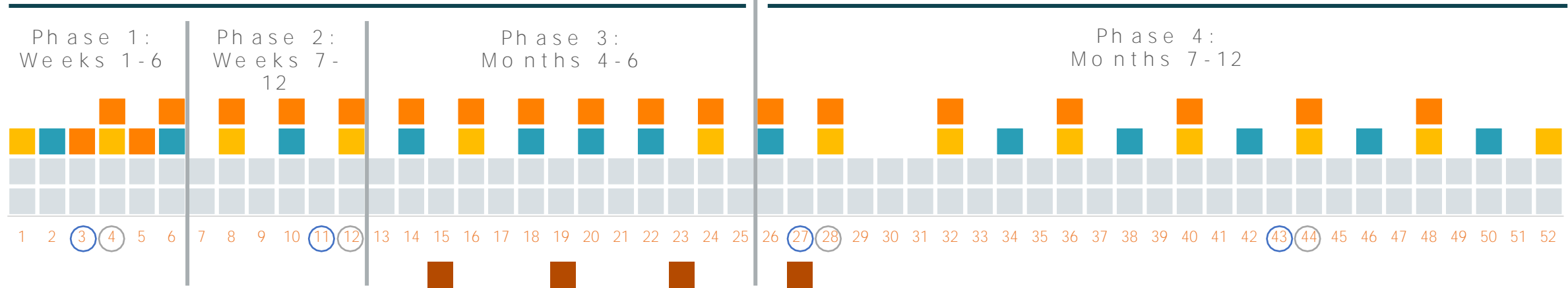
# Coordinated treatment through standardized four-phase cadence



~150 Total Visits  
Over 52-week Program

2 to 4 visits weekly, typically 1 to 2 hours of client time per visit

Reduced visit count and tailored to client needs



Client Focused

Family Focused

Staff	Certified Recovery Advisor (CRA)	Care Coordinator (CC)	Psychotherapist (IPT)	Family Education Facilitators (FEF)	Family Systems Therapy (FST)
Visits	~100	~15	~20	~10	<5

○ Care Collaboration Meeting  
○ Family Meeting

**Medical Oversight Team** Provides Incremental Care as Needed for Selected, Higher Needs Clients

# Differentiated high-touch medical, behavioral & peer model



High-touch	
Longitudinal	
Fully Integrated	
Proven & Sustained Outcomes	
Broad Inclusion	
Client & Family Engagement	

## Peer Group Lacks **Aware's** High-touch Longitudinal Model

### Selected Peers

### Commentary

Residential



- Mature universe largely sustained by inertia from established "traditional treatment" options
- Highly disruptive to family, work, school commitments
- Treats high acuity target population but for limited duration often without follow-up

Outpatient



- Wide array of outpatient providers delivering services with little standardization or integration over a limited duration
- Relative to home-based models, limited clinical capabilities and client flexibility
- Some individuals do not qualify for these settings

Virtual



- Over 15k apps for telehealth, virtual MAT clinics and digital therapeutics
- Significant variability among models – many simply e-prescribe
- Virtual touch-points result in reach and frequency; but low-touch human engagement limits impact for clients and family

# We know home: payor contracting framework

## Value based - bundled payments

- ✓ Structured monthly case rate with a transition after first year to value-based contract
- ✓ Higher case rate in first 3 months (compared to last 9 months) reflects highest intensity of services provided

## Sharing risk/reward

- ✓ If a member **doesn't** stay post 14 days – no billing for services
- ✓ Program cost spread over 12-month period – monthly billing
- ✓ Upside reward is shared savings in year 2

## In network payors

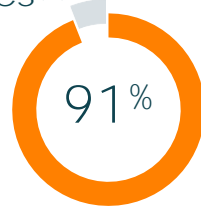
16 Value Based Agreement Contracts | 1 National Contracts Pending



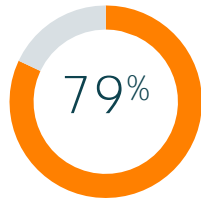
# Unparalleled outcomes from longitudinal care model

## Retention Rates<sup>(1)</sup>

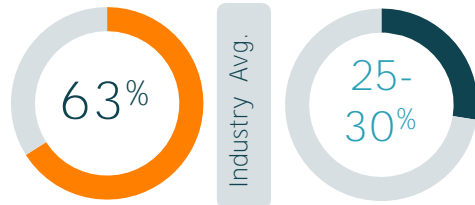
6 weeks



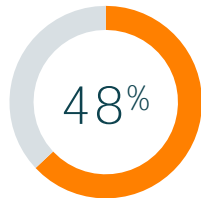
12 weeks



24 weeks



52 weeks

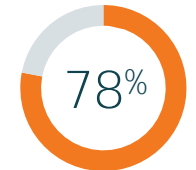


Average length of stay:

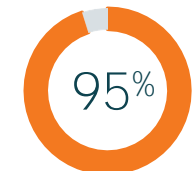


## Post-Treatment Outcomes<sup>(2)</sup>

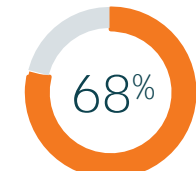
Abstinence from drugs and alcohol



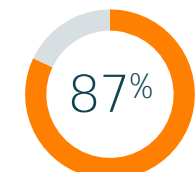
Improvements in family relationships



Engagement with outpatient therapist / groups



Engagement with Primary Care Physician



- 1) Internal data through Q4 '22; excludes clients not able to complete program due to financial issues, loss of insurance, death, incarceration and moving out of the state as these discharges are unavoidable. Retention rates without exclusions represent 91% after 6 weeks, 78% after 12 weeks, 59% after 24 weeks and 41% after 52 weeks; ALOS without exclusions is 236 days.
- 2) Client self-reported data 6 months post-treatment; based on internal '17-'19 study

# Unparalleled outcomes from third-party commercial payor claims

## Utilization Reductions of Higher Levels of Care

DURING

ONE-YEAR POST



61% avg reduction



50% avg reduction

IP Admits

66%

54%

ED Admits

48%

35%

PHP Days

71%

64%

IOP Days

59%

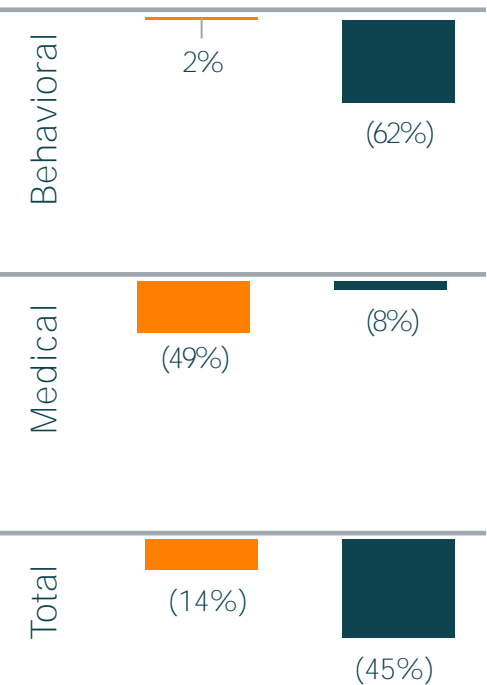
45%

**Elevation**  
Health

## PMPM Total Care Cost Reductions

During

One-year post



Note: Data source from 3rd-party claims data from Elevation (CT, NH, ME); IP is defined as inpatient program; ED is defined as emergency department. Represents 3<sup>rd</sup>-party claims data (including spend on Aware's program) tracked by Elevation for members thru 2021; n=385.

# Proven outcomes in managing diverse populations

## Utilization of Higher Levels of Care



**Commercial** - reductions one year post treatment

73% reduction of IP admissions

59% reduction of ER admissions

82% reduction of PHP days

69% reduction of IOP days



**Medicaid** - reductions one year post treatment

76% reduction of IP admissions

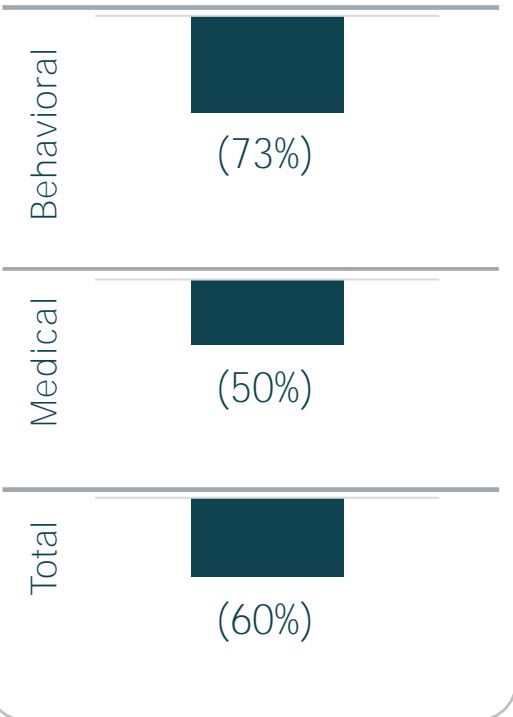
64% reduction of ER admissions

81% reduction of PHP days

56% reduction of IOP days

## PMPM Total Care Cost Reductions

Medicaid one-year post



Aware Historically Managed ~100 NH Medicaid Members with Significant TCOC Reductions and Outcomes Improvements

Note: Data source from 3rd-party claims data from Elevance (CT, NH, ME); IP is defined as inpatient program; ED is defined as emergency department. Represents 3rd-party claims data (including spend on Aware's program) tracked by Elevance for members 2016-2018; commercial lives represents NH clients; Medicaid represents ~100 NH clients



# We are Aware: led by a highly experienced executive team



Brian Holzer, MD, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer

20+

Years Experience

Diverse experience, including strategy, operations, marketing, and sales in large and small public and private healthcare companies

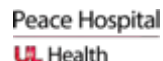


Martha Mather, FACHE  
Chief Operating Officer

20+

Years Experience

Clinically trained with C-Suite, executive and operational leadership roles at leading systems and behavioral health institutions



Jenni Lohse, JD  
Chief Legal & Administrative Officer

20+

Years Experience

Leadership across in-house legal, risk management and compliance departments as General Counsel and CCO



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING



Mark Tumblin, MS  
Chief Information Officer

40+

Years Experience

Significant prior C-Suite experience and an expert in AI, advanced analytics, clinical workflow and clinical decision support



Nina Underman, MBA  
VP, Strategic Operations

10+

Years Experience

Diverse operational, go-to-market and strategic leadership roles at leading payor organizations



George Merhi  
Chief Financial Officer

30+

Years Experience

Finance leadership experience in both public and private corporations with revenues ranging from \$10M to \$500M



Lauren Grawert, MD  
Chief Medical Officer

20+

Years Experience

Double board-certified Addiction Psychiatrist with extensive clinical experience with patients across the behavioral continuum



Uneeta Palmer, MBA  
Sr. Director, Marketing & Communications

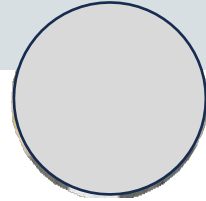
20+

Years Experience

Seasoned corporate communicator with deep experience in content/brand strategy, marketing and crisis communications.



FRITZ INDUSTRIES



Open  
Chief People Officer

*Home* IS WHERE  
*recovery* LIVES™



# State Policymakers can Help Increase Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Prisons and Jails

Alexandra Duncan

October 11, 2023

Pew

# Agenda

1. Brief background on SUD among people who are incarcerated
2. Examples of prison and jail MOUD programs
3. Successful prison and jail MOUD programs
4. Selected relevant state legislation
5. Q&A

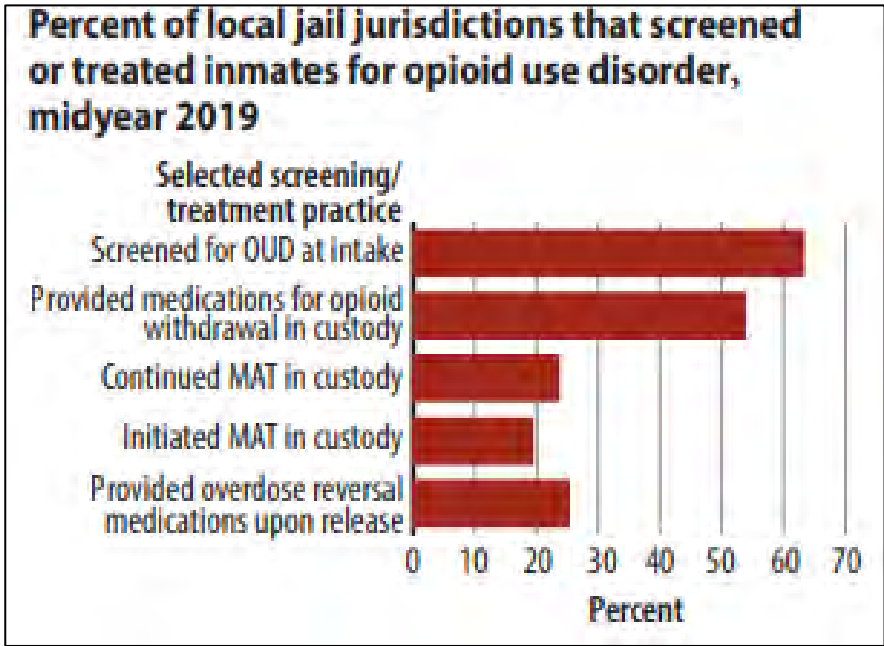
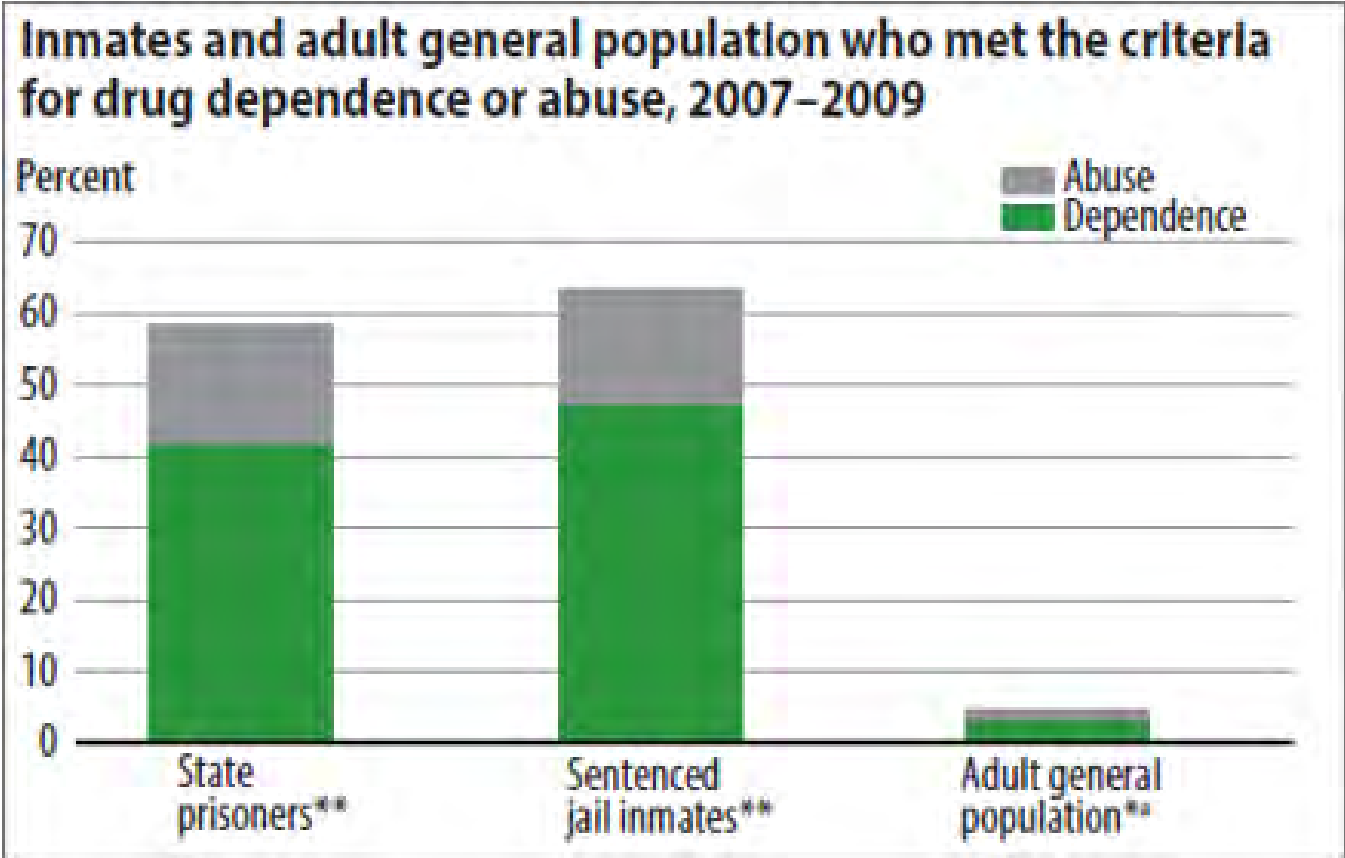
Nearly **5.5 million** people are on probation, in jail, in prison, or on parole in the United States at any one time.

Figures: [Incarceration: A Public Health Crisis \(nihcm.org\)](https://www.nihcm.org)

Compared to White Americans:  
**Black Americans** are incarcerated in state prisons at nearly **5x** the rate, &  
**Latino Americans** are incarcerated at **1.3x**



# SUD among people who are incarcerated



Figures: <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/drug-use-dependence-and-abuse-among-state-prisoners-and-jail>; <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/oudstlj19.pdf>



# MAT receipt among people who are incarcerated

Percent of local jail jurisdictions that continued medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in custody, by state, midyear 2019

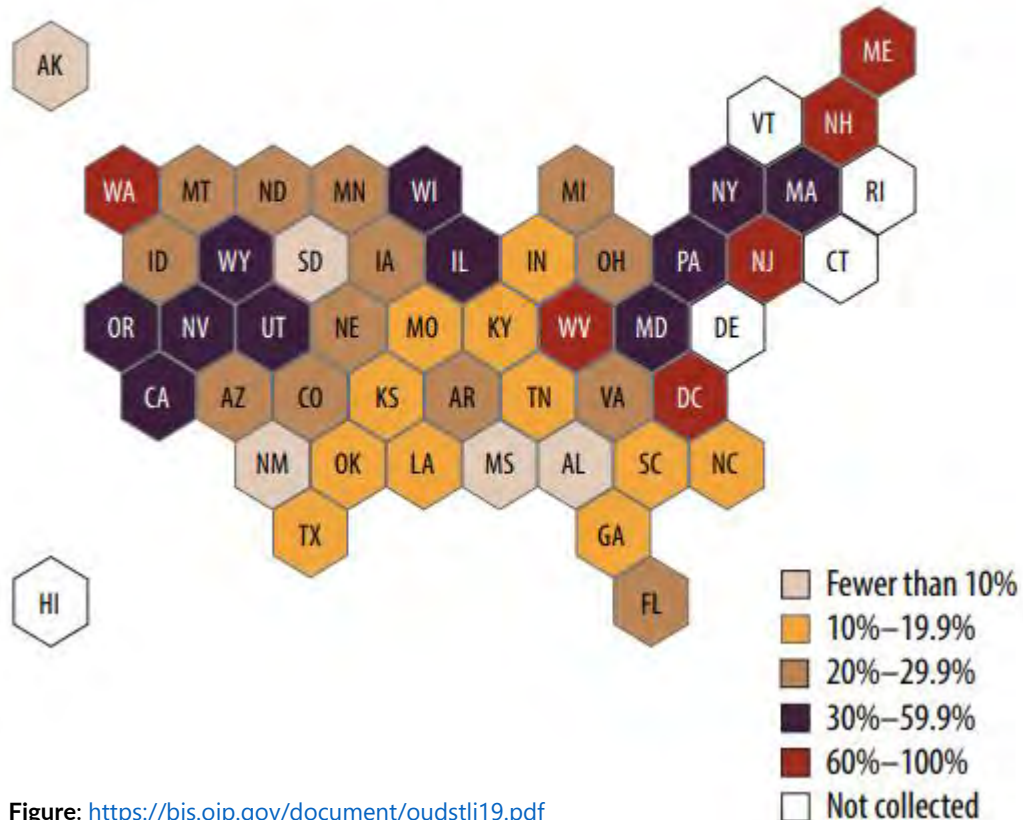


Figure: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/oudstlj19.pdf>

Location	Continued MAT	Initiated MAT
Alabama	7.5%	7.4%
Arkansas	21.5%	13.4%
Florida	26.2%	21.3%
Georgia	14.7%	14.4%
Kentucky	11.9%	13.4%
Louisiana	10.8%	9.7%
Mississippi	4.9%	6.4%
Missouri	17.9%	15.9%
N. Carolina	10.6%	10.8%
Oklahoma	10.1%	10.3%
S. Carolina	18.6%	15.9%
Tennessee	17.2%	16.2%
Texas	19.4%	13.2%
Virginia	20.1%	14.5%
W. Virginia	90.9%	0%



# Jail & Prison Opioid Project



## JAIL & PRISON OPIOID PROJECT

[Home](#) | [About JPOP](#) | [Implementation Resources](#) | [Literature](#) | [Explore the Data](#) | [News and Events](#) | [FAQs](#) [Q](#)

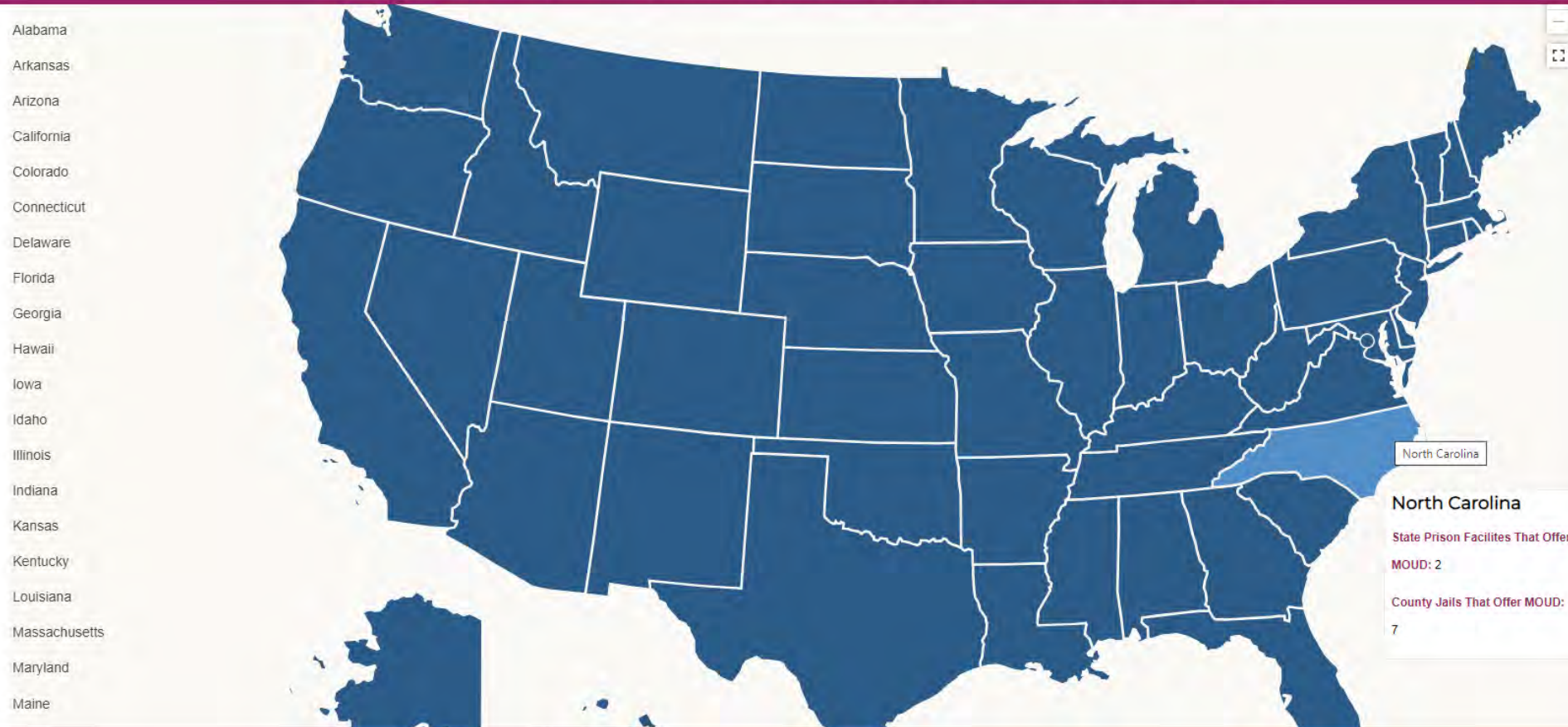


Figure: <https://prisonopioidproject.org/> :

# Jail & Prison Opioid Project: North Carolina

**Population:** 9,535,483

**Age-Adjusted Rate Of Overdose Deaths (Per 100,000):** 20

**Total State Prison Facilities:** 57

**Number of State Prison Facilities That Offer MOUD:** 2

**Total County Jails:** 97

**Number of County Jails That Offer MOUD:** 7

**Name of known facilities that offer MOUD** Buncombe County Jail, Durham Detention Center, Nash County Jail, NC Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh, Orange County Jail, Rutherford County Jail, Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough, Wake Correctional Center in Raleigh, Iredell County Detention Center, Wilkes County Jail

[Learn More](#)

<https://prisonopioidproject.org/>

# Spotlight: Fairfax County, VA Jail

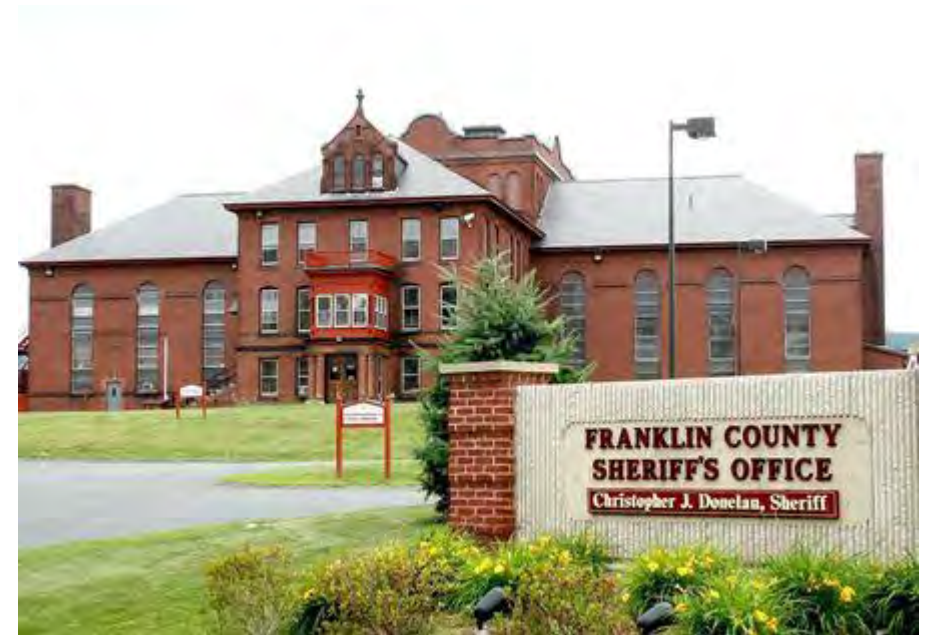
- Buprenorphine and limited methadone
- Therapeutic Community
- Referral to a pharmacy for 14 days of free medication at release
- Naloxone and fentanyl test strips at release



Photo credit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/jail-based-addiction-recovery-program-continues-release-through-community-partnerships#:~:text=In%20the%20operation%20of%20its,diabetes%2C%20heart%20disease%20or%20asthma.>

# Spotlight: Franklin County, MA Jail

- Offers all FDA-approved MOUD
- Licensed OTP
- Naloxone kit at release

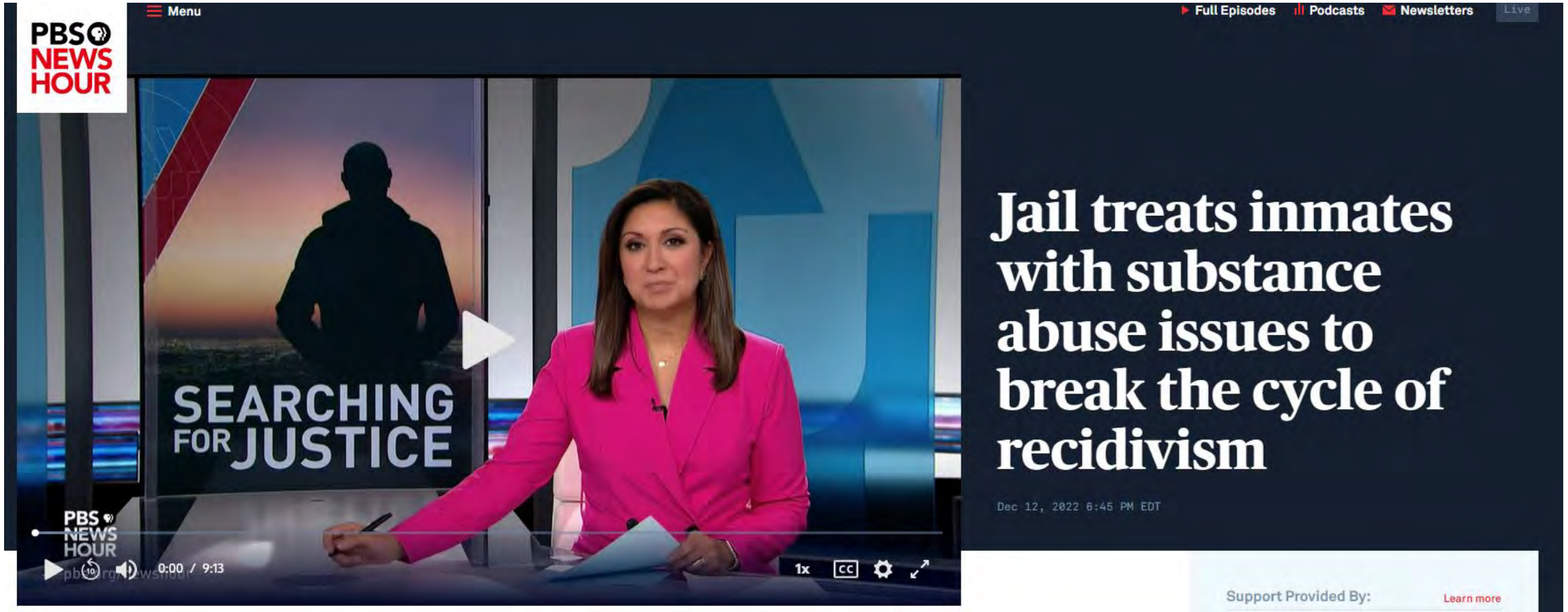


<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7708799/>; <https://www.fcso-ma.us/inmate-programs>





# Spotlight: Kenton County, KY Detention Center



The screenshot shows a PBS News Hour video player. On the left, a news anchor in a pink blazer sits at a desk. In the center, a video thumbnail features a silhouette of a person against a sunset background with the text "SEARCHING FOR JUSTICE". The player interface includes a "Menu" button, "Full Episodes", "Podcasts", "Newsletters", and "Live" links at the top. The video title "Jail treats inmates with substance abuse issues to break the cycle of recidivism" is displayed on the right. Below the title is the date "Dec 12, 2022 6:45 PM EDT" and a "Support Provided By: Learn more" link.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/jail-treats-inmates-with-substance-abuse-issues-to-break-the-cycle-of-recidivism>



# Institutional champion

Staff buy-in

Medicaid  
suspension,  
not  
termination

Reach-in  
services &  
continuity of  
care

# Funding prison and jail MOUD programs



ELSEVIER

Journal of Substance Use and Addiction  
Treatment

Volume 146, March 2023, 208943



**Budget impact tool for the incorporation of  
medications for opioid use disorder into  
jail/prison facilities**

Danielle A. Ryan<sup>a</sup>  , Iván D. Montoya<sup>b</sup>, Peter J. Koutoujian<sup>c</sup>, Kashif Siddiqi<sup>c</sup>,  
Edmond Hayes<sup>d</sup>, Philip J. Jeng<sup>a</sup>, Techna Cadet<sup>a</sup>, Kathryn E. McCollister<sup>b</sup>, Sean M. Murphy<sup>a</sup>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949875922000145>; <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2019/jan/state-strategies-health-care-justice-involved-role-medicare>

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATION

## MODEL ACCESS TO MEDICATION FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT IN CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS ACT

October 2020

LAPPA Model Legislation: <https://legislativeanalysis.org/model-access-to-medication-for-addiction-treatment-in-correctional-settings-act/> O'Neill: <https://oneill.law.georgetown.edu/publications/a-national-snapshot-update-access-to-medications-for-opioid-use-disorder-in-u-s-jails-and-prisons>

13

# State legislation

State	Session Year	Bill/Act Number	Summary
MD	2019	HB 116	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensive MOUD program in local correctional facilities</li></ul>
MA	2018	H. 4742	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot MOUD program in selected correctional facilities</li></ul>
NH	2020	HB 1639	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County correctional facilities to provide MOUD</li></ul>
NM	2023	SB 425	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensive MOUD program in state and county correctional facilities</li></ul>

MD: [https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_532\\_hb0116e.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/Chapters_noln/CH_532_hb0116e.pdf); MA: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter208>; NH: <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2020/HB1639.html>; NM: <https://nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?Chamber=S&LegType=B&LegNo=425&year=23>

# State legislation

State	Session Year	Bill/Act Number	Summary
NY	2021	S. 1795	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehensive MOUD program in state and county facilities</li></ul>
VT	2018	Act 176	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue and initiation MOUD in state facilities</li></ul>
WA	2023	SB 5187	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Budget allocation to expand MOUD in jails</li></ul>

NY: [S1795 \(nysenate.gov\)](#); VT: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2018/S.166>; WA: <https://legiscan.com/WA/text/SB5187/id/2813810>

# State legislation

State	Session Year	Bill/Act Number	Summary
WI	2020	Act 119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DHS and DOC to study the availability of MAT in prisons and jails</li><li>• DHS in consultation with DOC to develop a proposal for a pilot MOUD program in at least 1 facility</li></ul>

WI: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/acts/119>



# Legislation best practices

1. Encourage prisons and jails to establish MOUD programs that include screening (New Hampshire), assessment, withdrawal management services, and initiation and continuation of MOUD.
2. Support prisons and jails to offer all Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved MOUD to people who are incarcerated (New York).
3. Support continuity of care by suggesting the appropriate agencies assist with Medicaid applications and reinstatement of benefits; ensure facilities have the resources to establish relationships with community health and social service providers and community health insurers like Medicaid managed care organizations for ongoing treatment and services upon release; encourage facilities to provide take home medication (Texas. Proposed but not adopted), naloxone, and other harm reduction services at release.

NH: <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2020/HB1639.html>; NY: <https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2021/S1795>; TX: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01640I.pdf>

# Legislation best practices

4. Encourage the appropriate agencies to provide technical assistance to prisons and jails as they establish MOUD programs and collect and report data for evaluation.
5. Ensure prisons and jails have adequate time to come into compliance with the law by considering benefits for compliance and consequences over time for non-compliance.
6. Encourage third-party evaluations of both the in-facility MOUD program, and health and other outcomes of individuals once back in the community.
7. Consider an ongoing legislative appropriation or include in the state budget funds for prison and jail MOUD programs (Maryland), technical assistance, and evaluation.

MD: [https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/Chapters\\_noln/CH\\_532\\_hb0116e.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2019RS/Chapters_noln/CH_532_hb0116e.pdf)



## Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Jails and Prisons

Medication provided to incarcerated populations saves lives

### Overview

The most effective therapy for people with opioid use disorder (OUD) involves the use of Food and Drug Administration-approved medications—methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. Despite evidence that this approach, known as medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), reduces relapse and saves lives, the vast majority of jails and prisons do not offer this treatment. This brief examines what policymakers should consider when exploring how to best manage OUD in incarcerated populations.

It helps to first answer this question: How common is OUD in incarcerated populations? Data from 2007-2009 (the most recent available) showed that more than half of individuals in state prisons or those with jail sentences met the criteria for a non-alcohol and nicotine-related substance use disorder (SUD), meaning a problematic pattern of using a drug that results in impairment in daily life or noticeable distress, compared with only 5 percent of adults in the general population.



## How States and Counties Can Help Individuals With Opioid Use Disorder Re-Enter Communities

People need access to proven treatment, consistent care post-incarceration

### Overview

At least **25 percent** of individuals in state prisons will eventually return to communities. In fact, in a typical year more than **half a million** people do so, with **many more coming from jails**. A disproportionate share of these individuals have one or more chronic illnesses, including more than half who met the criteria for **a non-alcohol and nicotine-related substance use disorder (SUD)** from 2007 to 2009, according to the latest available data. The percentages are likely substantially higher now, however, because of what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has **described** as the current opioid epidemic.

The prospect for a successful re-entry by these individuals is strongly affected by their ability to access health care services post-release, particularly treatment for their SUD.<sup>1</sup> The ability to access care is critical, as the time immediately following release can be **particularly dangerous for overdose**. Individuals who have been relatively or completely opioid-free behind bars have a reduced tolerance to the drug, and therefore are at high risk of overdose if they resume use at their previous levels.

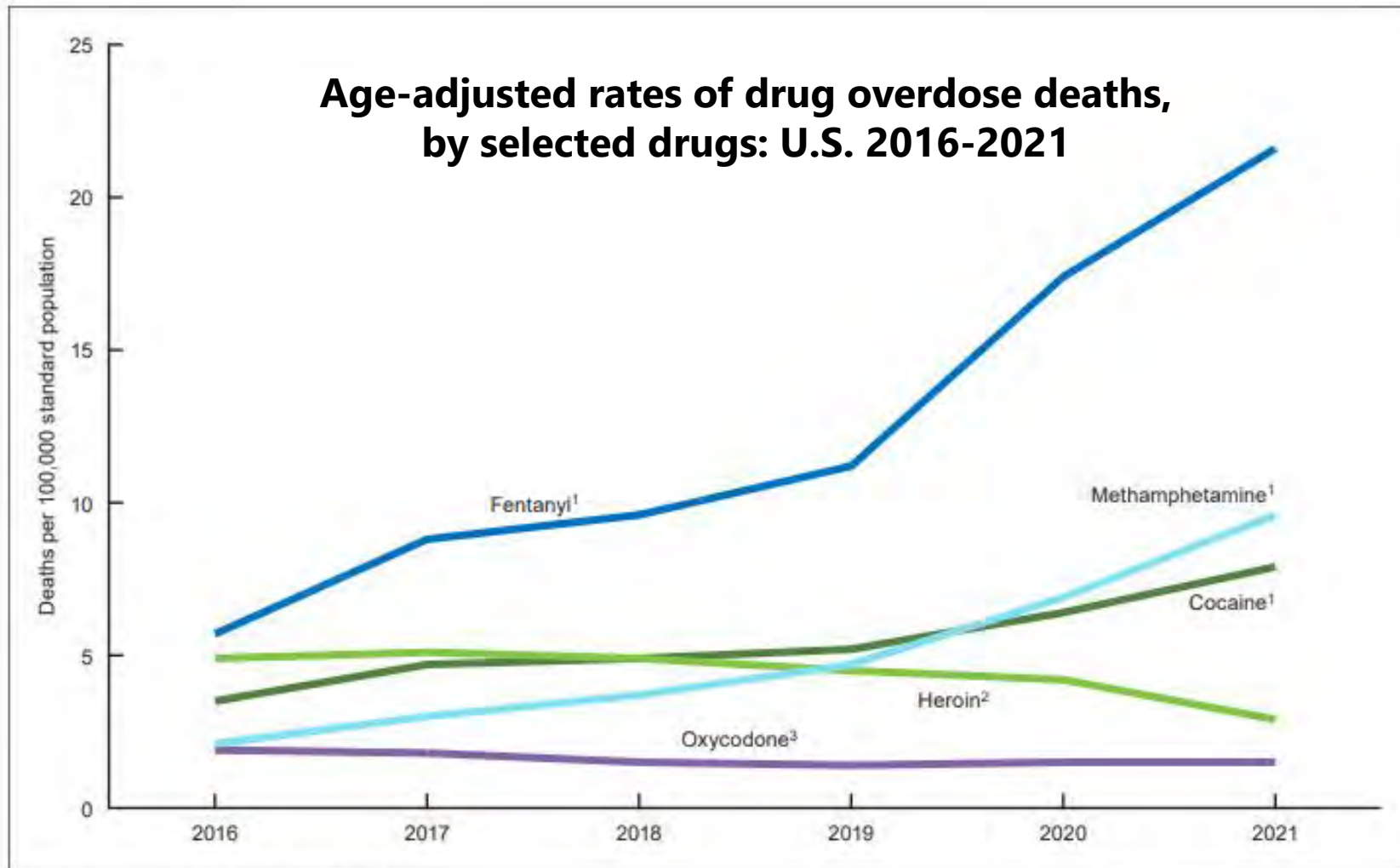
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2020/04/opioid-use-disorder-treatment-in-jails-and-prisons>; <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2020/04/how-states-and-counties-can-help-individuals-with-opioid-use-disorder-re-enter-communities>

[aduncan@pewtrusts.org](mailto:aduncan@pewtrusts.org)

October 11, 2023

Pew

# Overdose crisis: National



<sup>1</sup>Significant increasing trend from 2016 through 2021;  $p < 0.05$ .  
<sup>2</sup>Stable trend from 2016 through 2021.  
<sup>3</sup>Significant decreasing trend from 2016 through 2021;  $p < 0.05$ .

Figure: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr027.pdf>

# Overdose crisis: States

**Number and Age-adjusted Rates of Drug Overdose Deaths by State, U.S. 2020**

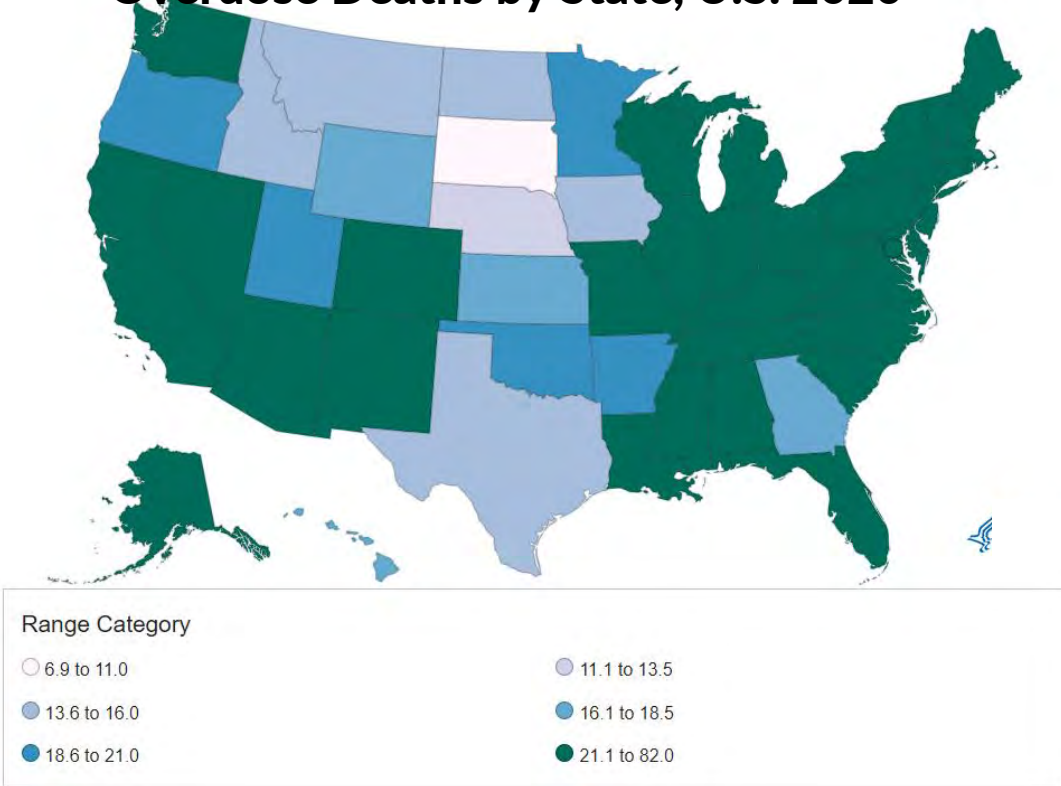


Figure: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/2020.html>

Location	Range	2020 Age-adjusted Rate	2020 Number of Deaths
Alabama	21.1 to 82.0	22.3	1029
Arkansas	18.6 to 21.0	19.1	546
Florida	21.1 to 82.0	35.0	7231
Georgia	16.1 to 18.5	18.0	1916
Kentucky	21.1 to 82.0	49.2	2083
Louisiana	21.1 to 82.0	42.7	1896
Mississippi	21.1 to 82.0	21.1	586
Missouri	21.1 to 82.0	32.1	1875
N. Carolina	21.1 to 82.0	30.9	3146
Oklahoma	18.6 to 21.0	19.4	762
S. Carolina	21.1 to 82.0	34.9	1739
Tennessee	21.1 to 82.0	45.6	3034
Texas	13.6 to 16.0	14.1	4172



# Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waivers

Kentucky Department of Medicaid Services  
1115 SUD Demonstration Proposed Amendment  
Continuity of Care for Incarcerated Members  
November 24, 2020

## Table of Contents

Section I - Program Description

Objective & Rationale

Legislative Background

State of Utah

Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment

Medicaid Coverage for Justice-Involved Populations

### Section I. Program Description and Objectives

As a result of the 2020 General Session of the Utah Legislative Session, House Bill 38 “Substance Use and Health Care Amendments”, passed and was signed into law. This legislation directs the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), Division of Medicaid and Health Financing (DMHF), to seek 1115 waiver approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to provide Medicaid coverage for qualified justice-involved individuals. These individuals must have a chronic physical or behavioral health condition, a mental illness as defined by Section 62A-15-602 of Utah State Code, or an opioid use disorder. If approved, Medicaid coverage will be provided in the 30-day period immediately prior to release of the incarcerated individual from a correctional facility.

UT: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/1115-waiver/>; KY: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/81806>

# Federal legislation

Not allow “any such payments with respect to care or services for any individual who is an inmate of a public institution (except as a patient in a medical institution)”



H.R. 2400, The Reentry Act (Tonko)

S.971, Due Process of Continuity of Care Act (Cassidy)

**Social Security Act:** [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm); **NACO:** <https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/naco-nsa-joint-task-force-report-addressing-federal-medicaid-inmate-exclusion-policy#go> **H.R. 2400 :** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2400/actions?s=2&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Tonko%22%5D%7D>; **S.971:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/971?s=1&r=33#:~:text=This%20bill%20allows%20an%20otherwise,the%20provision%20of%20such%20benefits>

# Omnibus Bill

## H.R.2617 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

117th Congress (2021-2022)

LAW

Hide Overview ✕

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. \[D-VA-11\]](#) (Introduced 04/16/2021)

**Committees:** House - Oversight and Reform | Senate - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

**Committee Meetings:** [11/03/21 10:30AM](#) [05/25/21 2:00PM](#)

**Committee Reports:** [S. Rept. 117-164](#)

**Committee Prints:** [H.Prt. 117-73](#)

**Latest Action:** 12/29/2022 Became [Public Law No: 117-328](#). ([All Actions](#))

**Roll Call Votes:** There have been [18 roll call votes](#)

**Notes:** Explanatory statements: [Pages S7819-8551](#), [Pages S8553-9323](#), [Pages S9325-9591](#) (from Congressional Records 12/20/2022)

Tracker: 



Text - H.R.2617 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 | [Congress.gov](#) | [Library of Congress](#)



# Discover KC CARE Health Center the heart of community healthcare

---

*A public health approach to Harm Reduction*

KC  CARE  
HEALTH CENTER



# Speakers



## Wil Franklin

- **CEO at KC CARE**
- **Behavioral Health Clinician**
- **Vice Chair of MPCA Government Affairs Committee**
- **Fan and supporter of Melissa Smith and Morgan Brinker**



## Melissa Smith

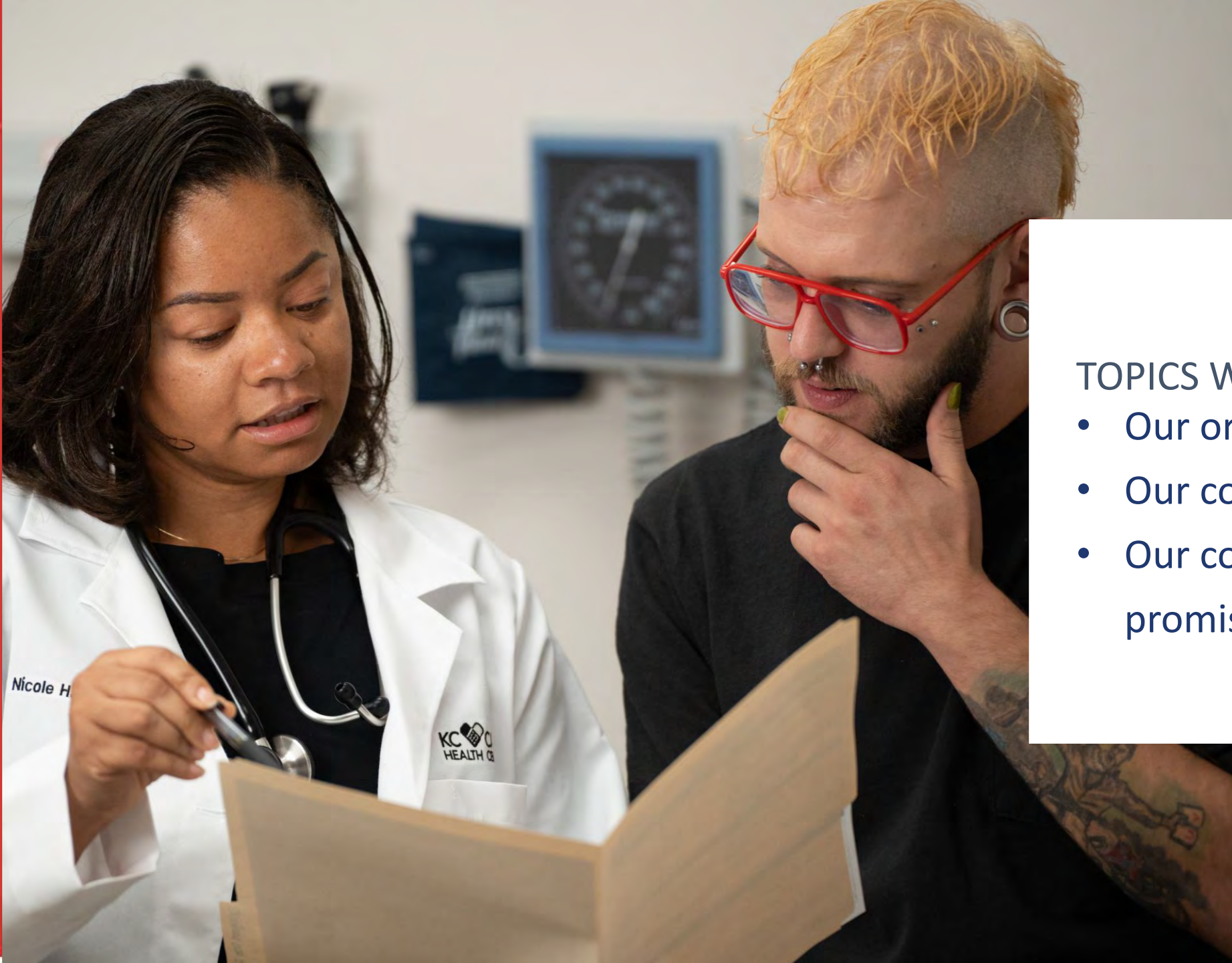
- **Licensed Clinical Social Worker**
- **Director of Population Health at KC CARE Health Center**
- **Project Director for HRSA Ryan White and SAMHSA Harm Reduction Awards**



## Morgan Brinker

- **Harm Reduction Coordinator at KC CARE Health Center**
- **2+ years experience volunteering and managing a Syringe Service Program (SSP)**
- **Certified Phlebotomy**

Te



### TOPICS WE'LL COVER

- Our origins
- Our contribution
- Our community promises





# KC CARE Health Center

## **Our Vision:**

Creating solutions for a healthy community.

## **Our Mission:**

To promote health and wellness by providing quality care, access, research and education to the underserved and all people in our community

## **Our Values:**

Respect, Service, Cultural Competence, Collaboration, Partnership, Adapting, Innovation and Learning



## OUR COMMUNITY PROMISES

KC CARE offers unconditional whole person care to everyone with the promise of a personalized and affirming experience.



KC CARE connects families and children to medical, dental and behavioral healthcare – regardless of insurance status and ability to pay.





# Our Contribution

Accessible healthcare is vital  
for thriving communities

- School attendance
- Work absenteeism
- Poverty



# Our Contribution

KC CARE is an excellent choice  
for accessible healthcare

- Integrated services
- Affordable
- Quality
- Nearby



# OUR ORIGINS



Federally Qualified Health Center serving the KC metro area for more than 50 years from three locations



Treat 23,000 patients annually through dental, behavioral health, primary care, and supporting services



Most patients come from communities experiencing health inequities due to a variety of Social Determinants of Health



Accept Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance; no one is turned away due to their ability to pay







- National Committee for Quality Assurance
- CARF Accreditation
- Certified Provider – HIV Prevention
- Memberships
  - Missouri Primary Care Association
  - National Association of Community Health Centers
  - KC Health Equity Learning & Action Network



# Ryan White Services at KC CARE

- KC CARE is direct recipient of Ryan White Part C and D funds.
- Subrecipient of A, B, and F funds
- Serve over 1,300 people with HIV annually
- Most of these individuals have a Ryan White Case Manager, as well as access to an HIV Peer Educator, medication/insurance assistance for HIV, receive annual biopsychosocial assessments inclusive of care plans
  - As a part of these assessments and medical services provided through Ryan White, participants are screened for STIs, substance use/abuse, housing instability, and multiple other social drivers of health.



- **Though Ryan White funding only provides financial support for people with HIV, many of the assessments and services offered to our patients with HIV are replicated throughout KC CARE**
- **Behavioral Health and Substance Use screenings are integrated into a part of our general medicine clinic**
- **We've embedded general medicine care coordinators into our practice locations to help patients respond to episodic and chronic SDoH needs**
- **We're working to implement Same Day Start PrEP (mirroring our Same Day Start program for people who test reactive for HIV)**



- For a long time at KC CARE, if someone mentioned the words 'Harm Reduction', you immediately thought of our SSP (more to come on this)
- KC CARE has provided naloxone free of cost for multiple years
- Prevention Specialists are skilled in counseling individuals who test for HIV and other STIs on ways to reduce risk for various things based on patient's reported risk activities
- BHCs offer tobacco cessation
- Offer safer sex kits free of charge
- Have condom drop sites throughout the city
- Expanding how we can test for HIV, including home test kits for folx hesitant to come into the Health Center
- PrEP prescriptions and PrEP navigation

## KC CARE's Harm Reduction Model



- **It's hard!**
- **Because SSPs are technically in a 'gray' area in MO, we cannot allocate any federal or statewide funds to our SSP.**
- **Where we're able to, we incorporate Harm Reduction methods into existing grants (ex: condoms, safer sex kits, etc).**
- **Anything for our SSP, including the staff who work there, must come from private donations or specialized grants.**





- In 2021, SAMSHA announced an unprecedented Harm Reduction Grant Program, \$400,000/year for three years to 25 organizations.
- National media began reporting critical stories shortly after the application deadline, causing SAMHSA to carefully monitor funds.
- The Harm Reduction Coalition of Kansas City was selected as one of 25 grant recipients in May 2022; over 450 organizations applied.
- HRCKC was the only organization selected in Region Seven, and one of the few selected in a state that still restricts SSPs.

# CAMHSA Harm Reduction Project

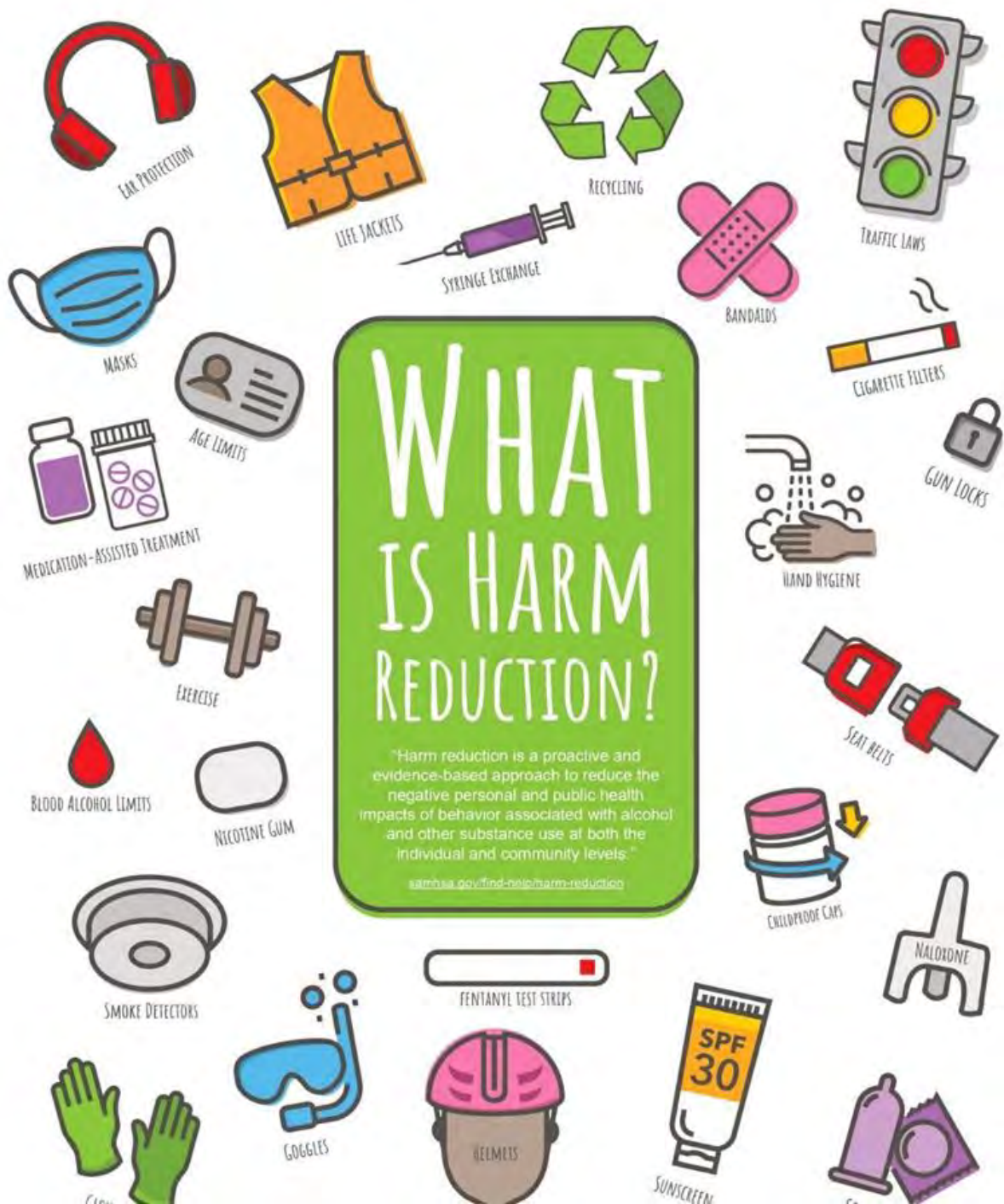
- **KC CARE provides testing, behavioral healthcare, and referrals.**
- **First Call provides community and individual education & recovery support; both organizations provide naloxone and fentanyl test strips.**
- **UMKC houses the Collaborative to Advance Health Services, one of nine members of the CDC's Harm Reduction TA Center.**



- **Completed harm reduction-focused Community Needs Assessment**
- **Consulted with NASTAD via the CDC's Harm Reduction TA Center to receive feedback on agency policies and procedures**
- **Established referral procedures between First Call & KC CARE for HIV, HCV & STI testing/treatment; viral hepatitis vaccination; counseling for SUD; treatment for SUD; recovery support services; & peer support services**
- **Established weekly Harm Reduction Support Group**
- **Provided community education on overdose prevention, naloxone & harm reduction strategies**
- **Purchased & distributed fentanyl test strips and naloxone throughout the community**
- **Purchased & distributed harm reduction 'go bags' throughout the community**

## Year 2 Goals

- **Continue with Year 1 activities (referrals, naloxone & FTS distribution, community education, etc.)**
- **Establish Harm Reduction Advisory Committee (inclusive of those with lived and living experience)**
- **Anti-Stigma Campaign**
- **Create sustainability plan**
- **Purchase at least one naloxone kiosk for KC CARE locations (piloting at our Northeast Location to start)**



## Nuts and Bolts





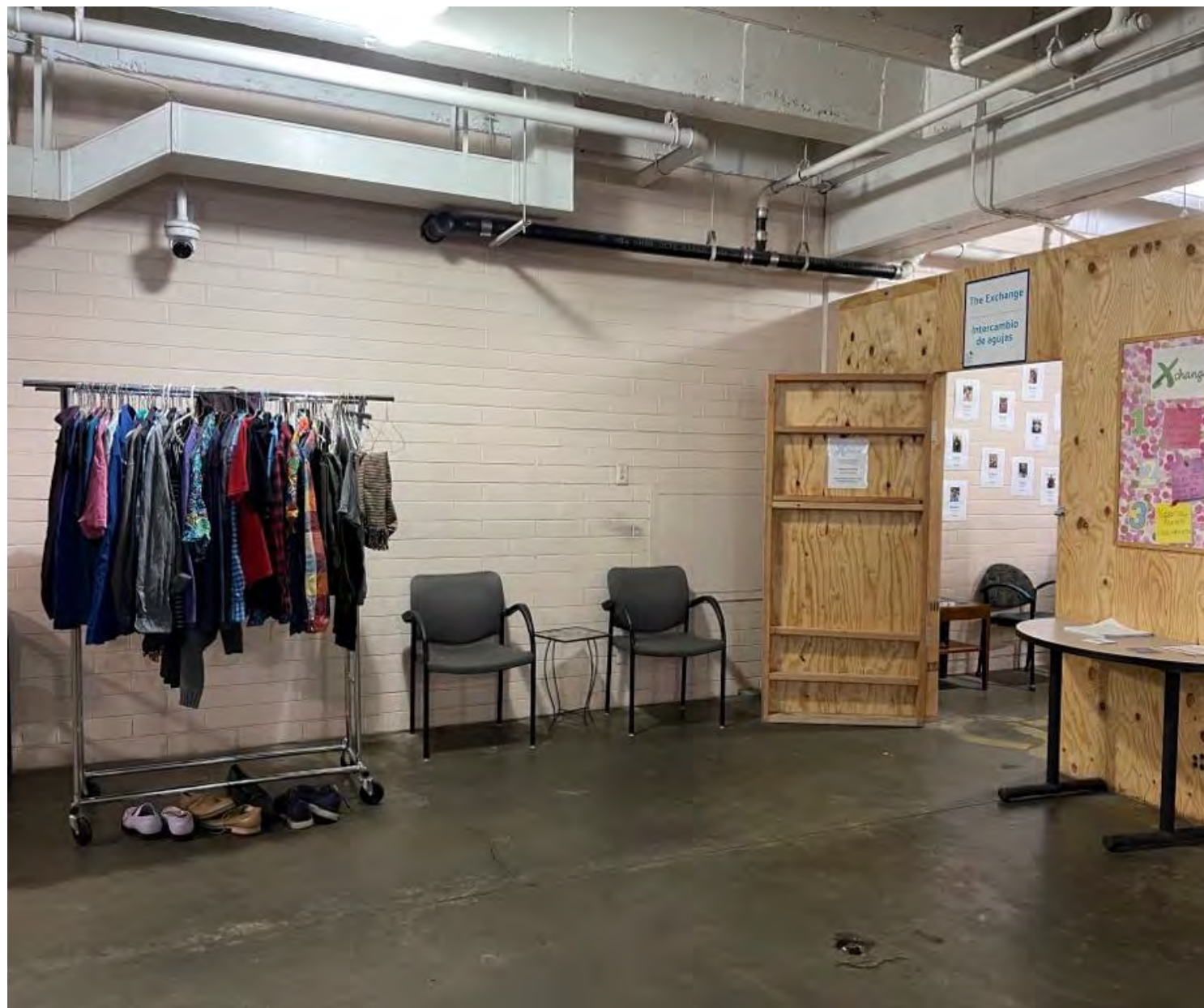
Xchange







Xchange





Xchange







Xchange









# Menu

## SYRINGES

### Bee Stingers (31G) 15/64"

Bee Stingers are the shortest needle we have available. We try to have Bee Stingers available in both 0.5- and 1-mL barrels.

### 31G Shorts 1cc 5/16"

31G needles are the thinnest needles we have. They are only available in 15/64" (Bee Stingers) and 5/16" (shorts).

### 30G Shorts 1cc 5/16"

30G shorts are the most commonly requested syringe size. Available in the EasyTouch brand.

### 29G Shorts 1cc 5/16"

29G shorts are a newer item purchased due to participant request. Available only in the Sure Comfort Syringe brand.

### 28G Shorts 1cc 5/16"

28G shorts are a newer item purchased due to participant request. Available only in the Sure Comfort Syringe brand.

### 30G Longs 1cc 1/2"

30G longs are available in the EasyTouch brand.

### 29G Longs 1cc 1/2"

29G longs are available in the EasyTouch and BD brands.

### 28G Longs 1cc 1/2"

28G longs are available in the EasyTouch and McKesson brands.

### 27G Longs 1cc 1/2"

27G longs are available in the EasyTouch brand. 0.5- and 1-mL barrels are in stock.

### Tips & Barrels Misc.

We have 18G 1-1/2", 25G 1", 27G 1/2", and 30G 1/2" tips as well as 1-, 3-, 5-, and 10-mL barrels.

## SAFE USE

### Bubbles

For safe smoking when inhaling vapors (i.e., methamphetamine).

### Straight Stems

For safe smoking when inhaling smoke (i.e., weed, crack cocaine).

### Safe Snorting Kit

Include paper straws, plastic razors, scoops, lip balm, and a blank card.

*These three can be considered novelty items. We'll have them when we can, but they are not the priority.*

## WORKS

Sterile Water  
Cotton  
Band Aids  
Antibiotic Ointment  
Tourniquets  
Cookers w/ twist ties  
Alcohol Pads

## PREVENTION

Narcan  
Fentanyl Test Strips  
Safe Sex Kits  
Sharps Containers

# Xchange



# CATS

(Counseling and  
Testing Services)







# Outreach





Outreach





PrEP

# READY SET PrEP

What if there were  
a pill that could help  
prevent HIV?

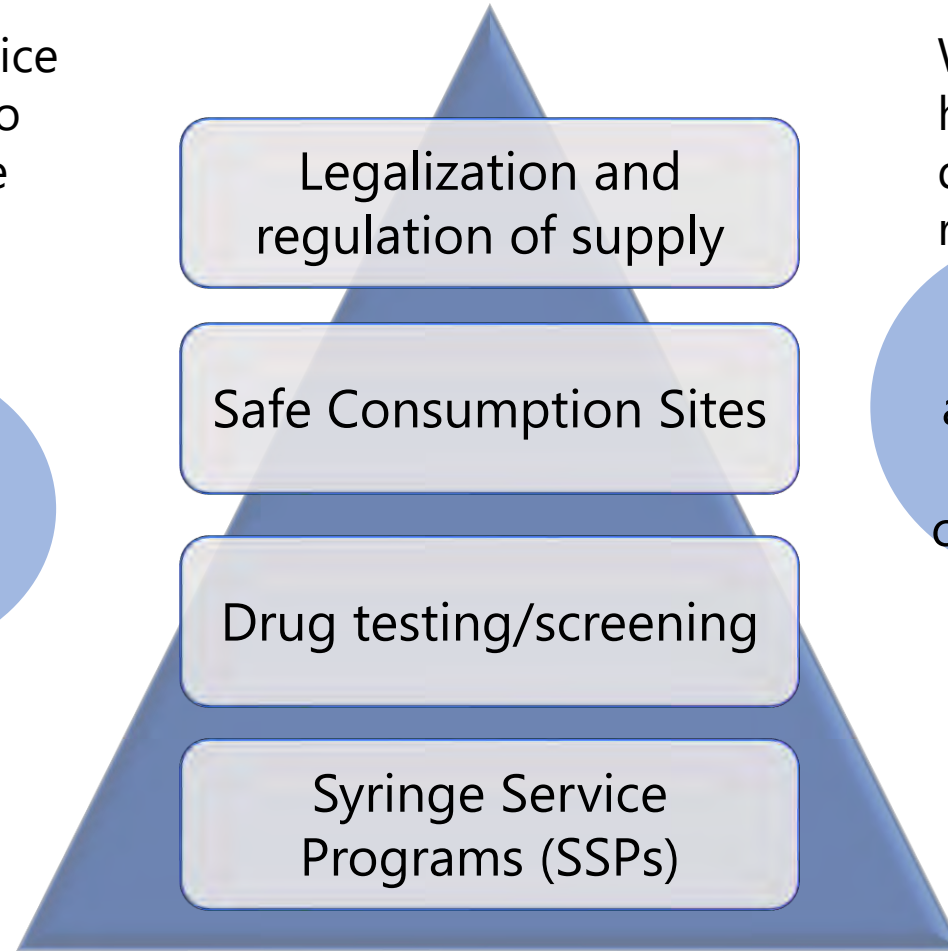
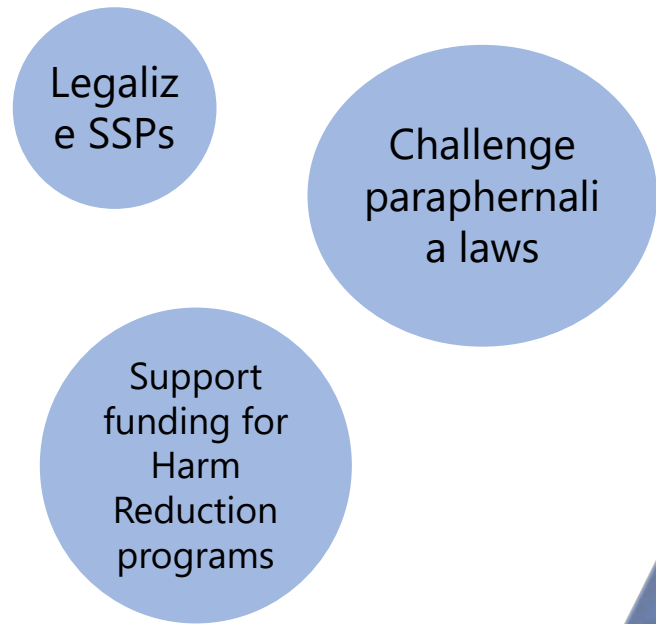
**THERE IS.**

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is a way to prevent people who do not have HIV from getting HIV, by taking one pill every day as prescribed.

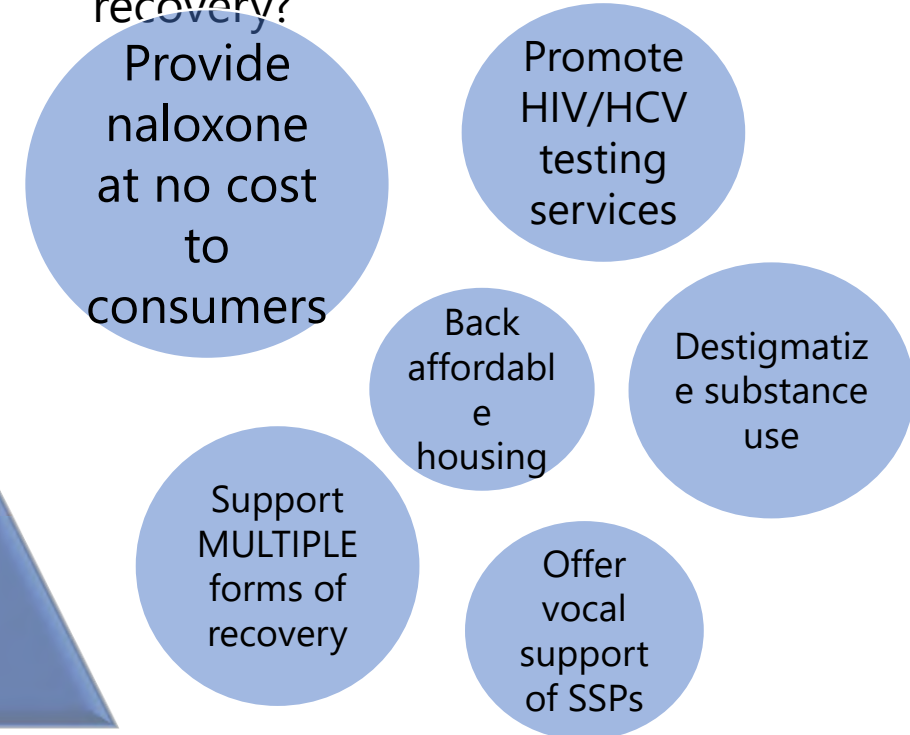


# Harm Reduction Hierarchy of Needs

What legal and criminal justice policies can states employ to attack the supply side of the problem?



What can states do from the human services side to prevent deaths and assist those seeking recovery?



.....

# MISSOURI TREATMENT COURTS

CHANGING MINDS, SAVING LIVES: THE  
EVOLUTION OF TREATMENT COURTS





# GOALS



01

## Provide Information

Foundation of Treatment  
Courts  
Best Practices and Resources  
Team Approach

02

## Share Ideas

Questions Welcomed

03

## Tailor to You

Your Role on the Team  
Program Type  
Time with the Program

# TREATMENT COURTS

An alternative to incarceration for adult offenders in the criminal justice system who have been diagnosed with substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder. This problem solving court is led by a judge or treatment court commissioner and is comprised of a team of professionals which may include treatment providers for both substance use disorders and mental health issues, community supervision, prosecuting attorney, defense counsel, law enforcement, and social services providers. An emphasis on public safety and due process, along with supervision and accountability is joined with treatment to achieve individual success.



# BRIEF HISTORY

- **1989- First Drug Court**  
Miami, Florida
- **1993-First Drug Court in Missouri**  
Jackson County-Kansas City
- **1994 - NADCP Founded**  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
- **1997 - 10 Key Components of Drug Courts**  
Fundamental and principal document
- **2010 - DWI Courts in Missouri**  
Legislation passed to establish DWI Courts
- **2020 - Missouri Treatment Court Standards Adopted**  
Best Practices

# TREATMENT COURTS IN MISSOURI



## Treatment Court Coordination Commission

Oversee the Treatment Court  
Resource Fund



## Chapter 478 RSMo

Allocate resources from the Treatment Court Resources Fund  
Establish standards and practices that are based on current research related to practices shown to reduce recidivism  
Treatment courts that do not comply with the commission's standards shall be subject to administrative action



## Missouri Treatment Court Standards

Best Practice documents and  
resources



# WHY TREATMENT COURTS?

## Why Treatment Courts?



Proven cost-effective method of diverting offenders from incarceration in prisons



Lower the recidivism rate of offenders when compared with either incarceration or probation



Allow offenders to remain in the community, to work, pay taxes, support families



Reduce the number of babies born prenatally exposed to drugs/alcohol, saving the state millions of dollars in lifetime costs



Reduce crime and the need for foster care



Help ensure child support payments are made



# Treatment Courts Coordinating Commission

## Treatment Court Program Status

As of December 31, 2022, 44 judicial circuits had the following treatment court programs:

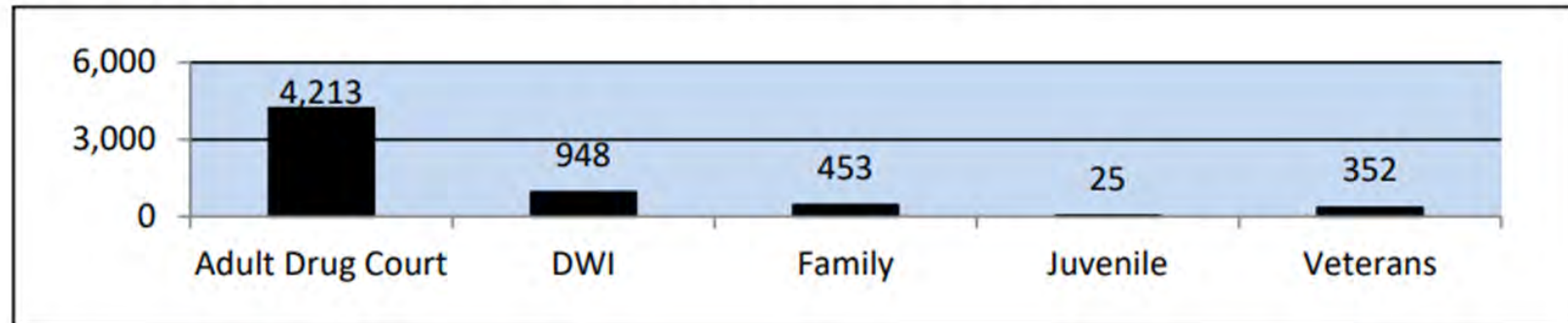
- 82 adult treatment courts serving 99 counties
- 4 juvenile treatment courts serving 5 counties
- 16 family treatment courts serving 24 counties
- 16 veteran's treatment courts serving 42 counties
- 25 designated DWI courts serving 34 counties

The commission provides funding to 133 of these programs in 43 judicial circuits.

### Treatment Court Program Participants

During the 2022 reporting period, 5,991 individuals participated in a treatment court program.

4,213	Adult
948	DWI
453	Family
25	Juvenile
352	Veterans
<u>5,991</u>	Total*



\*Unduplicated cases open for minimum of one day

# TYPES OF PROGRAMS

- Adult Treatment Court
- Veterans Treatment Court
- Mental Health Court
- Juvenile Treatment Court
- DWI Treatment Court
- Co-Occurring Treatment Court
- Family Treatment Court

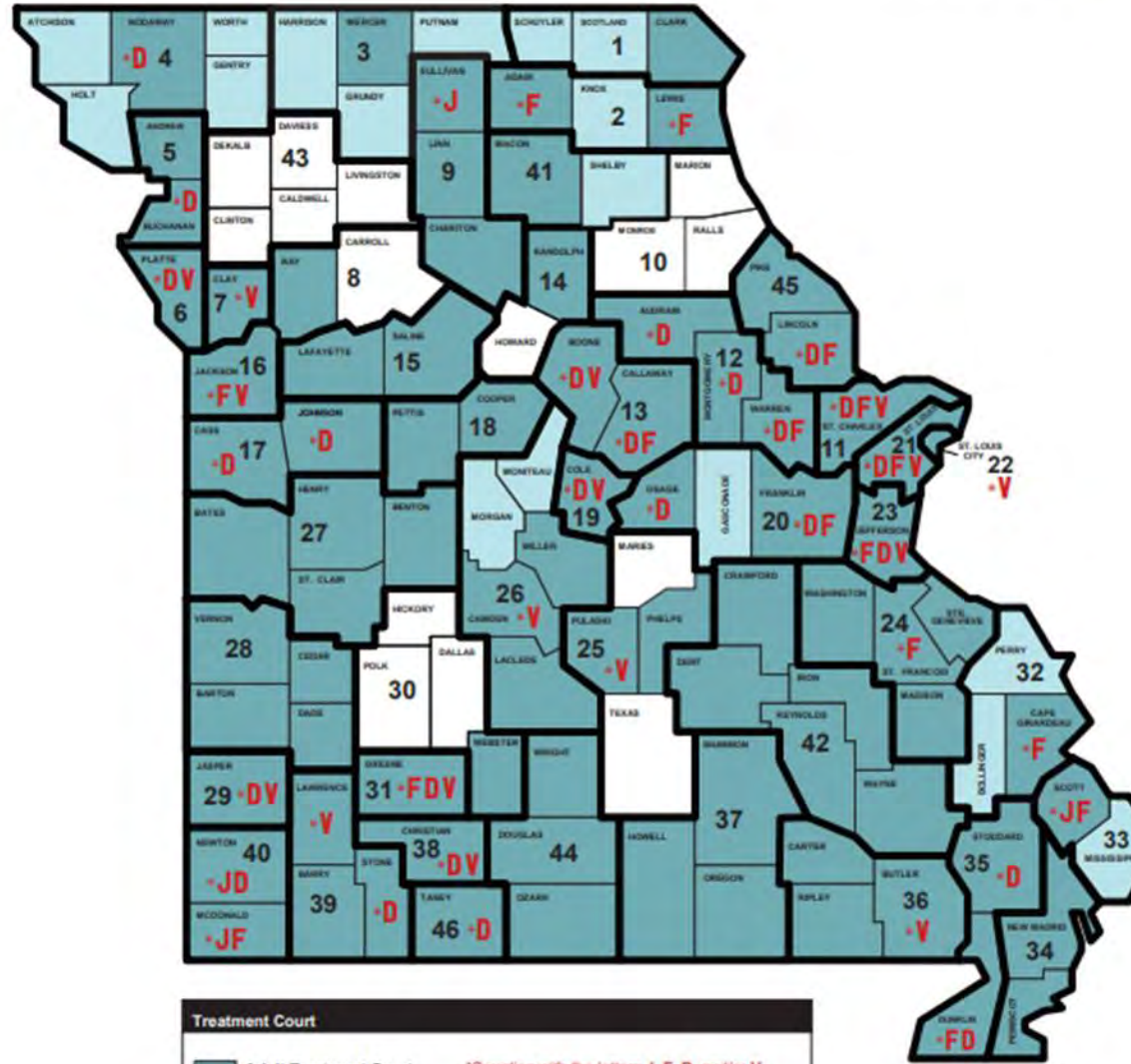




# Missouri Treatment Courts

Recognized by the Treatment Court Coordinating Commission

Office of State Courts Administrator  
January 2022



**Treatment Court**

- Adult Treatment Court
- Counties Served by an Adult Treatment Court
- No Adult Treatment Court

\*Counties with the letters J, F, D, and/or V indicate the availability of additional programs

- J** = Juvenile Treatment Court
- F** = Family Treatment Court
- D** = Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Court
- V** = Veterans Treatment Court

# TREATMENT COURTS COORDINATING COMMISSION

- Honorable George Draper – Supreme Court Judge
- Court of Appeals Judge - Vacant
- Honorable Alan Blankenship – Associate Court Judge – 39th Judicial Circuit
- Kevin Austin – Treatment Court Commissioner – 31st Judicial Circuit
- Val Huhn, Director DMH
- Robert Knodell, Acting Director Social Services
- Anne Precythe, Director DOC
- Sandra Karsten, Director DPS
- Julie Fogelberg, Prosecuting Attorney Representative
- Dean Price, Criminal Defense Bar Representative

Lawyer

# TREATMENT COURTS IN MISSOURI

- Commission oversees funding –  
Treatment Court Resources Fund
- Treatment Court Statute: 478 RSMo
- Treatment Court Standards

Lawyer





# TREATMENT COURTS COMMITTEE

- Established in 2007 by the Supreme Court
- Appointment is by the Supreme Court
- Purpose
  - Reviews legislation
  - Makes recommendations for rules relating to treatment courts
- Members:

Lawyer Judges

- Prosecutor
- Defense Attorney
- Treatment Court Administrators
- Probation & Parole
- DMH

Lawyer

# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

## Target Population

- Risk/Need Level
- Use of standardized, validated assessments
- RANT
- Clinical Assessment

## Objective vs. Subjective

- Commitment and responsibility to ensure equity and inclusion
- Standard Process
- Use of checklist
- Review at least annually

## Written and established in all forms of program documents

- Handbooks
- Policy/Procedure Manual



Lawyer

# EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Treatment Courts Shall:

Ensure equity and inclusion based upon

- Race
- Gender
- Age
- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Physical/Mental Disability
- Religion
- Socioeconomic Status

Also ensure underserved groups receive equal access, retention, treatment, dispositions, outcomes and incentives/sanctions



**BELONGING**

**INCLUSION**

**DIVERSITY**

**EQUITY**

# REFERRAL PROCESS



## REFERRAL FORM

- Standard form
- Confidentiality



## REFERRAL SOURCE

- Defense Attorneys
- Pre-trial Services
- Probation and Parole
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Law Enforcement



## SCREENING

- Timeframe to screen
- Legal Eligibility
- Assessment Tools
- Notify parties of eligibility status





# PROGRAM ENTRY



03

## Case Type

- Pre-plea
- Post-plea
- Probation Violation
- Re-entry

## Participant Onboarding

- Program Information
- Share the Benefits
- Client Centered
- Consistent Messaging

## Team Expectations

- Proximal Goals
- Stabilization



# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

FIVE PHASE STRUCTURE, 12 MONTHS  
MINIMUM IN LENGTH

- High Risk/High Need Population

PHASE I SHORT TO PROVIDE STABILIZATION

PROXIMAL V DISTAL GOALS



# EXAMPLE OF FIVE PHASE STRUCTURE

## Sample Drug Court Phases (HR/HN)

1

### Acute Stabilization

60 DAYS

- Court weekly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Develop case plan
- Weekly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Address housing
- Obtain medical assessment
- Start changing people, places and things
- Curfew 9 p.m.

2

### Clinical Stabilization

90 DAYS

- Court bi-monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Weekly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Begin peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain housing
- Address financial issues
- Address medical
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Curfew 10 p.m.

3

### Pro-Social Habilitation

90 DAYS

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Bi-monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Address life skills
- Begin criminal thinking program
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Establish recovery network
- Establish pro-social activity
- Address medical
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Curfew 11 p.m.

4

### Adaptive Habilitation

90 DAYS

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Bi-monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Continue criminal thinking program
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain pro-social activity
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Maintain recovery network
- Address medical
- Begin job or vocational training, job search, or school
- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Curfew 12 a.m.

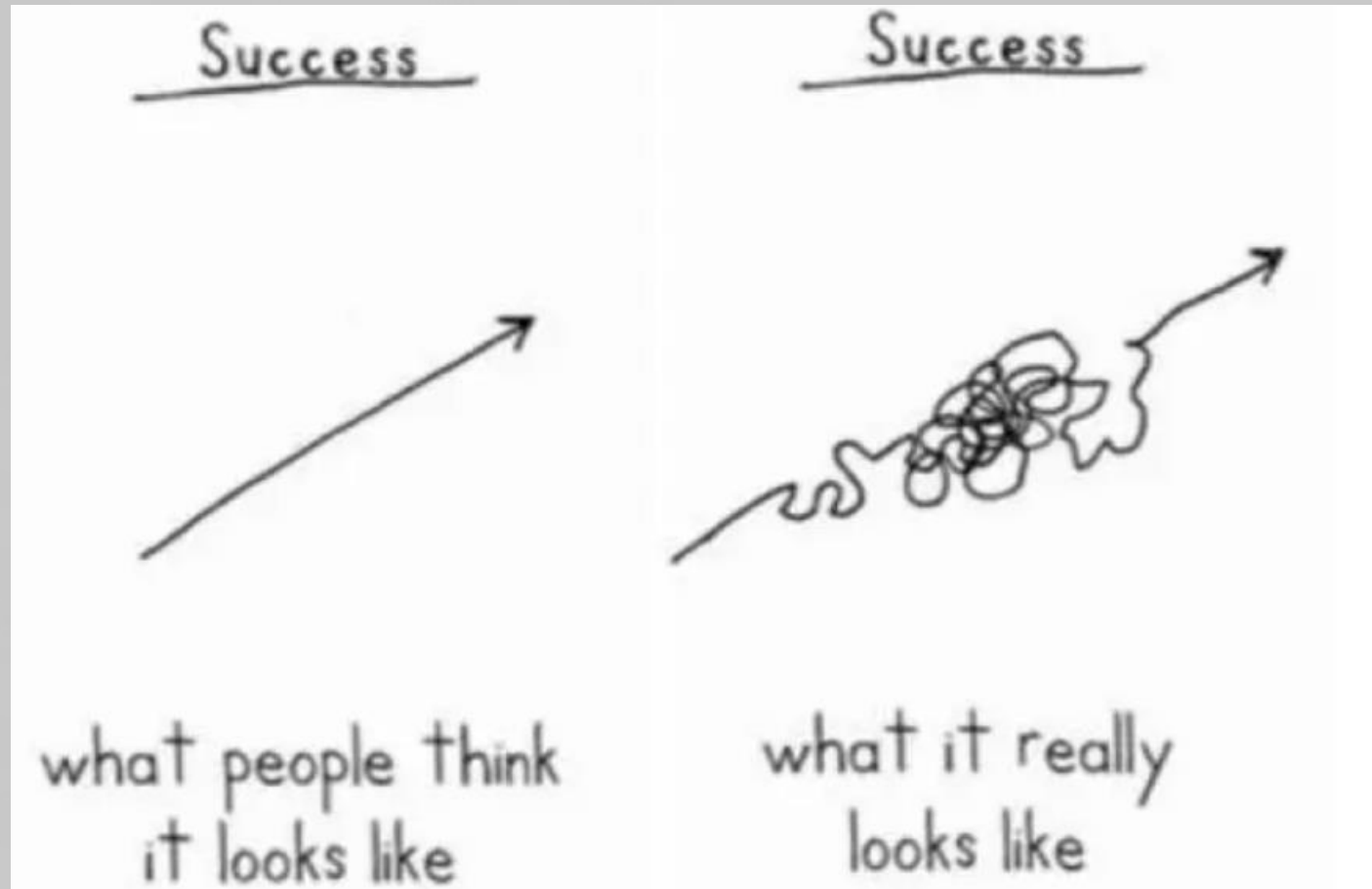
5

### Continuing Care

90 DAYS

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests
- Complete criminal thinking program
- Develop continuing care plan
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain recovery network
- Maintain pro-social activity
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Address medical
- Maintain employment, vocational training, or school
- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things

# EXPECTATION V REALITY



Lawyer

Lawyer

# PROGRAM RESPONSES



## Incentives

- 3:1 Delivery
- Meaningful to Participant
- Positive and Negative Reinforcement



## Sanctions

- Matrix or Range
- Consistency
- Punishment
- Response Cost



## Therapeutic Responses

- Service Enhancements
- Service Reductions



## Supervision Responses

- Increased Monitoring
- Monitoring Reduction





Lawyer



Lawyer

# TREATMENT COURT TEAM

- Judge or Treatment Court Commissioner
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Defense Attorney
- Treatment Provider Probation Officer  
Law Enforcement Officer
- Case Managers/Peer Support
- Evaluator
- Treatment Court Administrator or Coordinator



# TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM BENEFITS

## **Participants and their Families**

Array of Treatment Services, Personal Recovery, Stability, Unification of Families, Education and Job Training, Life Skills, Community Resource Management, Remain in Community, Good Case Outcome

## **Criminal Justice Partner**

Integrated, successful program within the criminal justice system

- Recidivism
- Cost Effective

## **Community**

Safety, Community Partnerships, Transparency



# PROGRAM GOALS

- Community Safety
- Adherence to Treatment Court Standards and Best Practices
- Program Capacity
- Continued Education and Learning



# WHAT IS WORKING IN MISSOURI?

## Leadership

Treatment Court Coordination Commission (TCCC)

Treatment Court Committee (TCC)

OSCA

Missouri Treatment Court Standards

National Leadership--Trainers

## Missouri Association of Treatment Court Professionals

501c3 Non-profit

Conference Planning

Training/Advocacy





# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 2024 - 26th Annual Conference
- Branson Hilton Hotel and Convention Center (April 10-12, 2024)
- Growth of Conference
- Open Registration
- First conference to offer dedicated peer track
  - Certified Peers in Missouri (CPS, CRPR, FSP, YPS)
- National Level Speakers/Topics
  - RISE (NADCP)
  - ATTC
  - Center for Court Innovation
  - SAMHSA
  - Opioid Response Network



# BREAKING STIGMA

- Why does it matter?
  - Client Success
  - Professionals
  - Communities





# NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION TRAINING/CREDENTIAL

The purpose of this training is to help clinicians, peers, and others in the helping field learn and integrate harm reduction practices into your work. No specific information related to types of mental health or substance use diagnosis is provided.

The skills you will be learning are applicable to working with individuals in many settings and with diverse backgrounds.

# MISSOURI 1ST STATE TO OFFER HARM REDUCTION CREDENTIALING

- Partnered with IC&RC
- 29 Credentialed Nationally
- 117 HRS Professionals in Missouri since March 2023
- Open to anyone interested
- For more information can contact the Missouri Credentialing Board at 573-616-2300.
- [www.missouricb.com](http://www.missouricb.com)



# OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING:

Basic principles of harm reduction and how they relate to recovery

- Practical skills and applications for harm reduction in your own work
- Ways to work collaboratively with other professions with harm reduction approaches
- This training is 3 days and will include interactive activities, group discussion, and breakout groups.

# UNCONDITIONAL POSITIVE REGARD

A general definition is the attitude of complete acceptance and love, whether for yourself or for someone else. When you have unconditional positive regard for someone, nothing they can do could give you a reason to stop seeing them as inherently human and inherently lovable. It does not mean that you accept each and every action taken by the person, but that you accept who they are at a level much deeper than surface behavior (Rogers, 1951).





# WHAT IS RECOVERY?

A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

(SAMHSA)

- A process of change
- Individuals improve their health and wellness
- Live a self-directed life
- Strive to reach their full potential

to be best  
point of view  
**Recovery** [r:  
return to an  
1 sta



# WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

Any behavior or strategy that helps reduce risk or harm to yourself or others along with policies, programs and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws.

Quote:

“An eclectic blend of strategies ranging from safe using principles to abstinence, and everything in between. “ -David Stoecker



# HARM REDUCTION PRINCIPLES

- Accepts, for better and or worse, that licit and illicit drug use is part of our world and chooses to work to minimize its harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them.
- Establishes quality of individual and community life and well-being – not necessarily cessation of all drug use – as the criteria for successful interventions and policies.
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# MISSOURI TREATMENT COURTS

CHANGING MINDS, SAVING LIVES: THE  
EVOLUTION OF TREATMENT COURTS





# GOALS



01

## Provide Information

Foundation of Treatment  
Courts  
Best Practices and Resources  
Team Approach

02

## Share Ideas

Questions Welcomed

03

## Tailor to You

Your Role on the Team  
Program Type  
Time with the Program

# TREATMENT COURTS

An alternative to incarceration for adult offenders in the criminal justice system who have been diagnosed with substance use disorder or co-occurring disorder. This problem solving court is led by a judge or treatment court commissioner and is comprised of a team of professionals which may include treatment providers for both substance use disorders and mental health issues, community supervision, prosecuting attorney, defense counsel, law enforcement, and social services providers. An emphasis on public safety and due process, along with supervision and accountability is joined with treatment to achieve individual success.



# BRIEF HISTORY

- **1989- First Drug Court**  
Miami, Florida
- **1993-First Drug Court in Missouri**  
Jackson County-Kansas City
- **1994 - NADCP Founded**  
National Association of Drug Court Professionals
- **1997 - 10 Key Components of Drug Courts**  
Fundamental and principal document
- **2010 - DWI Courts in Missouri**  
Legislation passed to establish DWI Courts
- **2020 - Missouri Treatment Court Standards Adopted**  
Best Practices

# TREATMENT COURTS IN MISSOURI



## Treatment Court Coordination Commission

Oversee the Treatment Court  
Resource Fund



## Chapter 478 RSMo

Allocate resources from the Treatment Court Resources Fund  
Establish standards and practices that are based on current research related to practices shown to reduce recidivism  
Treatment courts that do not comply with the commission's standards shall be subject to administrative action



## Missouri Treatment Court Standards

Best Practice documents and  
resources



# WHY TREATMENT COURTS?

## Why Treatment Courts?



Proven cost-effective method of diverting offenders from incarceration in prisons



Lower the recidivism rate of offenders when compared with either incarceration or probation



Allow offenders to remain in the community, to work, pay taxes, support families



Reduce the number of babies born prenatally exposed to drugs/alcohol, saving the state millions of dollars in lifetime costs



Reduce crime and the need for foster care



Help ensure child support payments are made



# Treatment Courts Coordinating Commission

## Treatment Court Program Status

As of December 31, 2022, 44 judicial circuits had the following treatment court programs:

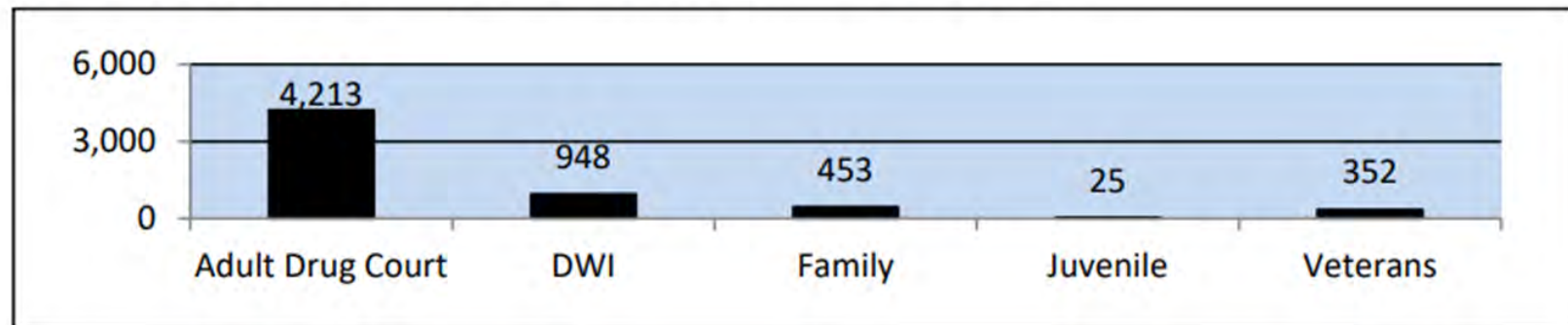
- 82 adult treatment courts serving 99 counties
- 4 juvenile treatment courts serving 5 counties
- 16 family treatment courts serving 24 counties
- 16 veteran's treatment courts serving 42 counties
- 25 designated DWI courts serving 34 counties

The commission provides funding to 133 of these programs in 43 judicial circuits.

### Treatment Court Program Participants

During the 2022 reporting period, 5,991 individuals participated in a treatment court program.

4,213	Adult
948	DWI
453	Family
25	Juvenile
352	Veterans
<u>5,991</u>	Total*



\*Unduplicated cases open for minimum of one day

# TYPES OF PROGRAMS

- Adult Treatment Court
- Veterans Treatment Court
- Mental Health Court
- Juvenile Treatment Court
- DWI Treatment Court
- Co-Occurring Treatment Court
- Family Treatment Court

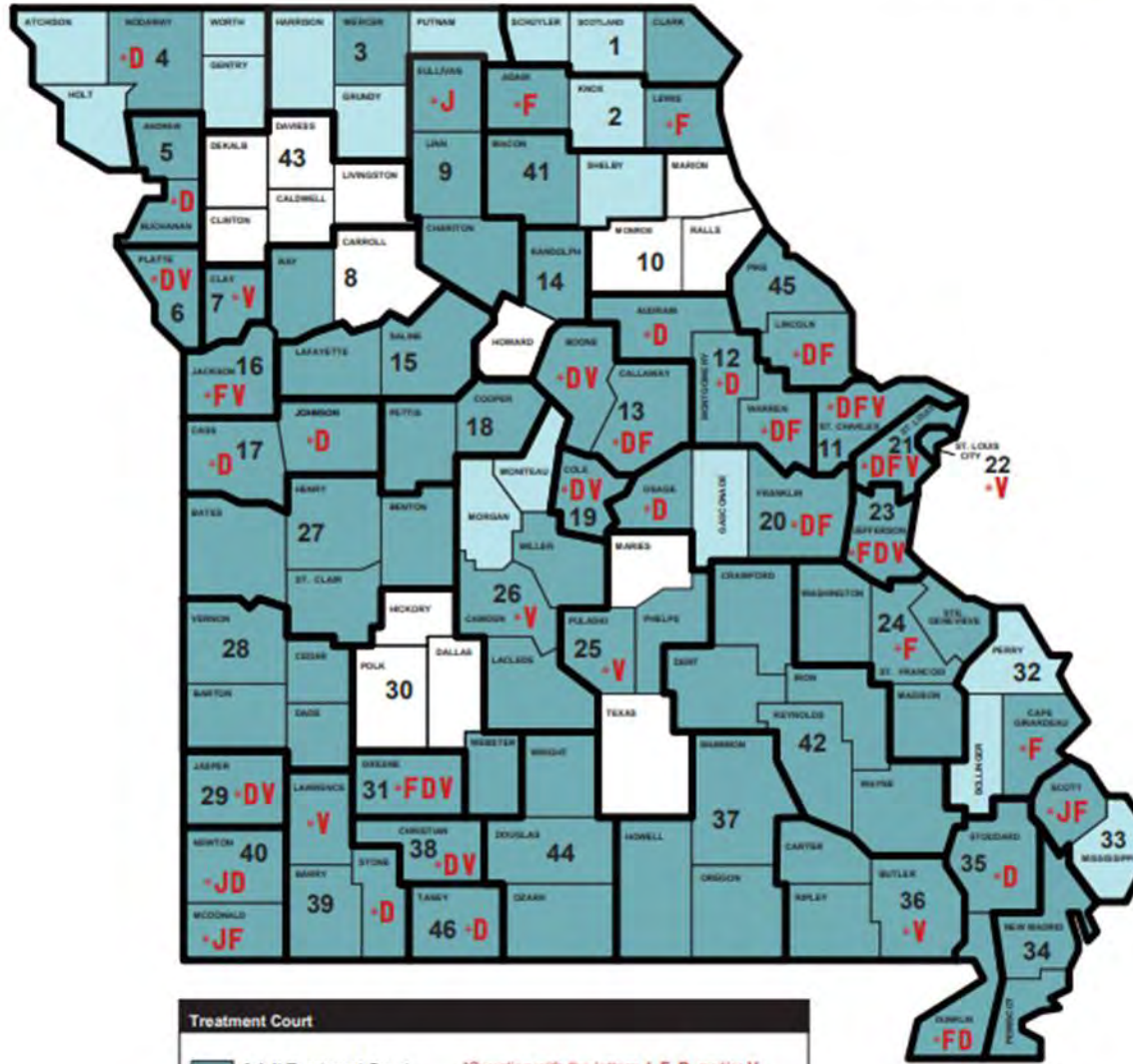




# Missouri Treatment Courts

Recognized by the Treatment Court Coordinating Commission

Office of State Courts Administrator  
January 2023



**Treatment Court**

- Adult Treatment Court
- Counties Served by an Adult Treatment Court
- No Adult Treatment Court

\*Counties with the letters J, F, D, and/or V indicate the availability of additional programs

- J** = Juvenile Treatment Court
- F** = Family Treatment Court
- D** = Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Court
- V** = Veterans Treatment Court

# TREATMENT COURTS COORDINATING COMMISSION

- Honorable George Draper – Supreme Court Judge
- Court of Appeals Judge - Vacant
- Honorable Alan Blankenship – Associate Court Judge – 39th Judicial Circuit
- Kevin Austin – Treatment Court Commissioner – 31st Judicial Circuit
- Val Huhn, Director DMH
- Robert Knodell, Acting Director Social Services
- Anne Precythe, Director DOC
- Sandra Karsten, Director DPS
- Julie Fogelberg, Prosecuting Attorney Representative
- Dean Price, Criminal Defense Bar Representative

Lawyer

# TREATMENT COURTS IN MISSOURI

- Commission oversees funding – Treatment Court Resources Fund
- Treatment Court Statute: 478 RSMo
- Treatment Court Standards

Lawyer





# TREATMENT COURTS COMMITTEE

- Established in 2007 by the Supreme Court
- Appointment is by the Supreme Court
- Purpose
  - Reviews legislation
  - Makes recommendations for rules relating to treatment courts
- Members:

Lawyer Judges

- Prosecutor
- Defense Attorney
- Treatment Court Administrators
- Probation & Parole
- DMH

Lawyer

# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

## Target Population

- Risk/Need Level
- Use of standardized, validated assessments
- RANT
- Clinical Assessment

## Objective vs. Subjective

- Commitment and responsibility to ensure equity and inclusion
- Standard Process
- Use of checklist
- Review at least annually

## Written and established in all forms of program documents

- Handbooks
- Policy/Procedure Manual



Lawyer

# EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Treatment Courts Shall:

Ensure equity and inclusion based upon

- Race
- Gender
- Age
- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Physical/Mental Disability
- Religion
- Socioeconomic Status

Also ensure underserved groups receive equal access, retention, treatment, dispositions, outcomes and incentives/sanctions



**BELONGING**

**INCLUSION**

**DIVERSITY**

**EQUITY**

# REFERRAL PROCESS



## REFERRAL FORM

- Standard form
- Confidentiality



## REFERRAL SOURCE

- Defense Attorneys
- Pre-trial Services
- Probation and Parole
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Law Enforcement



## SCREENING

- Timeframe to screen
- Legal Eligibility
- Assessment Tools
- Notify parties of eligibility status





# PROGRAM ENTRY



03

## Case Type

- Pre-plea
- Post-plea
- Probation Violation
- Re-entry

## Participant Onboarding

- Program Information
- Share the Benefits
- Client Centered
- Consistent Messaging

## Team Expectations

- Proximal Goals
- Stabilization



# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

FIVE PHASE STRUCTURE, 12 MONTHS  
MINIMUM IN LENGTH

- High Risk/High Need Population

PHASE I SHORT TO PROVIDE STABILIZATION

PROXIMAL V DISTAL GOALS



# EXAMPLE OF FIVE PHASE STRUCTURE

## Sample Drug Court Phases (HR/HN)

1

### Acute Stabilization

60 DAYS

- Court weekly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Develop case plan
- Weekly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Address housing
- Obtain medical assessment
- Start changing people, places and things
- Curfew 9 p.m.

2

### Clinical Stabilization

90 DAYS

- Court bi-monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Weekly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Begin peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain housing
- Address financial issues
- Address medical
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Curfew 10 p.m.

3

### Pro-Social Habilitation

90 DAYS

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Bi-monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Address life skills
- Begin criminal thinking program
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Establish recovery network
- Establish pro-social activity
- Address medical
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Curfew 11 p.m.

4

### Adaptive Habilitation

90 DAYS

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Bi-monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests (at least 2x week)
- Continue criminal thinking program
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain pro-social activity
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Maintain recovery network
- Address medical
- Begin job or vocational training, job search, or school
- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things
- Curfew 12 a.m.

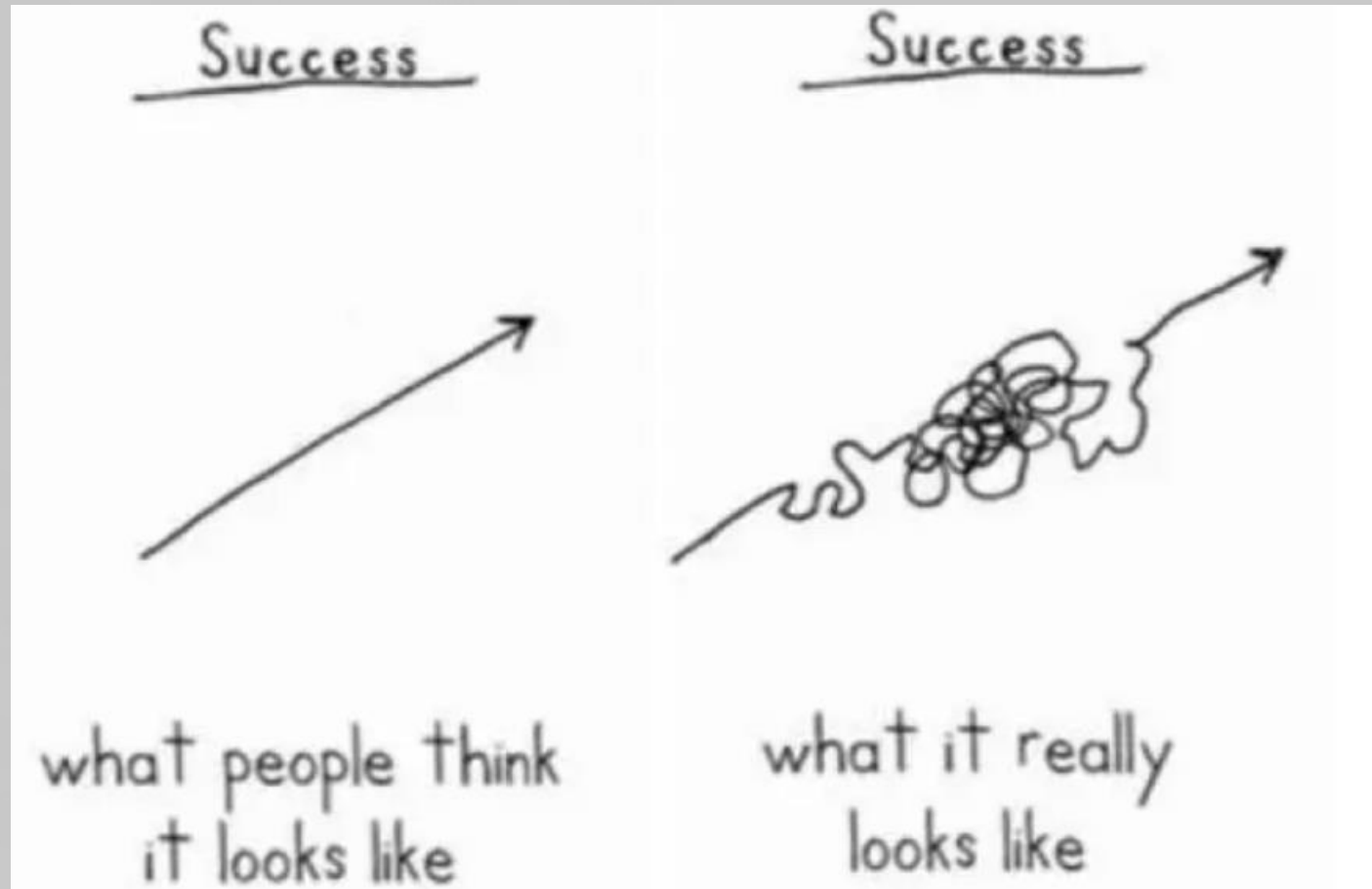
5

### Continuing Care

90 DAYS

- Court monthly
- Engaged with treatment
- Comply with supervision
- Review case plan
- Monthly office visits
- Monthly home visits
- Random drug tests
- Complete criminal thinking program
- Develop continuing care plan
- Maintain peer recovery groups\*
- Maintain recovery network
- Maintain pro-social activity
- Maintain housing
- Addressing financial issues
- Address medical
- Maintain employment, vocational training, or school
- Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- Demonstrate changing people, places and things

# EXPECTATION V REALITY



Lawyer

Lawyer

# PROGRAM RESPONSES



## Incentives

- 3:1 Delivery
- Meaningful to Participant
- Positive and Negative Reinforcement



## Sanctions

- Matrix or Range
- Consistency
- Punishment
- Response Cost



## Therapeutic Responses

- Service Enhancements
- Service Reductions



## Supervision Responses

- Increased Monitoring
- Monitoring Reduction





Lawyer



Lawyer

# TREATMENT COURT TEAM

- Judge or Treatment Court Commissioner
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Defense Attorney
- Treatment Provider Probation Officer
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Case Managers/Peer Support
- Evaluator
- Treatment Court Administrator or Coordinator



# TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM BENEFITS

## **Participants and their Families**

Array of Treatment Services, Personal Recovery, Stability, Unification of Families, Education and Job Training, Life Skills, Community Resource Management, Remain in Community, Good Case Outcome

## **Criminal Justice Partner**

Integrated, successful program within the criminal justice system

- Recidivism
- Cost Effective

## **Community**

Safety, Community Partnerships, Transparency



# PROGRAM GOALS

- Community Safety
- Adherence to Treatment Court Standards and Best Practices
- Program Capacity
- Continued Education and Learning



# WHAT IS WORKING IN MISSOURI?

## Leadership

Treatment Court Coordination Commission (TCCC)

Treatment Court Committee (TCC)

OSCA

Missouri Treatment Court Standards

National Leadership--Trainers

## Missouri Association of Treatment Court Professionals

501c3 Non-profit

Conference Planning

Training/Advocacy





# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 2024 - 26th Annual Conference
- Branson Hilton Hotel and Convention Center (April 10-12, 2024)
- Growth of Conference
- Open Registration
- First conference to offer dedicated peer track
  - Certified Peers in Missouri (CPS, CRPR, FSP, YPS)
- National Level Speakers/Topics
  - RISE (NADCP)
  - ATTC
  - Center for Court Innovation
  - SAMHSA
  - Opioid Response Network





# BREAKING STIGMA

- Why does it matter?
  - Client Success
  - Professionals
  - Communities



# NATIONAL HARM REDUCTION TRAINING/CREDENTIAL

The purpose of this training is to help clinicians, peers, and others in the helping field learn and integrate harm reduction practices into your work. No specific information related to types of mental health or substance use diagnosis is provided.

The skills you will be learning are applicable to working with individuals in many settings and with diverse backgrounds.

# MISSOURI 1ST STATE TO OFFER HARM REDUCTION CREDENTIALING

- Partnered with IC&RC
- 29 Credentialed Nationally
- 117 HRS Professionals in Missouri since March 2023
- Open to anyone interested
- For more information can contact the Missouri Credentialing Board at 573-616-2300.
- [www.missouricb.com](http://www.missouricb.com)



# OVERVIEW OF THE TRAINING:

Basic principles of harm reduction and how they relate to recovery

- Practical skills and applications for harm reduction in your own work
- Ways to work collaboratively with other professions with harm reduction approaches
- This training is 3 days and will include interactive activities, group discussion, and breakout groups.

# UNCONDITIONAL POSITIVE REGARD

A general definition is the attitude of complete acceptance and love, whether for yourself or for someone else. When you have unconditional positive regard for someone, nothing they can do could give you a reason to stop seeing them as inherently human and inherently lovable. It does not mean that you accept each and every action taken by the person, but that you accept who they are at a level much deeper than surface behavior (Rogers, 1951).





# WHAT IS RECOVERY?

A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

(SAMHSA)

- A process of change
- Individuals improve their health and wellness
- Live a self-directed life
- Strive to reach their full potential

to be best  
point of view  
**Recovery** [r:  
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# The opioid crisis: Emerging issues

Madeline McCrary, MD  
Assistant Professor, Infectious Diseases





# Objectives



- Review the evolution of the opioid crisis
- Understand toxicities of drug supply and impact on people who use drugs and public health
- Understand infectious complications and importance to public health

# Outline



- Background
- “Fourth wave”
- Drug checking
- Emerging substances in the drug supply
  - Xylazine
  - Nitazenes
- Crisis as a *syndemic*
  - Infectious complications of substance use and impacts on health systems



**STIGMA IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST BARRIERS TO TREATMENT AND RECOVERY FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS TODAY. OFTEN THE LANGUAGE WE USE CONTRIBUTES TO STIGMA.**  
THERE ARE A LOT OF STIGMATIZING WORDS THAT ARE COMMON IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LANGUAGE.

WHAT YOU SAY	VS	WHAT PEOPLE HEAR
ABUSER DRUG HABIT ADDICT DRUG USER		IT'S MY FAULT IT'S MY CHOICE THERE'S NO HOPE I'M A CRIMINAL

BY CHOOSING ALTERNATE LANGUAGE, YOU CAN HELP BREAK DOWN THE NEGATIVE STEREOTYPE ASSOCIATED WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

INSTEAD OF	TRY
ABUSER, ADDICT DRUG HABIT FORMER/REFORMED ADDICT	PERSON WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER REGULAR SUBSTANCE USE, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PERSON IN RECOVERY/LONG-TERM RECOVERY

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK. HELP REMOVE **THE STIGMA**.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**  
**#WORDSMATTER**

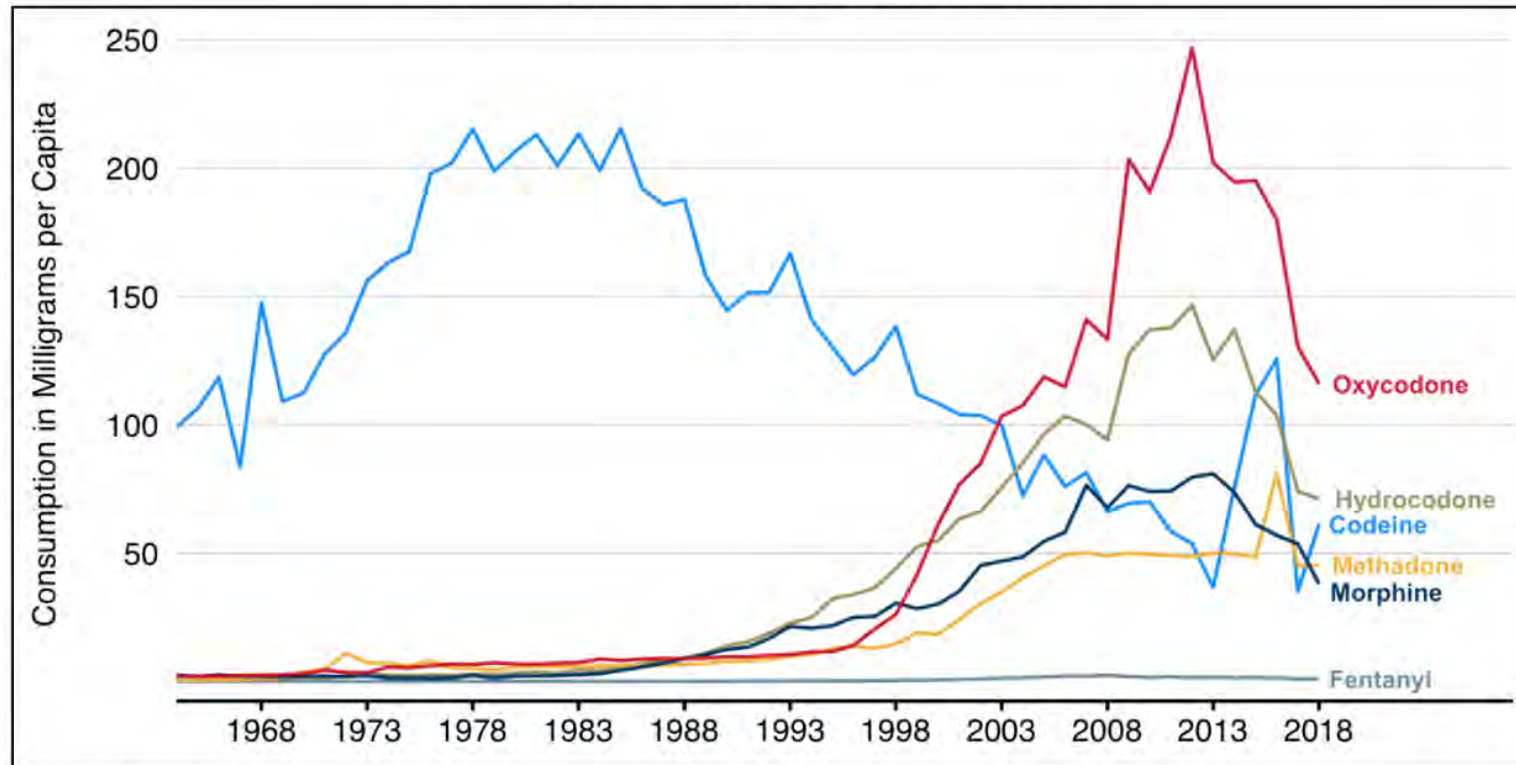
 Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction  
Addiction Engagement Project.  
© Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction 2017

# Words Matter



**Figure 3. Opioid Consumption in the United States, by Opioid**

Consumption in milligrams per capita: 1964-2018

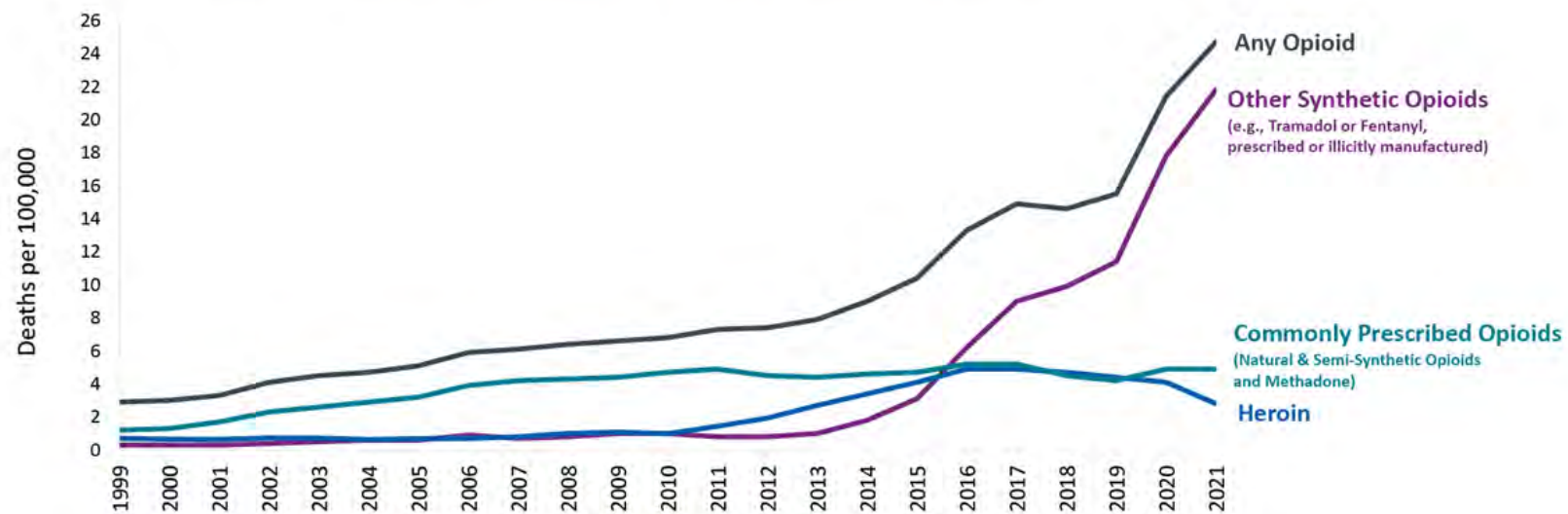


**Source:** International consumption of narcotic drugs, 1964-2018, data provided to CRS by the International Narcotics Control Board (August 2020).

**Notes:** Consumption in milligrams per capita accounts for population change over time but does not factor in the potency of the opioid.



# Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



Wave 1: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in the 1990s

Wave 2: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths Started in 2010

Wave 3: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths Started in 2013

SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.





# What is fentanyl?

- Synthetic (manufactured, non-naturally produced) opioid
- 30-40x more potent than heroin
- Some analogues much more potent
  - Carfentanil – 10K x morphine
- Fast onset of action but shorter half-life
  
- Pros – more potent
- Cons – have to seek out drug more often due to shorter duration action – in withdrawal A LOT

# Why did fentanyl enter the drug supply?



- ‘Demand-led’: did producers think that people who use opioids want (or need) a stronger, cheaper product?
- ‘Supply-led’: reduced costs of production and distribution
- But, initially in US, people did not know there was fentanyl in the product (thought buying heroin, but actually heroin + fentanyl)
  - Entered at the wholesale level
- Thought to be a combination of decreased opium production and distribution issues, increasing street price of heroin PLUS high demand for heroin

# Why has fentanyl persisted despite high deaths?



- From business perspective, not necessarily ideal if customers are dying
- At the same time
  - Cheaper to produce
  - Synthetic - avoid supply issues with opium plant like climate, disease etc
  - Easier distribution as more concentrated

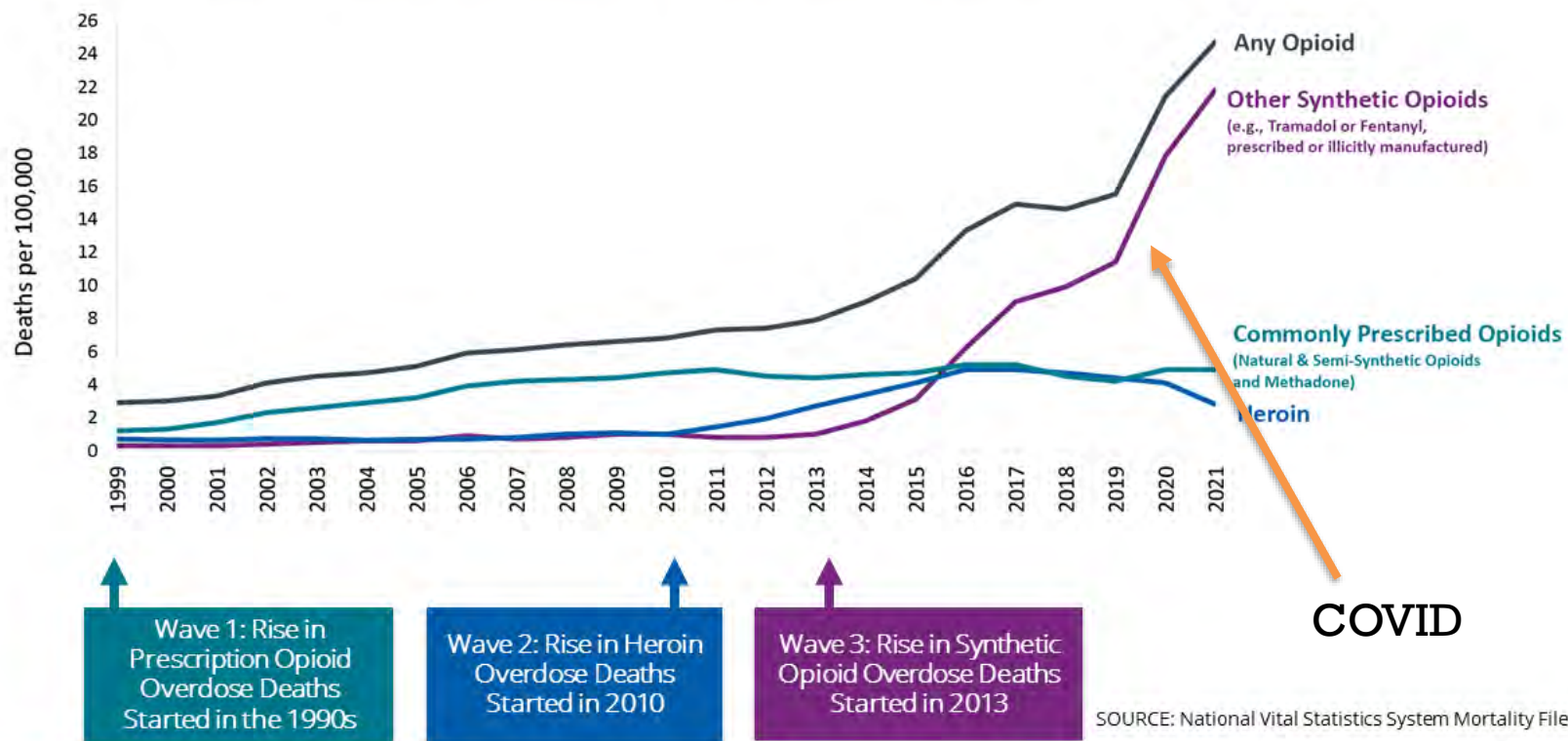
# Entire opioid drug supply is essentially now illicit fentanyl (or analogues)



- Little to no real heroin
- No real prescription opioid on the street
  - “Perc 30s” are *\*not\** Percocet – they are pressed fentanyl pills
- Variable concentration of fentanyl in products even when marketed as fentanyl – cannot tell how much using or even if it is something else
- **Reflects a heightened *\*structural\** risk for PWUD**



# Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



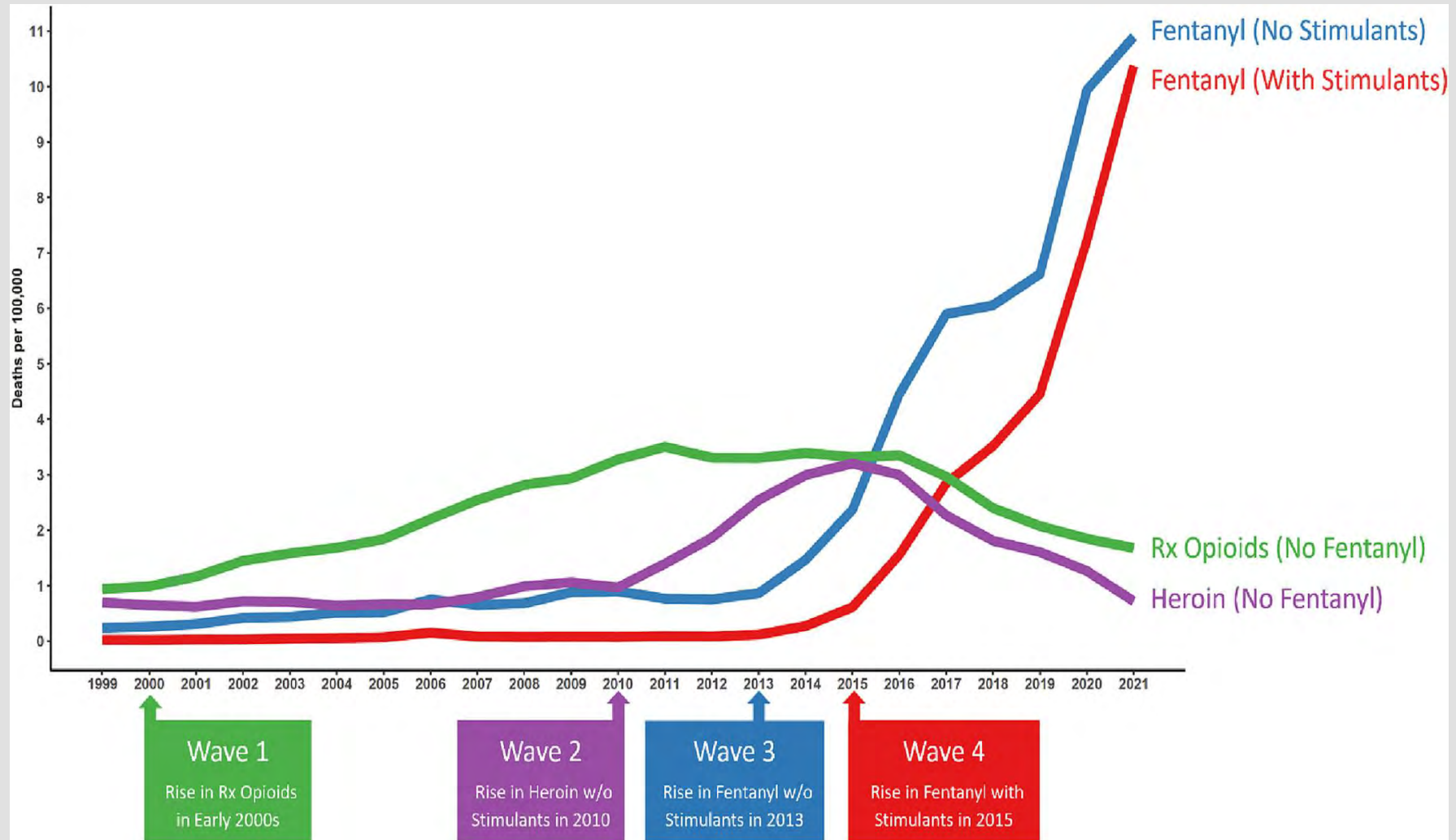


# The "fourth wave"

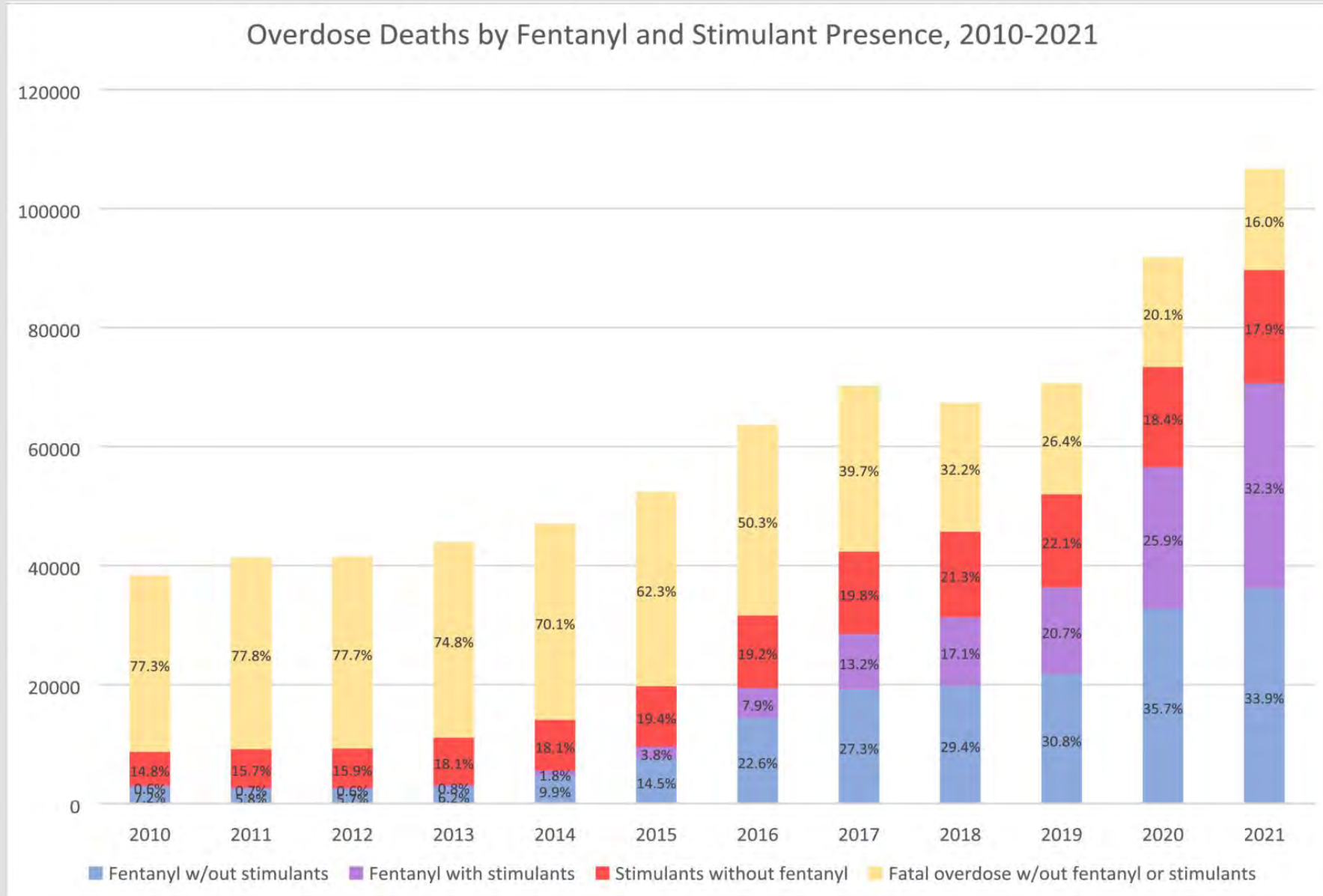


- Illicit fentanyl + stimulants (cocaine, methamphetamine) or other drugs
- Started in ~2015
- Age-adjusted drug overdose rates per 100,000 people
  - Cocaine increased from 1.4 to 6.0 from 2012 to 2020 with rate in 2020 being 22% higher than 2019
  - Psychostimulants generally increased from 2008 to 2020, with the rate in 2020 being 50% higher than in 2019

Charting the fourth wave: Geographic, temporal, race/ethnicity and demographic trends in polysubstance fentanyl overdose deaths in the United States, 2010–2021



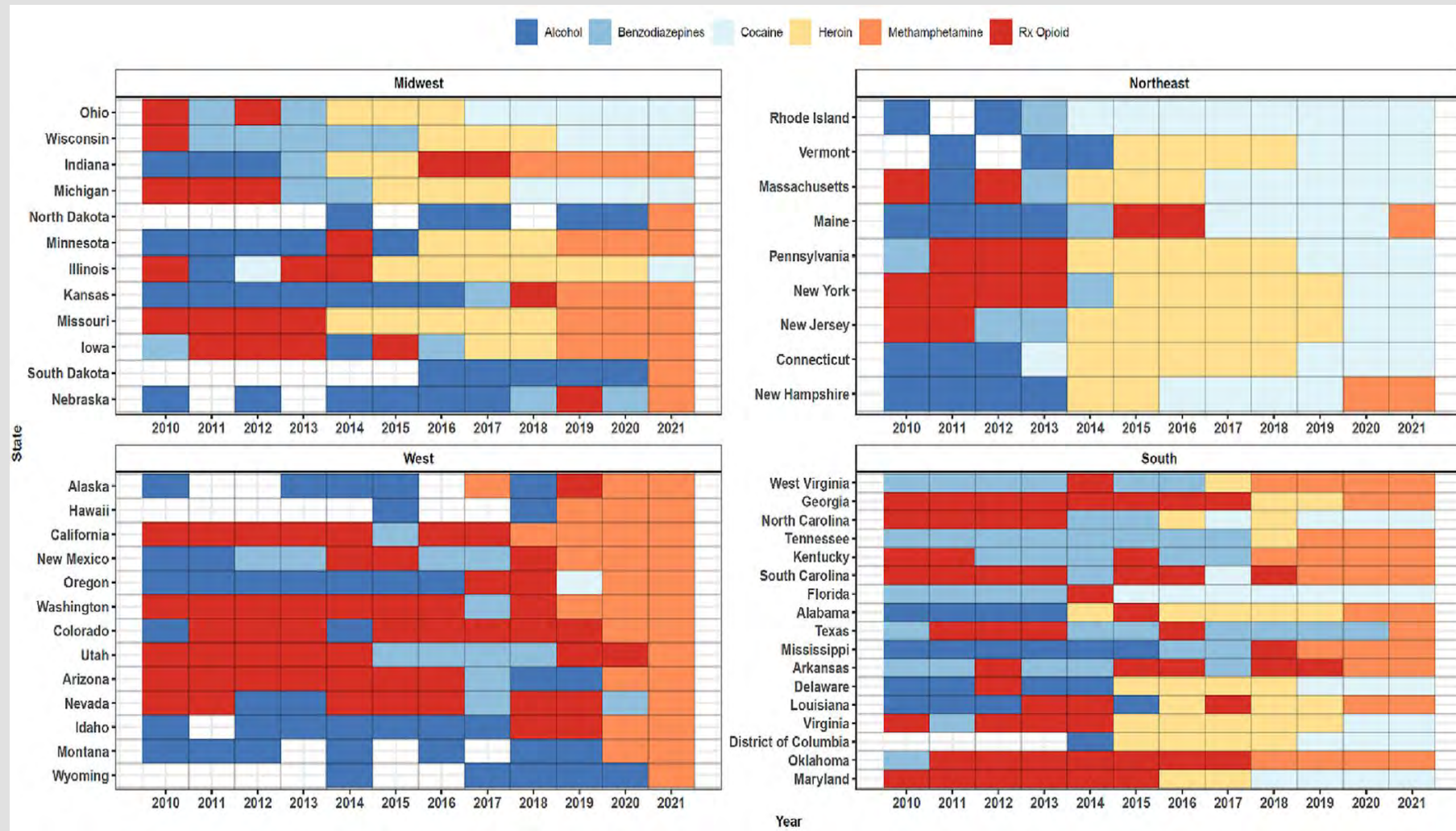
**Charting the fourth wave: Geographic, temporal, race/ethnicity and demographic trends in polysubstance fentanyl overdose deaths in the United States, 2010–2021**



# Charting the fourth wave: Geographic, temporal, race/ethnicity and demographic trends in polysubstance fentanyl overdose deaths in the United States, 2010–2021



Most common drug co-involved in overdose mortality with fentanyl, by state and year, 2010–2021.

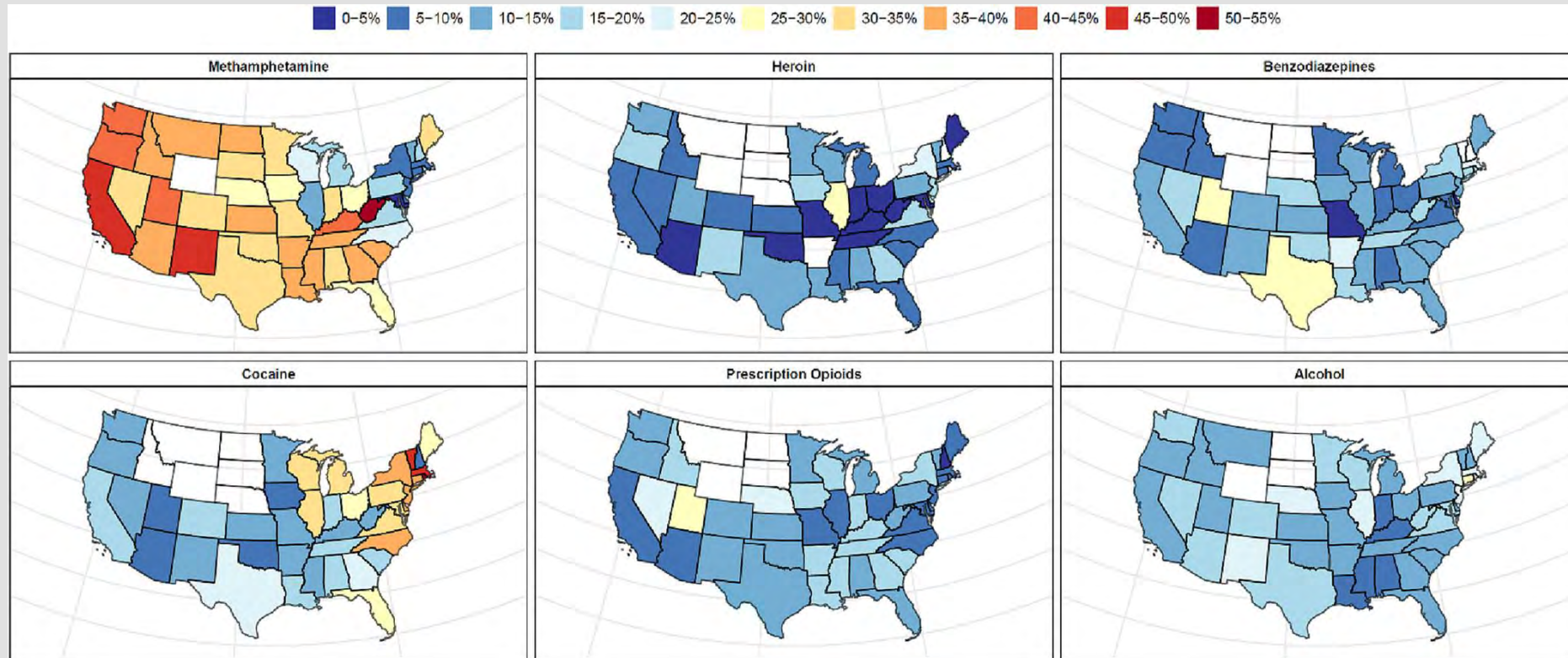




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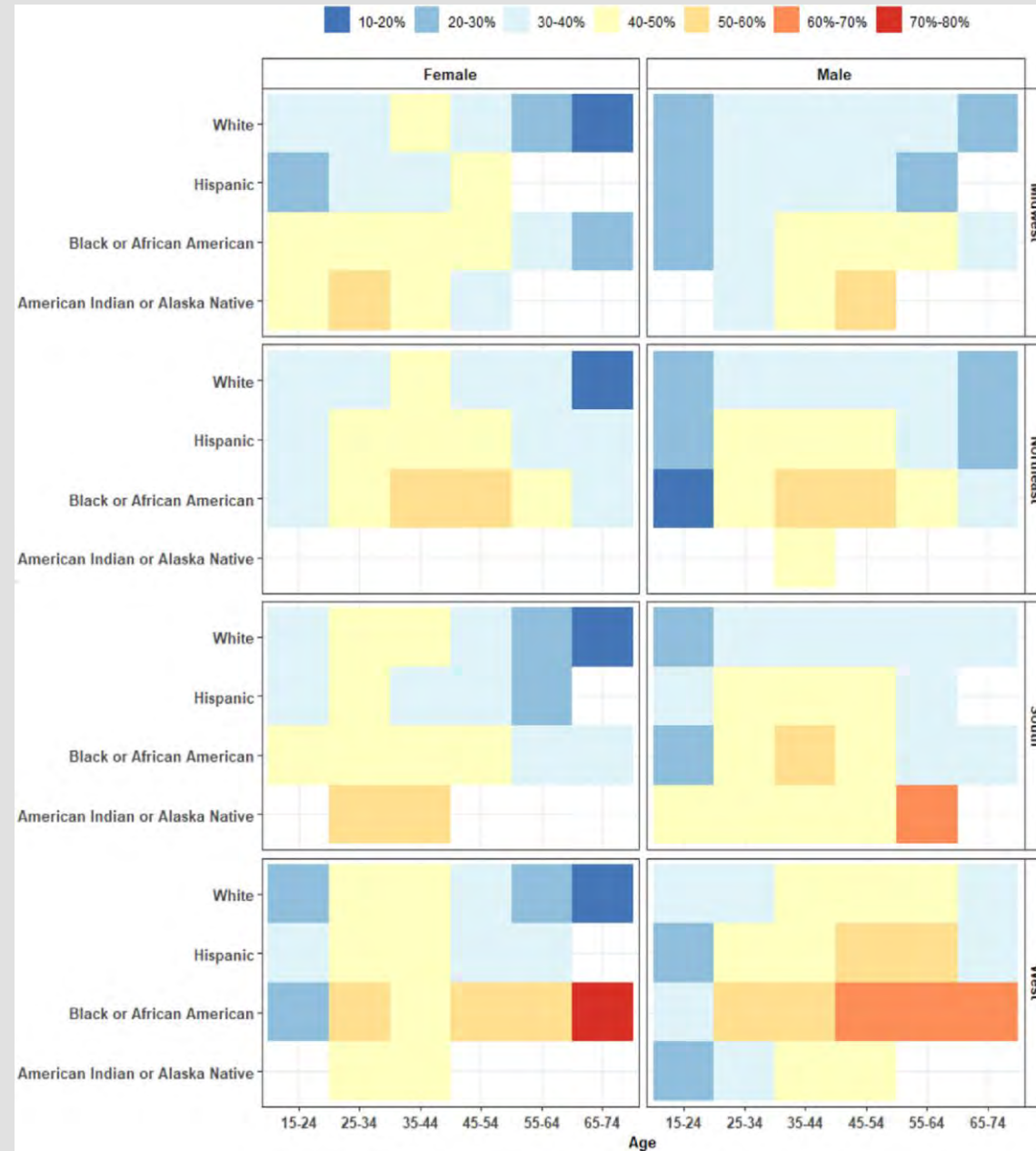


## Percent of fentanyl overdose deaths containing other drug classes by state, 2021





# Charting the fourth wave: Geographic, temporal, race/ethnicity and demographic trends in polysubstance fentanyl overdose deaths in the United States, 2010–2021



# Beyond stimulants...



- People have no idea what is or isn't in their drugs
- Some advocate for using the term “poisonings” as opposed to “overdoses”
- Drug checking programs have consistently identified numerous adulterants in the supply
  - Unclear whether these are supply or demand driven
  - le – added to provide something positive for the consumer VS to cut the supply and add more filler

# UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab



- Offers anonymous drug checking using mass spectrometry (GCMS)
  - Fancy machine that analyzes a substance and can tell you the chemical compounds/composition

## UNC STREET DRUG ANALYSIS LAB

### How to use the kits:

Our easy-to-use kits allow you to collect a drug sample using a pinhead of powder, a sliver of a pill, or a used cotton. Our machines are super sensitive, so we can also run analyses off of residue sticking to the inside of baggies.

### Kits Include:


- Plastic Bag
- Parafilm
- Drapes
- Pencil
- Swab
- Spatula
- 10mg scoop
- 1.5mL of methyl cyanide (acetonitrile)

\*This is an organic solvent that renders the sample unusable. Allows us to offer the service through the mail.

### After Testing

You return the kit to us, we run it in the lab via GC-MS, and you can check the results here on our website: [streetsafe.supply/results](https://streetsafe.supply/results)

It takes a week (or less) to run the samples once we get them in the mail. Rush service available during outbreaks.



- 1 Unfold cloth, lay out supplies.
- 2 Unpeel tape, unscrew vial.
- 3 Wear gloves to prevent contamination.
- 4 Close vial tightly. Seal using wax tape.
- 5 Complete back of this card. Card and vial go back in bag.
- 6 Give QR code to donor for results.

Enter Sample ID for results at <https://streetsafe.supply>

**Power (best results)**  
2 scoops

**Baggie**  
Wet swab in vial  
Run along inside 3x collecting residue  
Stir into vial and discard swab

**Fill**  
Break off 1/4 with clean knife, drop in vial  
Drop in used cotton

**Cotton**  
Drop in used cotton

Syringes, foil, and pipe residue are not ideal for analysis.

Remove tape from white backing.

hold, wrap

Our lab/program is a national service for public health organizations. As a non-profit, we can provide at-cost services to health departments, clinics, and universities. We operate on a per-sample price, offering steep discounts for harm reduction programs as well as free services for drug user unions. Law Enforcement is prohibited from using our service.

[www.streetsafe.supply](https://www.streetsafe.supply)

Learn more at [opioiddata.org](https://opioiddata.org)



# 800490

From Cortland, New York on 8/17/2023  
Assumed to be xanax

**2 major substances detected:**

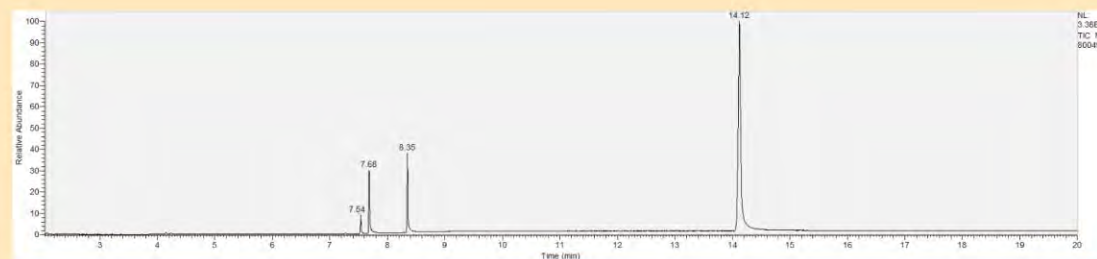
- **lidocaine**
- **etizolam**

Looks = light green pill

Need free supplies and advice to keep you safe? Find your nearest harm reduction program at [harmreduction.org](http://harmreduction.org)

**Major substances in graph:**

- Peak 14.12 = etizolam
- Peak 7.54 = lidocaine





# 801566

From Grand Rapids, Michigan on 8/8/2023  
Assumed to be benzodiazepine

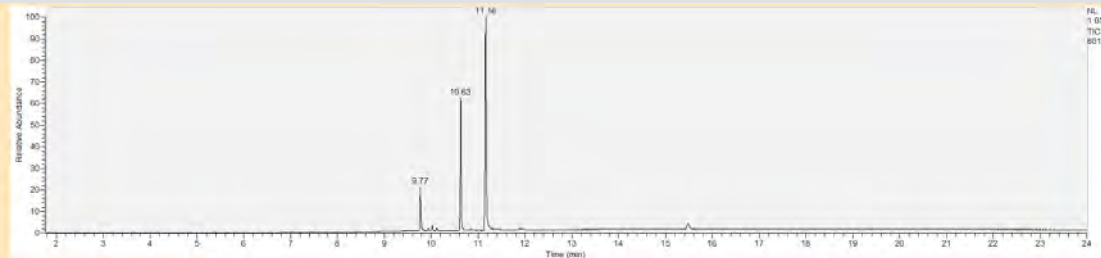
#### 4 major substances detected:

- **quinine**
- **4-ANPP**
- **fentanyl**
- **heroin**

But we found lots of contaminants too, with traces of 6-monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM) + papaverine + ethyl 4-ANPP + acetylcodeine + phenethyl 4-ANPP. Trace substances in small quantities are usually harmless, but can sometimes cause health problems. Unexpected sensations may be due to these.

**Fentanyl** is potent and the amount changes by batch. If you weren't expecting it, consider getting test strips online or from a harm reduction program. **Carry naloxone (Narcan)** to reverse overdoses. **Don't use alone** so someone can help if you go out.

Looks = white, tan, brown, black powder, chunky, pill







# 500049

From Franklin, North Carolina on 9/11/2023  
Assumed to be fentanyl

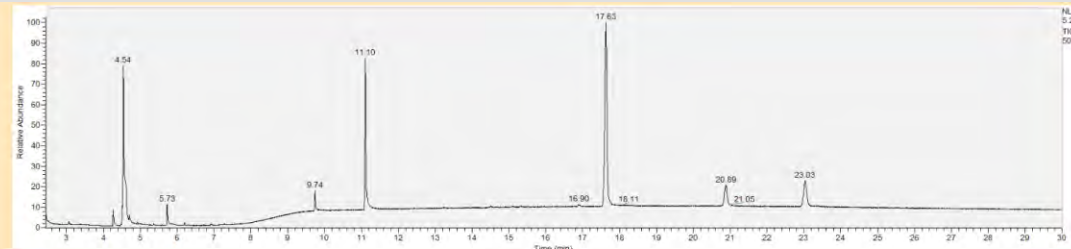
**This is a messy brew of 6 major substances:**

- **N-phenylpropanamide**
- **metonitazene**
- **fentanyl**
- **protonitazene**
- **4-ANPP**
- **N-pyrrolidino-etonitazene**

**Fentanyl** is potent and the amount changes by batch. If you weren't expecting it, consider getting test strips online or from a harm reduction program. **Carry naloxone (Narcan)** to reverse overdoses. **Don't use alone** so someone can help if you go out.

There are a lot of different substances in this sample. We don't know the harms that some of these can cause. Be careful and be prepared for unexpected reactions.

Looks = white crystals, powder





# 900040

From Houston, Texas on 5/22/2023  
Assumed to be heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine

**Sorry, no substances of interest detected.**

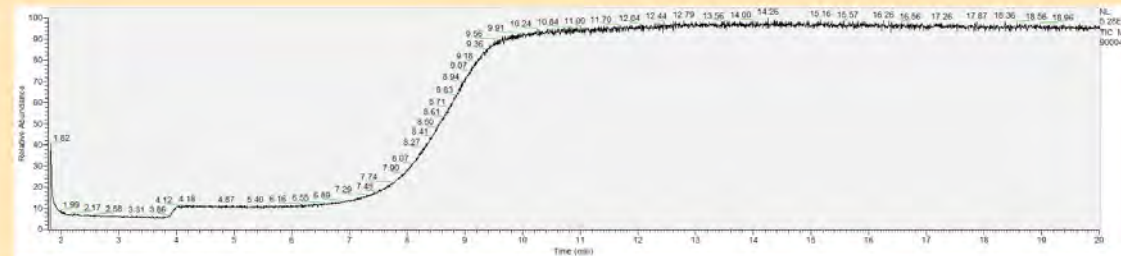
Looks = clear crystals, powder, pill

Need free supplies and advice to keep you safe? Find  
your nearest harm reduction program at  
[harmreduction.org](http://harmreduction.org)

Method(s): GCMS

Lab Notes:

Record for Sample 900040 last updated 6 Sep 2023.



# Emerging adulterant substances



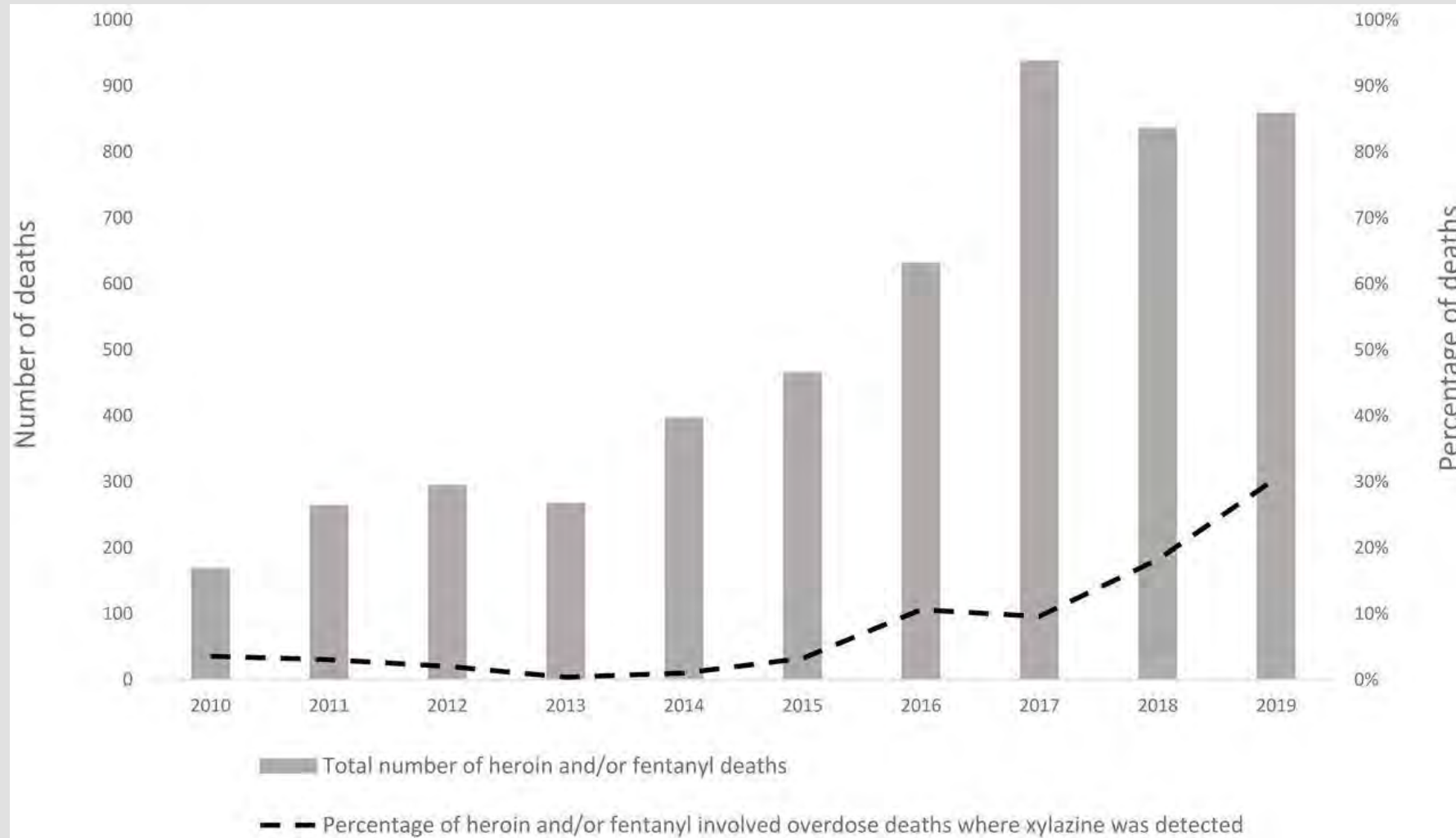
- **Xylazine**
- **Nitazenes**
- Designer benzodiazepines

# Xylazine



- Veterinary tranquilizer
- In humans, can cause low blood pressure, central nervous system depression, respiratory depression and low heart rate
- Central alpha-2-agonist
- It does NOT act on the mu-opioid receptor (opioid receptor responsible for respiratory depression)
  - Effects on respiratory depression won't be reversed by naloxone (Narcan)
- Human use among PWUD documented in Puerto Rico since early 2000s

# Number and percentage of heroin and/or fentanyl unintentional overdose deaths involving xylazine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2010–2019.



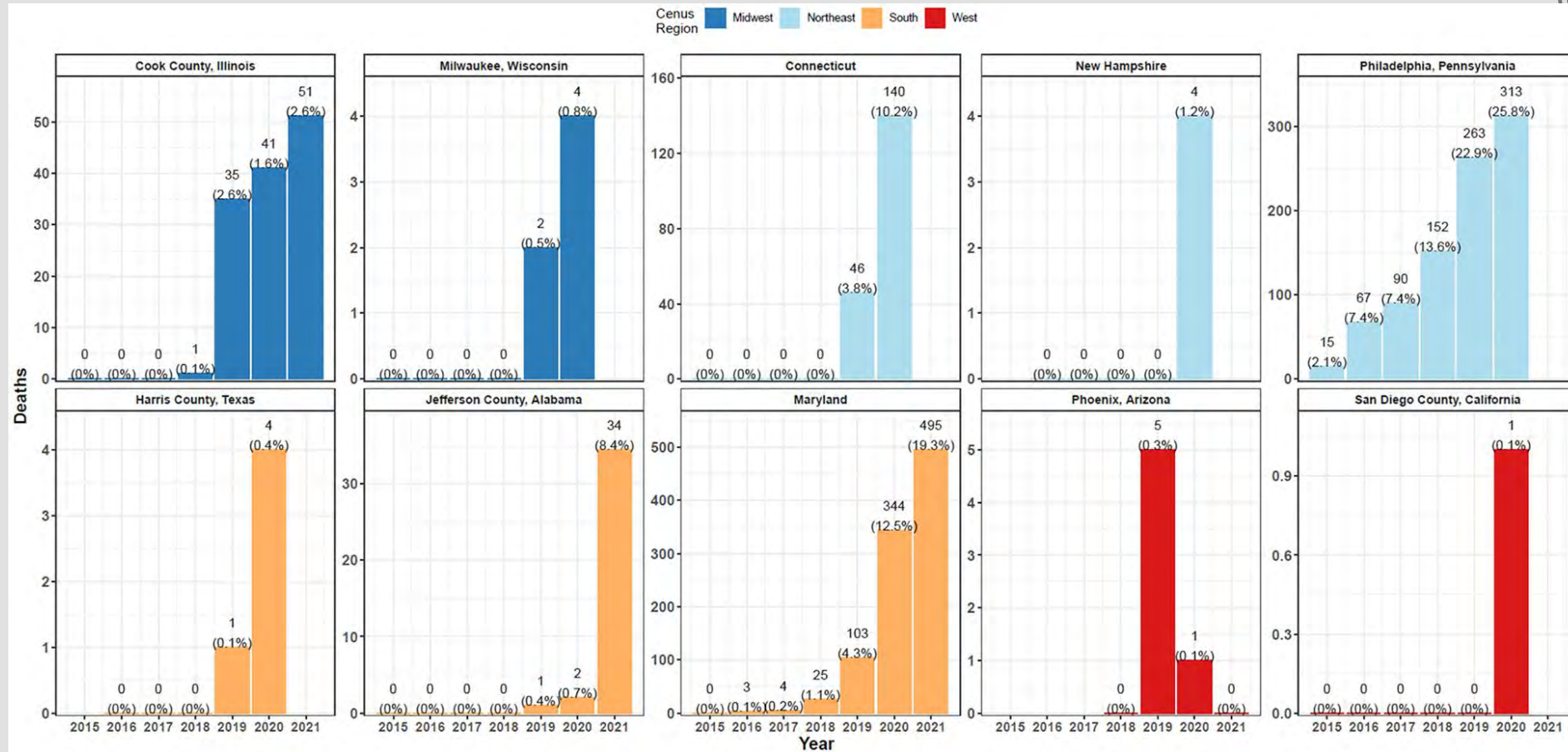


# Why did this enter the supply?



- Some people like it, some people don't
- Some liked that it perpetuates the effects of fentanyl (recall, very short acting) and stave off withdrawal
- Many were wary of the negative health effects particularly risk of severe skin wounds, sedation and worsened withdrawal

# Xylazine spreading west across US



Xylazine-Present Overdose Deaths by Jurisdiction and Year. Xylazine-present deaths are shown as counts and as a percent of all overdose deaths in text. Color indicates US census region. Values for 2021 represent estimates, should trends from the observed fraction of the year continue linearly.

# Xylazine



- Important implications
  - Increased overdose risk (not reversed by naloxone)
  - Challenging to manage, severe withdrawal syndrome
  - Sedating – leaves person vulnerable
  - Necrotic skin wounds not associated with injection sites, can occur even with non-injection use
    - Unclear mechanism
    - Very painful

# Nitazenes



- Powerful illicit synthetic opioids
- Created decades ago but never approved for use in US
- Potency of analogs can be far greater than fentanyl
  - **isotonitazene**, etonitazene, metonitazine
- Possible contributor to recent upticks in deaths

# Nitazenes



- Isonitazene – detected in “biological sample” by European monitoring center in July 2019
  - Since then, implicated in >200 drug-related overdose deaths in Europe and North America
- Metonitazene – detected in early 2020, confirmed in 20 forensic autopsies with 30% the only opioid found, others in combination with other opioids/substances
  - CDC MMWR – overdose deaths in Knox Co, TN from 2020-2021, 12% (26/218) involved metonitazene & fentanyl



# Nitazenes



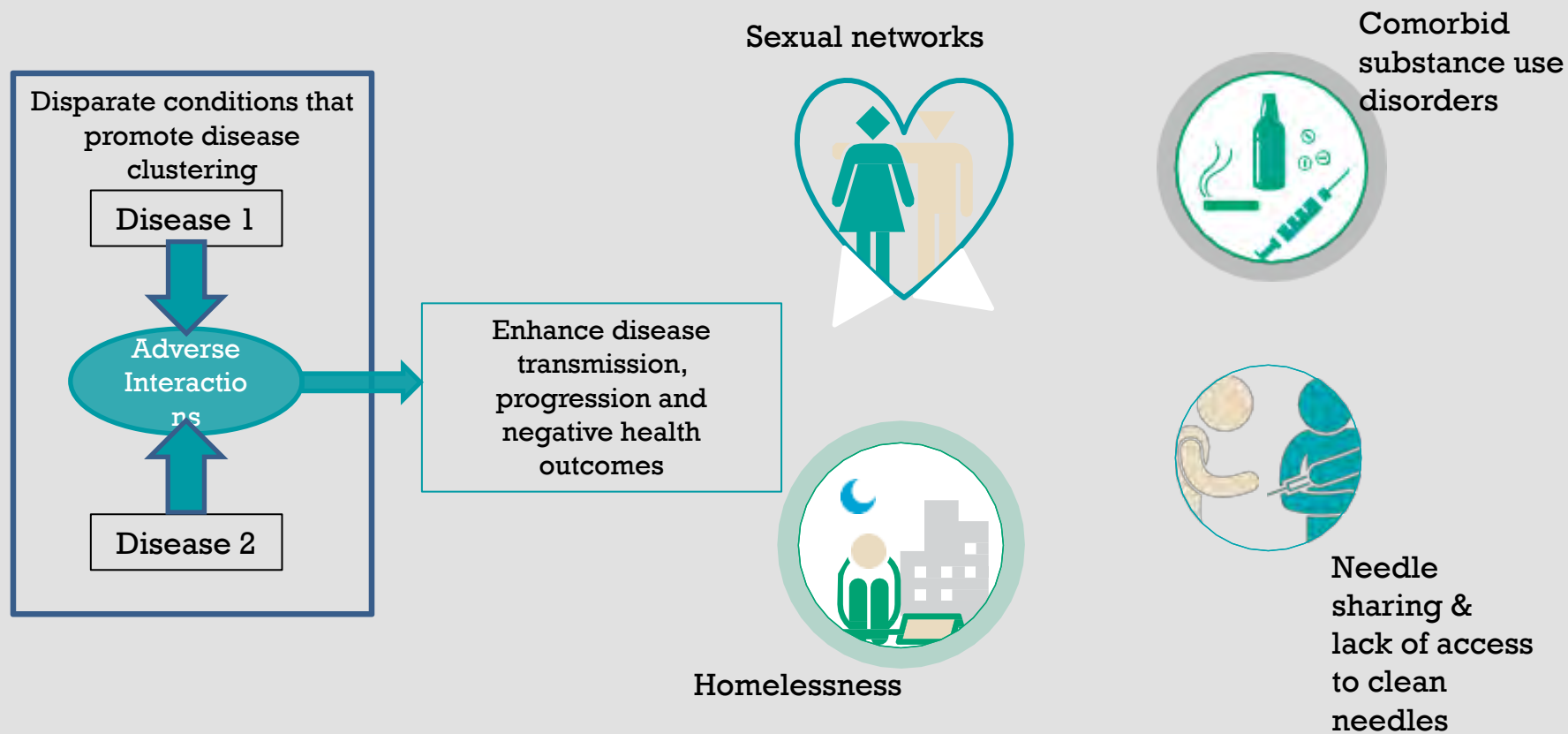
- Thought chemists in clandestine labs are repurposing old drugs
- Can also create new analogs
- Trying to address with “scheduling” these substances might turn into a game of ‘whack-a-mole”



Public health data coming from **forensic autopsies** → incomplete picture and delayed responses

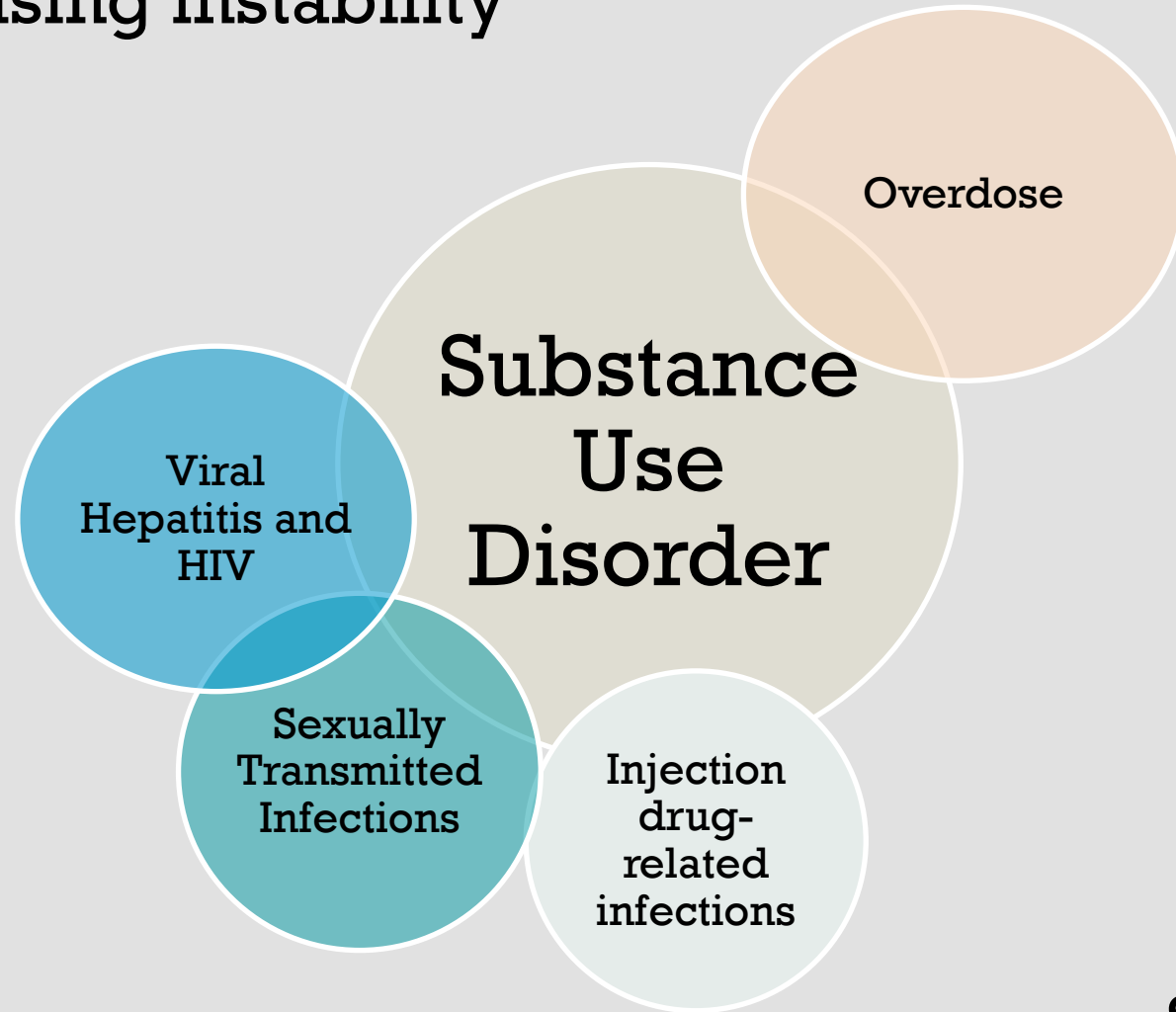


# Syndemic of opioid use, overdose & infectious diseases





**Housing instability**



**Viral  
Hepatitis and  
HIV**

**Substance  
Use  
Disorder**

**Overdose**

**Sexually  
Transmitted  
Infections**

**Injection  
drug-  
related  
infections**

**Stigma**

**Incarceration**



HIV outbreaks  
in PWID in the  
U.S.A

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Scott county Indiana – **181** new HIV  
cases Nov 2014- Oct 2015

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Cabell County West Virginia – **81**  
new HIV cases in PWID as of Oct 16

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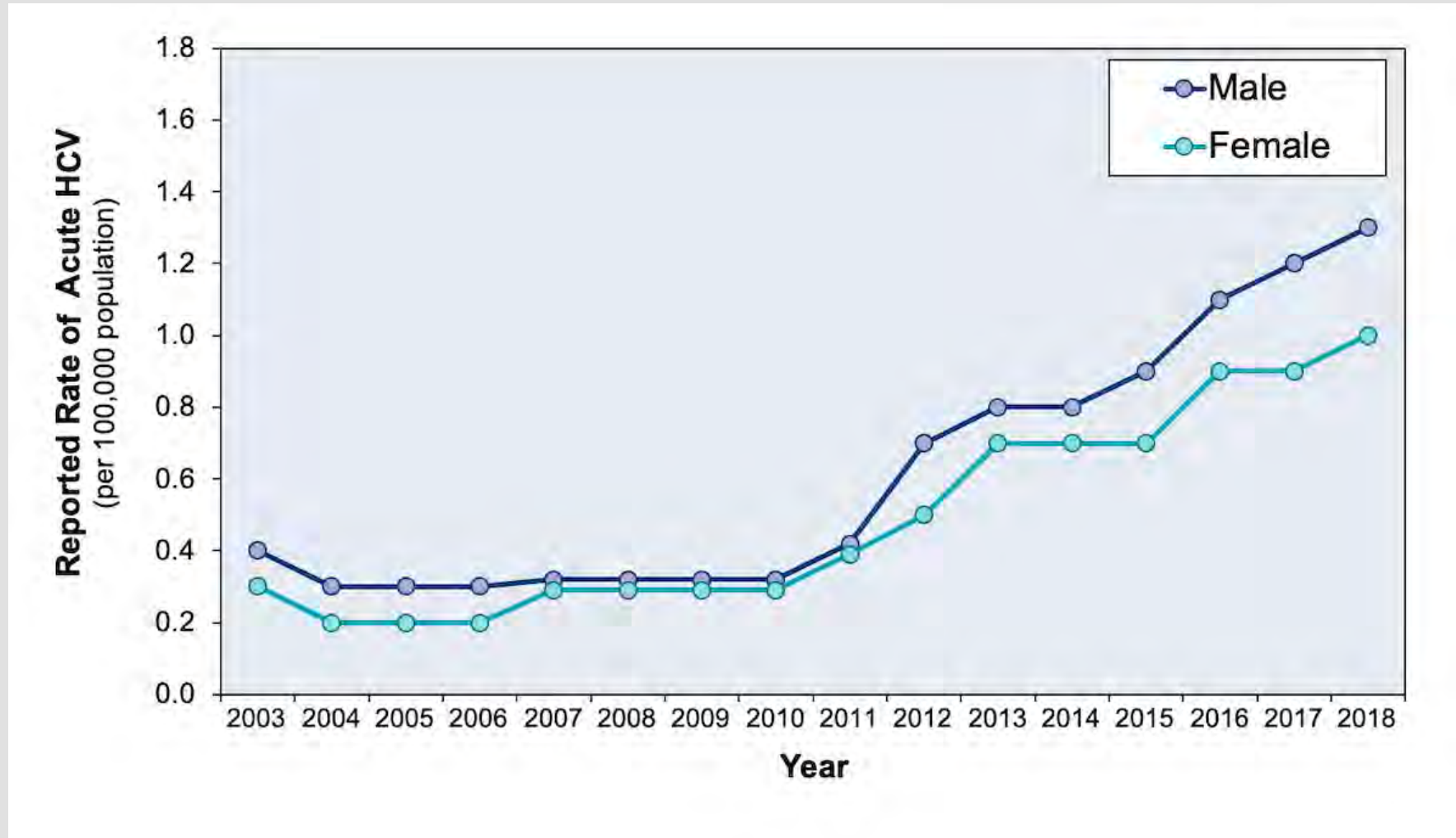
Lowell/Lawrence HIV outbreak MA  
2018-2019 – **129** cases

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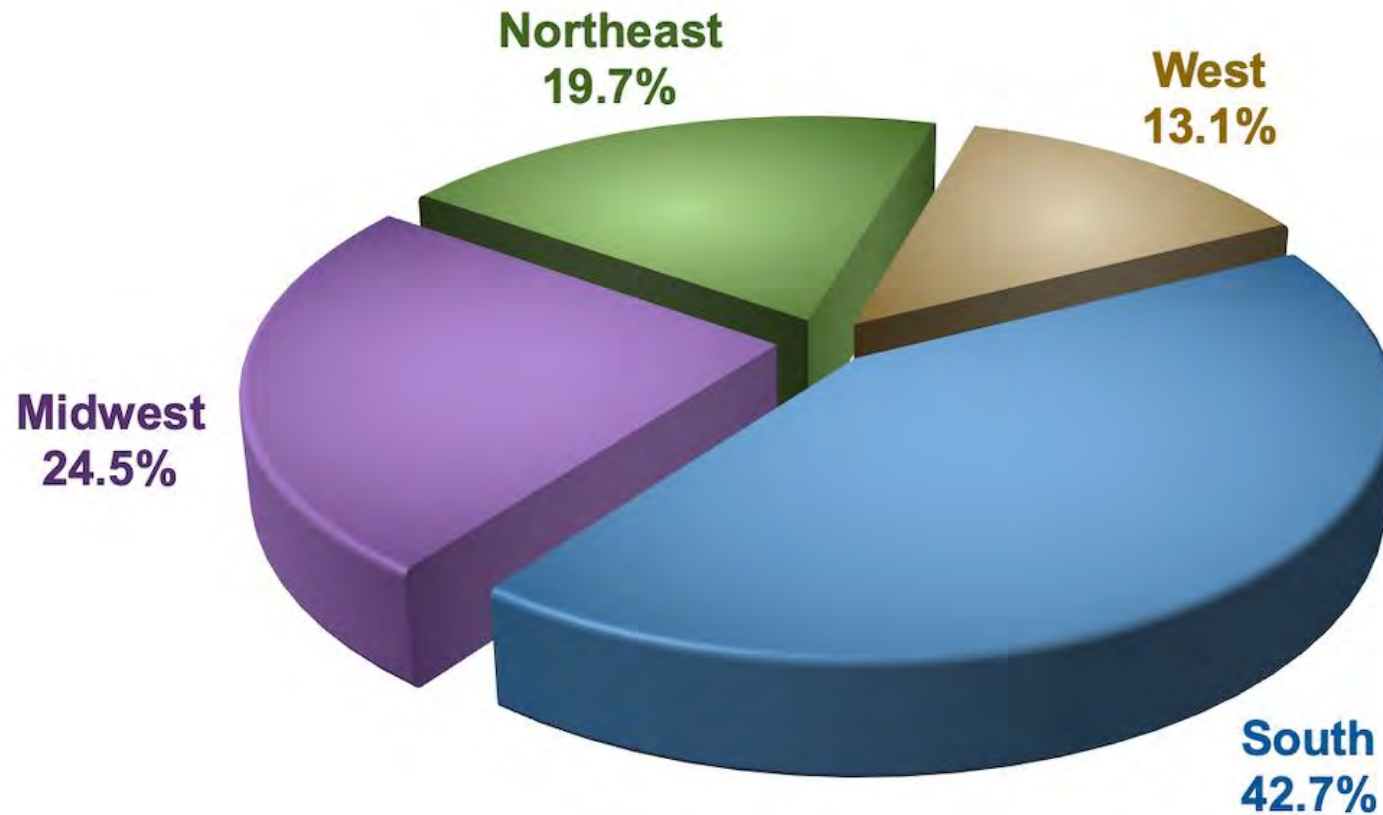
Multnomah County Oregon, HIV  
outbreak – **42** cases as of Oct 2019



# New HCV cases driven by IDU



# HCV in pregnancy

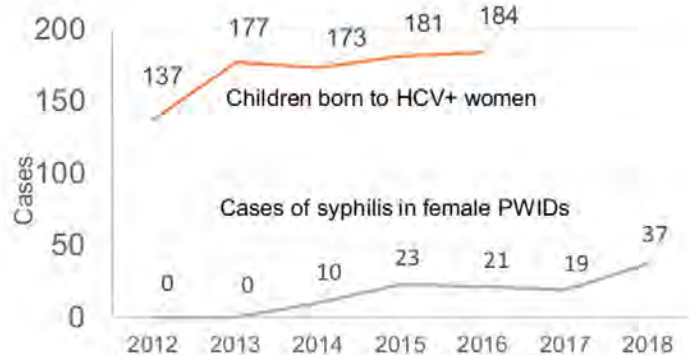


**Figure 6 - HCV Infection Among Women with Live Births, United States, by Geographic Region, 2015**

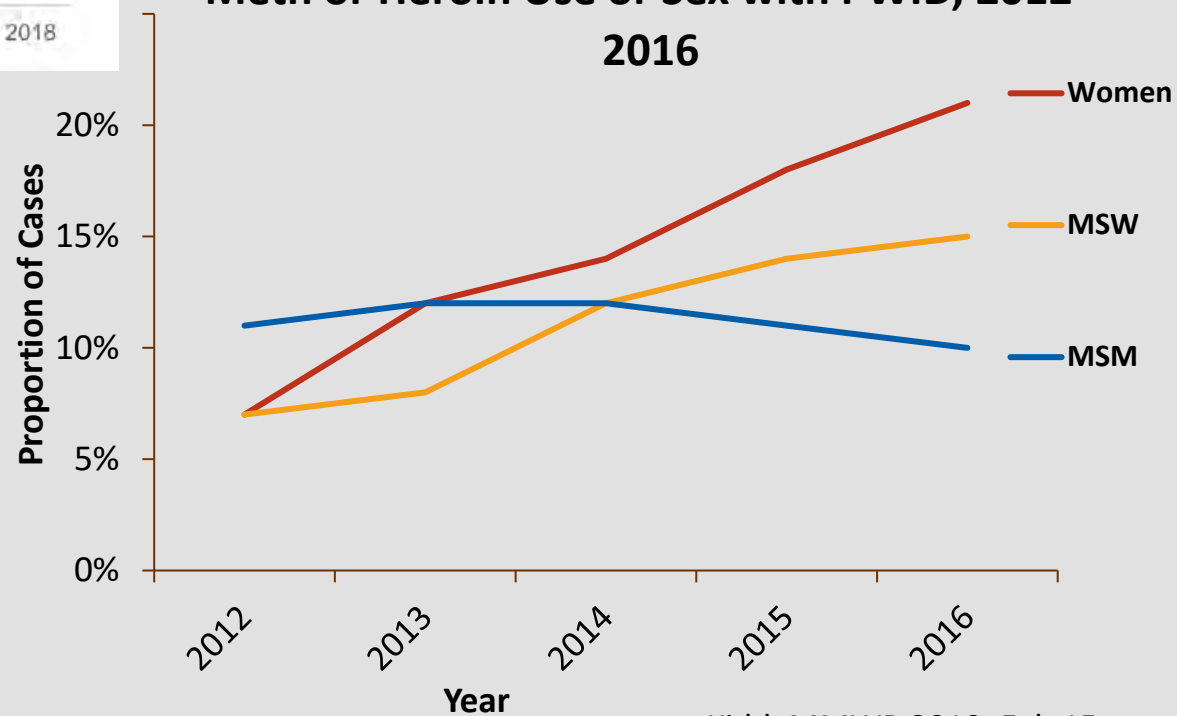
Source: Schillie SF, Canary L, Koneru A, et al. Hepatitis C Virus in Women of Childbearing Age, Pregnant Women, and Children. *Am J Prev Med.* 2018;55:633-41.



**Figure 1. Impact of opioid epidemic and injection drug use on women and infants, Oregon, 2012–2018**



**Proportion of Syphilis Cases that Reported Meth or Heroin Use or Sex with PWID, 2012–2016**



Kidd, MMWR 2019; Feb 15

# PWUD & congenital syphilis

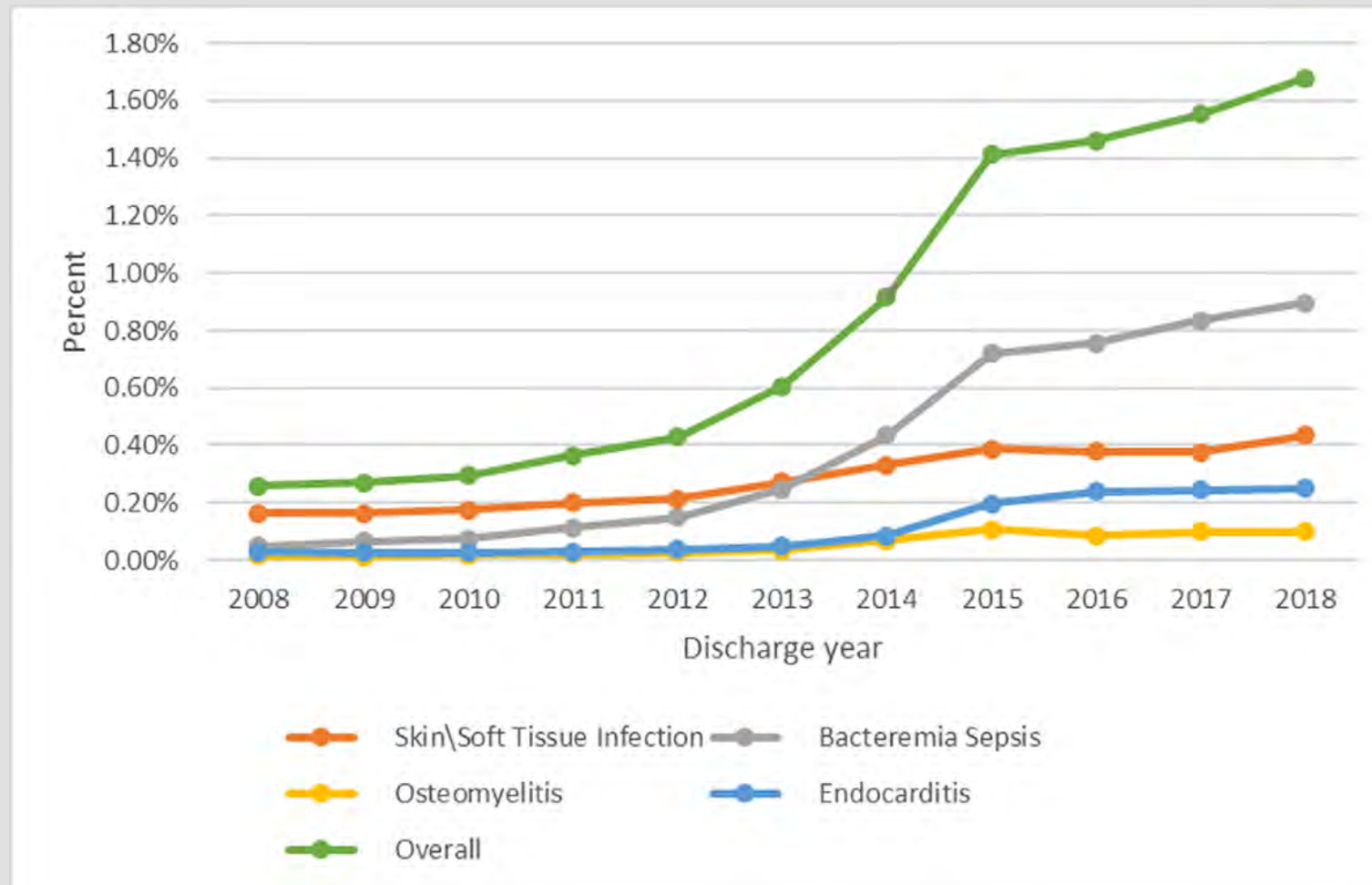


**TABLE 2. Reported substance use<sup>\*,†</sup> among pregnant persons with syphilis, by congenital syphilis pregnancy outcome<sup>§</sup> — Surveillance for Emerging Threats to Pregnant People and Infants Network, Arizona and Georgia, 2018–2021**

Substance used	No. (%)		Prevalence ratio <sup>¶</sup> (95% CI)
	Congenital syphilis (n = 360)	Noncongenital syphilis (n = 410)	
Any substance*	173 (48.1)	101 (24.6)	1.95 (1.60–2.38)
Tobacco	99 (27.5)	46 (11.2)**	2.45 (1.78–3.37)
Alcohol	29 (8.1)	20 (4.9)**	1.65 (0.95–2.86)
Cannabis	69 (19.2)	56 (13.7) <sup>††</sup>	1.40 (1.01–1.93)
Illicit use of opioids <sup>§§</sup>	75 (20.8)	14 (3.4)**	6.09 (3.50–10.58)
Illicit, nonprescription substance <sup>¶¶</sup>	101 (28.1)	26 (6.4)**	4.41 (2.94–6.63)

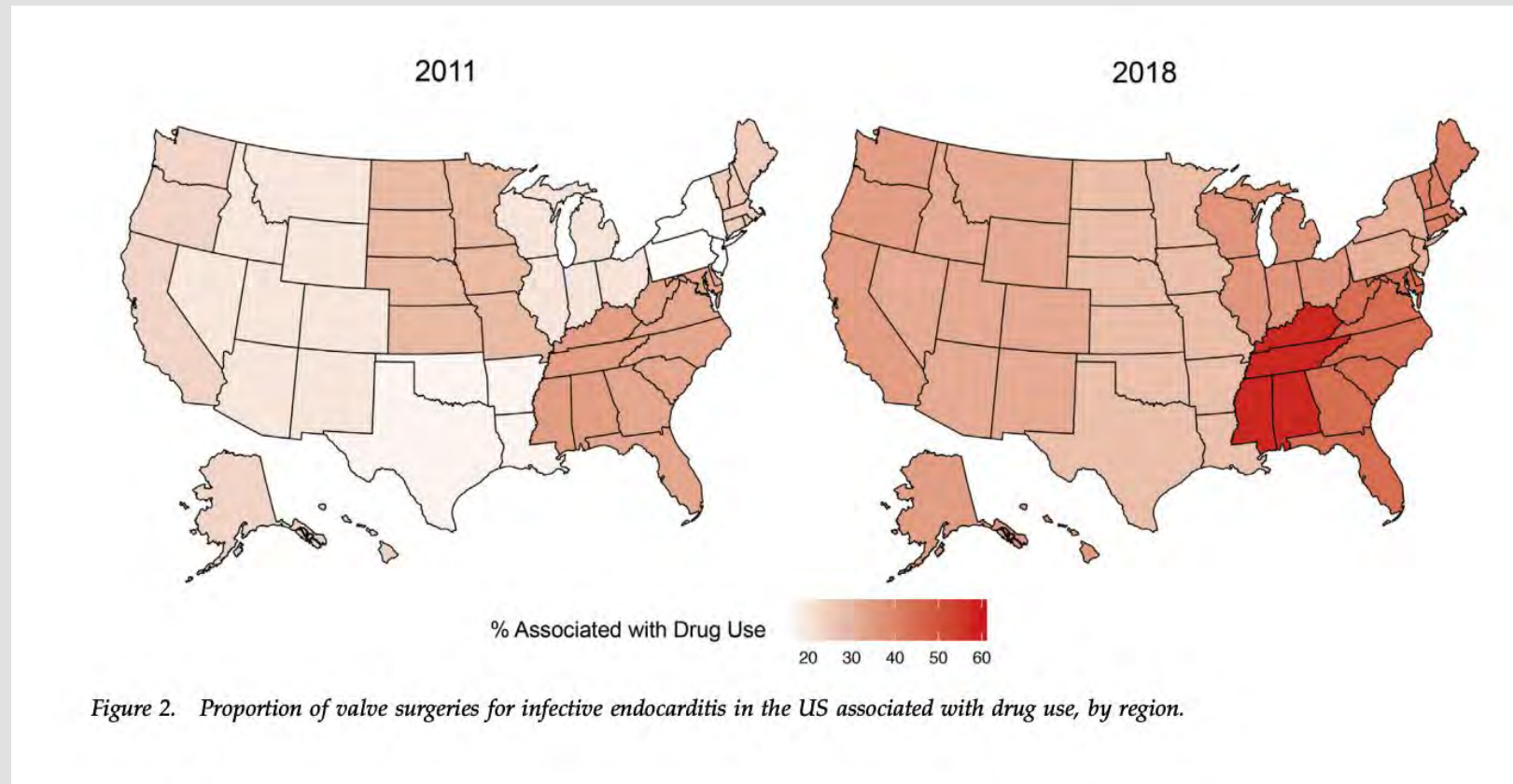
“Approximately one half of persons who used substances during pregnancy and had a congenital syphilis pregnancy outcome had late or no prenatal care.”

# Increasing hospitalizations for serious bacterial and fungal infections





# Southeast – high rates of drug-related heart valve infections requiring surgery



# Take-aways



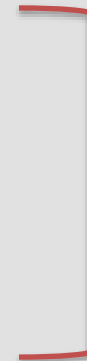
1. Drug supply is toxic and rapidly evolving
  - Fentanyl is ubiquitous
  - Xylazine is getting there
  - Nitazenes may be an emerging, under-recognized driver of deaths
  - Rapid increases in deaths involving fentanyl + stimulants, predominantly affecting racial/ethnic minorities
- This is a structural environmental risk that PWUD have no control over



# Take-aways

2. This is a **syndemic** with significant public health implications with various infectious diseases

- HIV
- Hepatitis C (and B, A)
- STIs – especially syphilis



Pregnancy

- Serious bacterial/fungal infections leading to hospitalizations, increased health care spending and increased mortality

# Can knowledge be power?

- Drug checking programs
- Test strips



# Must screen, treat and prevent infections



- This requires access to these services
- Harm reduction services are key (ie syringe service programs)
- Stigma a major barrier to medical/perinatal care



# Addressing emerging issues requires:

- Allying with PWUD
- A public health approach
- Reducing stigma



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