Efforts to Address the U.S. Drug Overdose Epidemic

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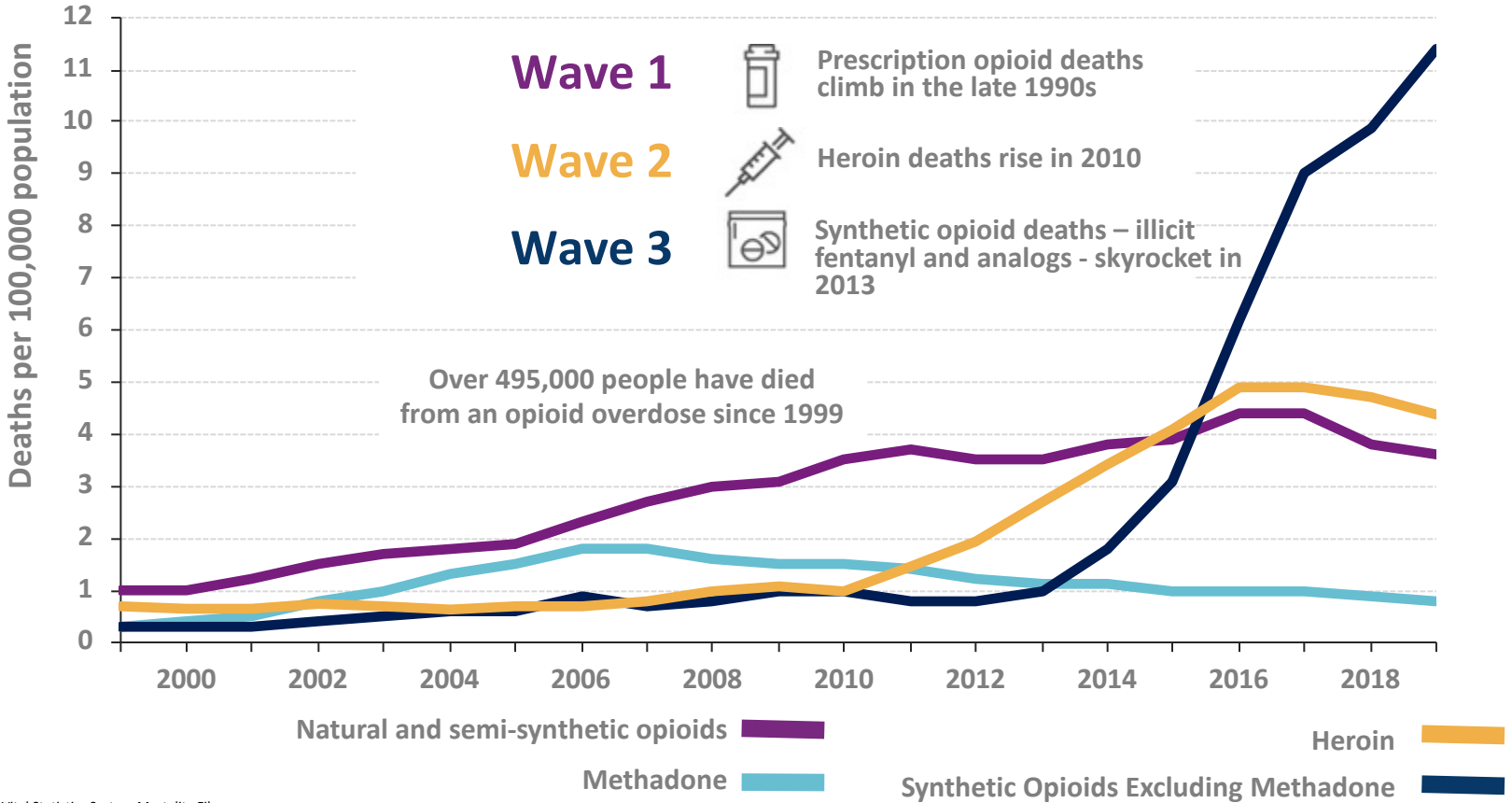
Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Agenda

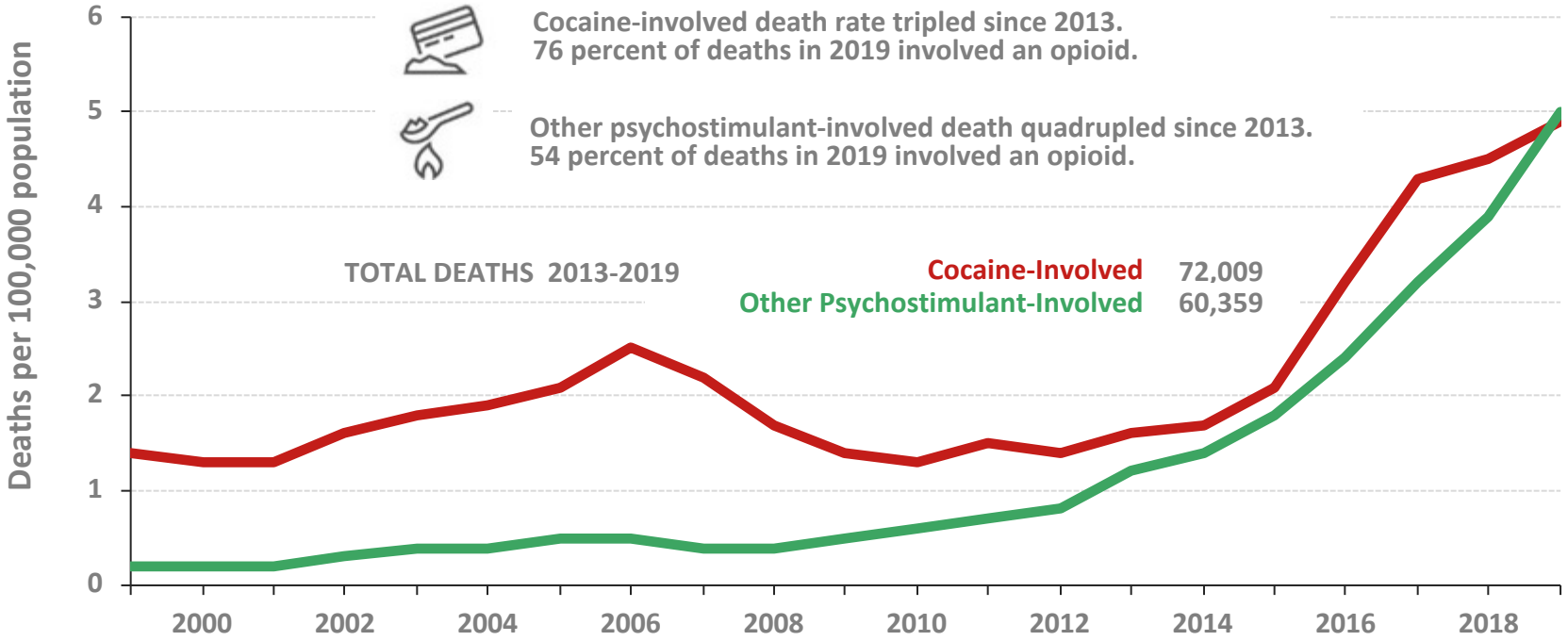
- Drug Overdose Trends in the U.S.
- Division of Overdose Prevention's Implementation Efforts
  - Data & Surveillance
  - Prevention
  - Public Health – Public Safety
  - Communities
- Relevant Resources

Waves of the U.S. Opioid Overdose Epidemic



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File

Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Cocaine and Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential in the US are Increasing Too



Opioid Deaths Nested in a Broadening Drug Overdose Epidemic.

SOURCES: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File & Hedegaard, Miniño, & Warner (2021) NCHS Data Brief 409

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl

Number of opioid overdose deaths by opioid type in 25 states from January to June 2018

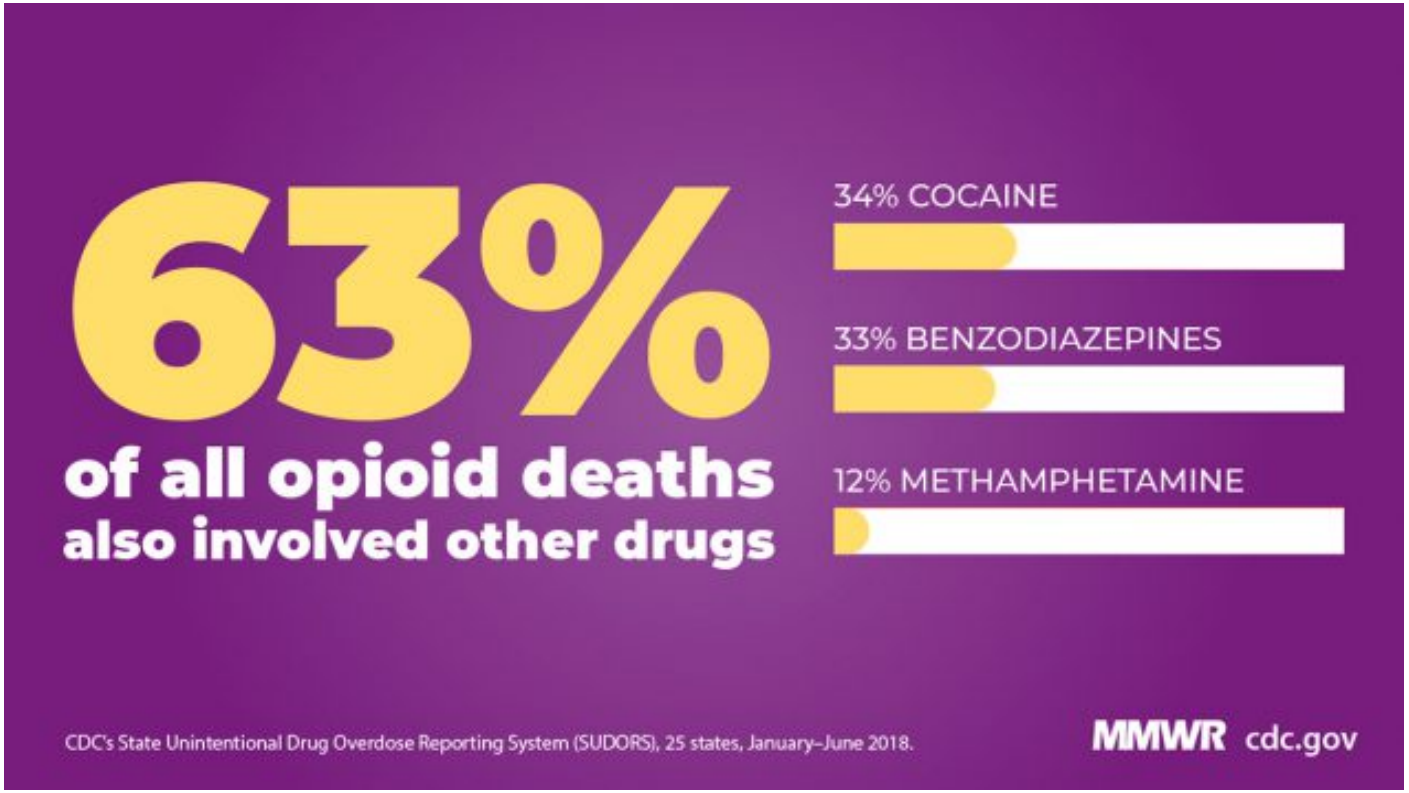
Characteristic	Opioid deaths with information on involved opioids, Jan–Jun 2018, no. (%)
Total opioid overdose deaths	**13,415 (100)**
Opioid drug class or drug involved in opioid deaths	
Any prescription opioid	3,853 (28.7)
Any illicit opioid	11,124 (82.9)
Any suspected IMF	9,105 (67.9)
Any suspected heroin	5,281 (39.4)
Any fentanyl analog	2,678 (20.0)
Any U-series	63 (0.5)
Common mutually exclusive combinations of opioids involved in opioid deaths	
Opioid combinations co-involving IMF	
IMF with no other illicit opioids	4,320 (32.2)
IMF with heroin	2,566 (19.1)
IMF with fentanyl analogs	1,172 (8.7)
IMF with heroin and fentanyl analogs	1,008 (7.5)
Illicit opioid combinations not co-involving IMF	
Heroin with no other illicit opioid	1,534 (11.4)
Fentanyl analogs with no other illicit opioid	312 (2.3)
Prescription opioid with no illicit opioid	2,291 (17.1)
All other combinations of opioids	212 (1.6)

Note: IMF is illicitly manufactured fentanyl. Refer to source for other footnotes

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
MMWR
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
August 30, 2019
Weekly / Vol. 68 / No. 34

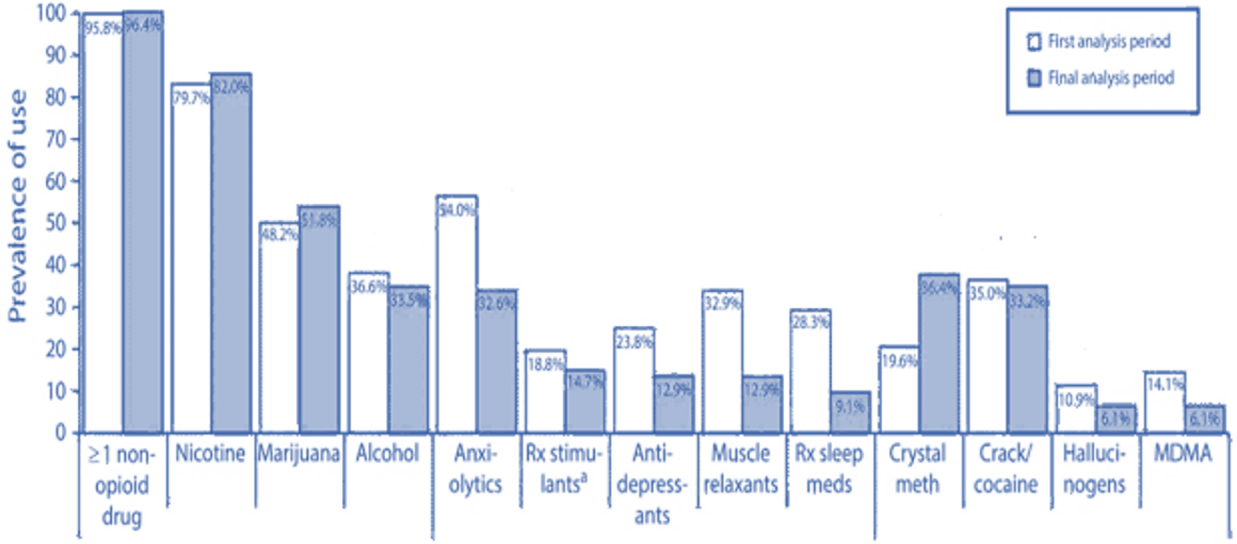
Source: Gladden, O'Donnell, Mattson, Seth (2019)
State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System

Majority of Opioid Deaths Involve Other Non-Opioid Drugs



Source: Gladden, O'Donnell, Mattson, Seth (2019). MMWR 68 (34), 737

Among persons entering treatment : Changing pattern in co-occurring opioid and nonopioid drug use in the U.S. between 2011 and 2018

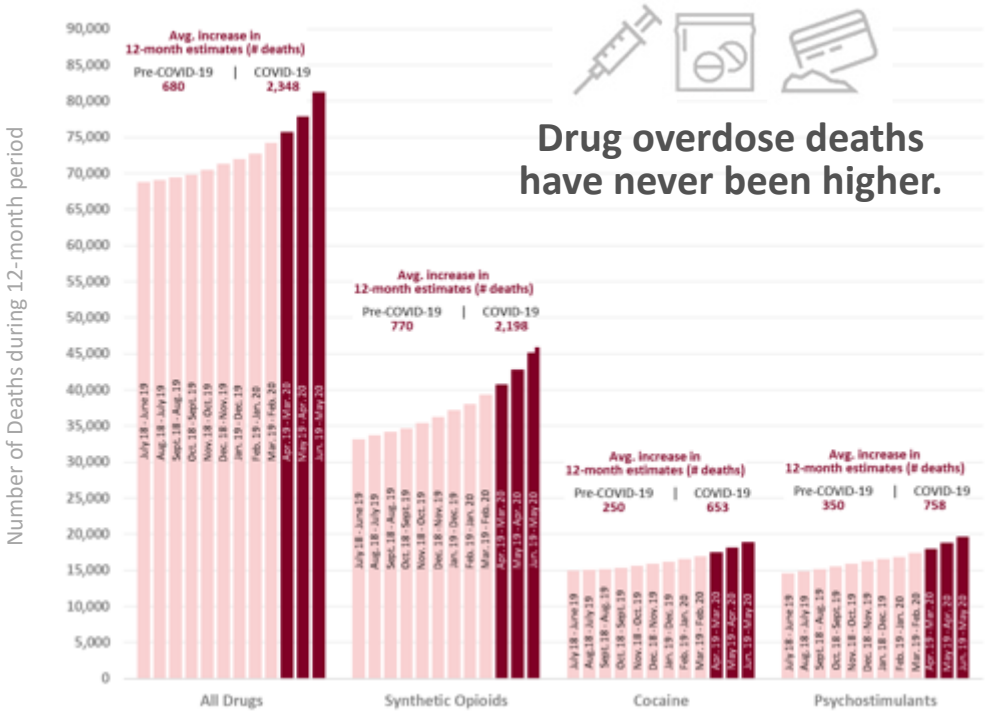


Prevalence rate of past month non-opioid drug use

- Survey of past month co-use of prescription and illicit opioids and 12 nonopioid psychoactive drug classes in national sample of persons entering treatment of opioid use disorder
- Past-month illicit opioid use increased from 45% in 2011 to 70% in 2018
- Use of prescription opioids alone dropped from 55% to 30%
- Past-month use of at least 1 nonopioid drug occurred in nearly all participants (> 90% use at both time periods), with significant increases in methamphetamine use (from 20% in 2011 to 36% in 2018)

Source: Cicero, Ellis, & Kasper (2020). AJPH, 110(2), 244-250.

The Drug Overdose Epidemic Appears to Have Worsened During COVID-19 Pandemic – By Drug Class



December 17, 2020

HAN HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

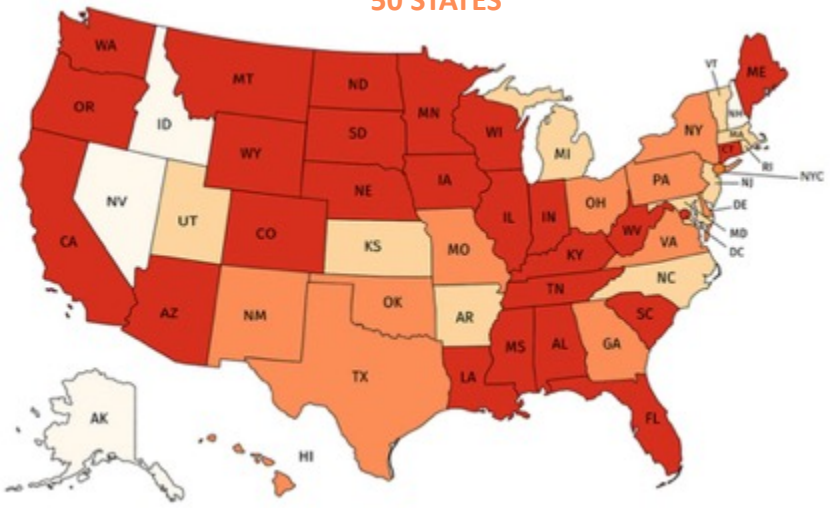
- Approximately 81,230 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in the 12-months ending in May 2020
- Increase began in 2019 and appears to have accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Synthetic opioids are the primary driver - 12-month count of these deaths increased 38.4% ending in May 2020
- Overdose deaths involving cocaine (26.5%) and psychostimulants (34.8%) also increased in the same period

SOURCE: CDC. Health Alert Network (HAN) No. 438 – Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic. 2020.

The Drug Overdose Epidemic Appears to Have Worsened During COVID-19 Pandemic – By State

Percentage change in 12-months ending provisional count of all fatal overdoses

June 2019 to May 2020
50 STATES

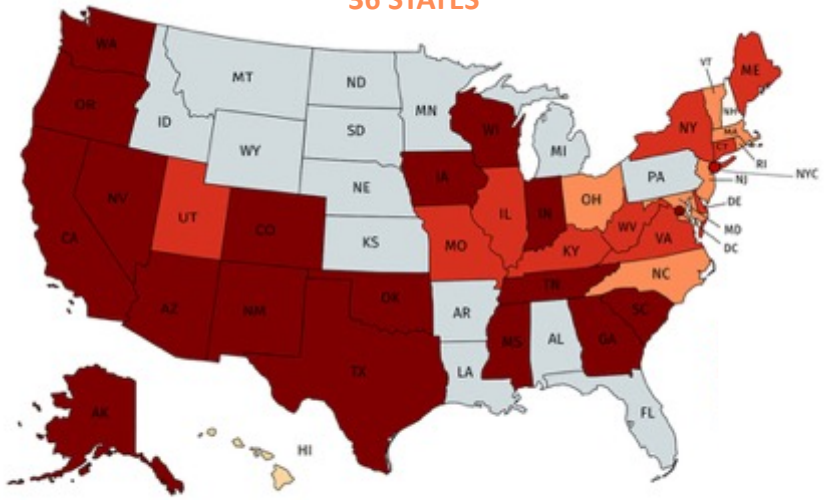


LEGEND

- >=20% increase
- 10% to 19% increase
- 0% to 9% increase
- 1% to 10% decrease

Percentage change in 12-months ending provisional count of fatal overdoses involving synthetic opioids

June 2019 to May 2020
36 STATES



LEGEND

- >= 50% increase
- 25% to 49% increase
- 10% to 24% increase
- 0% to 9% increase
- 1% to 10% decrease
- Data Not Available

SOURCE: CDC. Health Alert Network (HAN) No. 438 – Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic. 2020.

- Division of Overdose Prevention (DOP) Implementation Efforts
  - Data & Surveillance
  - Prevention

Division of Overdose Prevention

VISION
End drug overdose and related harms

MISSION
To monitor, prevent, and reduce harms associated with drug use, misuse, and overdose

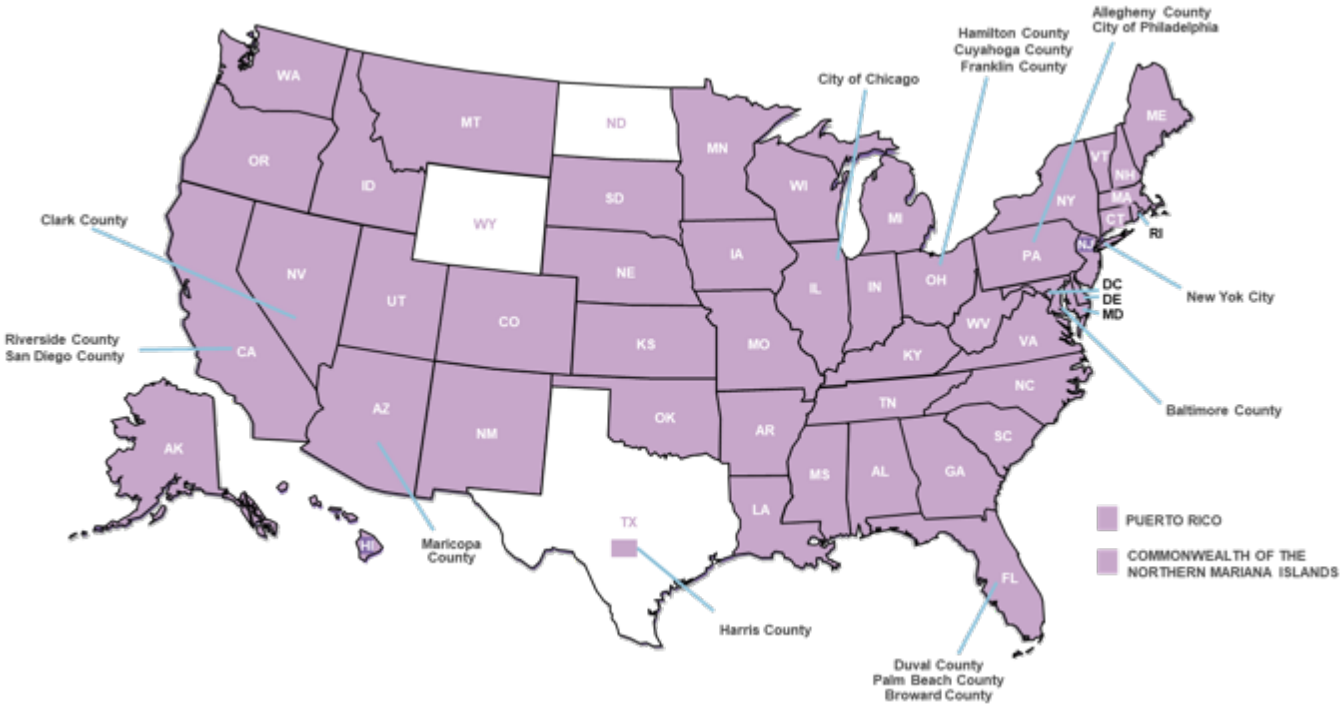
GOALS
ONE: Reduce opioid overdose now

TWO: Identify and address emerging drug trends and associated public health outcomes

THREE: Prevent drug use initiation or drug misuse among youth and young adults

Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

- Seamless integration of data and prevention programs
- 66 jurisdictions funded
- At least twenty percent of state funds go to the local level as well to spur innovation and multisector collaboration



To learn more: https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/od2a/index.html

DOSE Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology System

- **Faster Data:** Incentivize data submissions to as rapidly as every 2 weeks
- **Greater Coverage:** ED data with greater coverage (>75% of visits)
- **Expanded Drugs:** Suspected all drug, opioid, heroin, stimulant overdoses
- **More Comprehensive Sources:** Leverage both syndromic data (24-48 hours) and hospital billing/claims data (3-4 weeks). Syndromic data from the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) or local syndromic system.

Getting more timely, comprehensive, localized, and actionable data

SUDORS State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System

- **More Comprehensive:** Detailed information about deaths and their circumstances from death certificates, medical examiner/coroner reports, & toxicology results.
- **Expanded Drugs:** All drug overdose deaths. Not just opioid involved.
- **Faster Data:** Incentivize data submissions to as rapidly as 6-11 months after death.
- **Increased Capacity:** More funding to medical examiners/coroners
- **Early Signal:** Preliminary counts of opioid-involved deaths from clinical and scene evidence one month after death (OPTIONAL)

Getting more timely, comprehensive, localized, and actionable data

OD2A Mortality

More detailed data informs future prevention activities

- Basic descriptors
- Compare across demographics

- Mental health diagnoses
- Substance use treatment history

- Substance use history
- Scene indication of drug use
- Route of drug administration

Demographics | Injury and Death | Circumstances | Weapons | Suspects | Toxicology | OD

- Recent release from institution
- Overdose location
- Survival time

- Substances present
- Substances contributing to death

Getting more timely, comprehensive, localized, and actionable data

Overdose Data to Action – Prevention Efforts

PDMPs

Public Safety

Empower Consumers

Health System

Linkage to Care

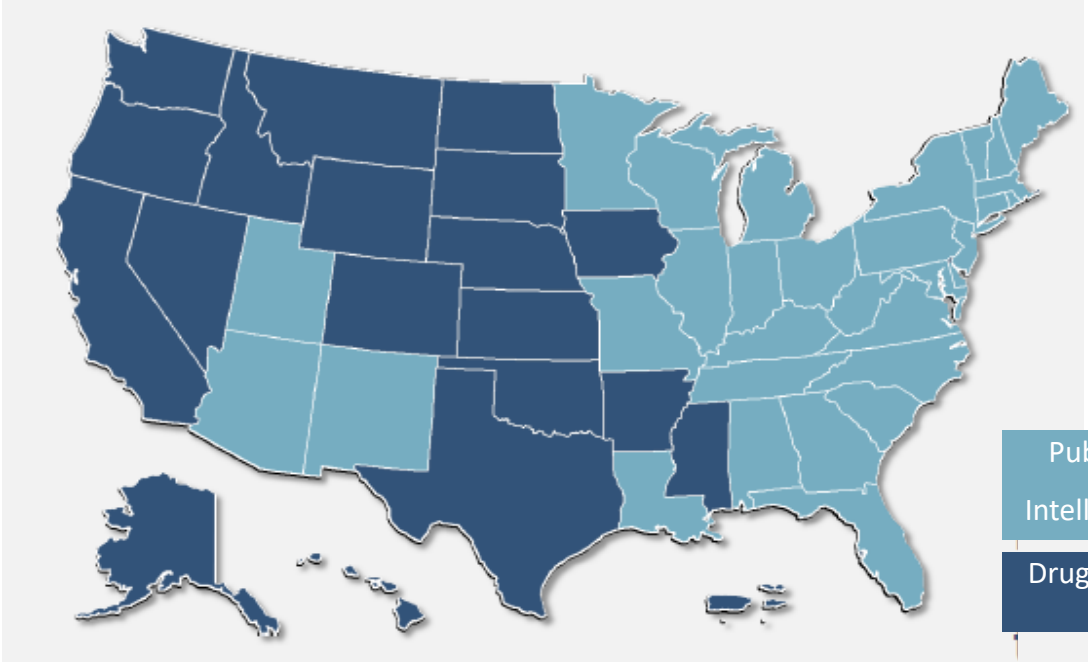
Local Response

To learn more: https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/od2a/index.html

TRIBAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTERS
CDC is supporting tribes to address drug overdose epidemic
CTEC
Tribal Epidemiology Center
Arizona Nevada Utah
OKLAHOMA AREA
Tribal Epidemiology Center
ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM
EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTER
Urban Indian
Health Institute

- Public Health – Public Safety

Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)



Public Health Analyst (PHA) & Drug Intelligence Officer (DIO)

Drug Intelligence Officer ONLY

Today: ONDCP funding DIOs in every state and HIDTA; CDC funding PHAs in 30 states

Goal: DIO and PHA positions in every state

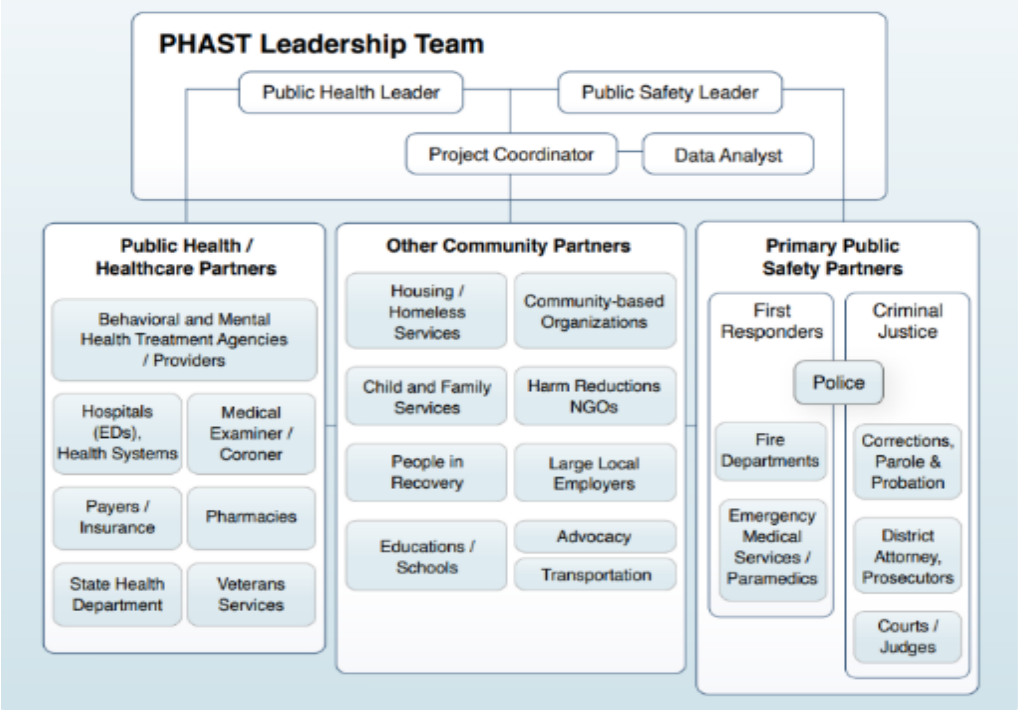
Combatting Opioid Overdose through Community Level Intervention

Examples

- Warm hand offs and targeted re-entry care coordination prior to release from incarceration in Philadelphia, PA.
- Providing outreach and engagement to individuals and families with same-day supportive services in New York City.
- Addressing the needs of mother and baby through a Plan of Safe Care in Houston, TX
- Leverage bilingual and bicultural behavioral health support for case management, recovery support services, and outreach in Boston, MA.
- Using AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) to implement prevention strategies in Colorado.

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

Guidance for Data-driven Overdose Response Coordination Among Public Health, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and First Responders



Data-driven strategies to optimize capacity to reduce overdose deaths

Collaboratively Problem-Solve/Intervene
Leverage cross-sector data, ideas, resources, and capabilities

Improve Data Collection and Use
Identify and address data gaps and limitations that compromise shared understanding

Enhance/Expand Response Strategies and Programs
(E.g., targeted naloxone distribution, linkage to care programs, harm-reduction education/ service provision, pre-arrest diversion, safe stations)

Coordinate Crisis Intervention and Response Efforts
Identify the types of events that trigger the need for coordinated investigations across agencies and conduct "Tabletop exercises" to learn from and improve coordination

https://www.cdcfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/PHAST_Web_Toolkit_Pilot_Version_2.0_For_Dissemination.pdf

Bloomberg Philanthropies

NACCHO

- Communities

Implementing Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level

- ✓ Mirrors Overdose Data to Action activities in local communities
- ✓ Funds high capacity, high burden counties to conduct overdose surveillance, prevention, and response work

ROUND 1

December 2019 – July 2021

Los Angeles County, CA
Marion County, IN
Seattle and King County, WA
City of Milwaukee, WI

ROUND 2

December 2020 – July 2022

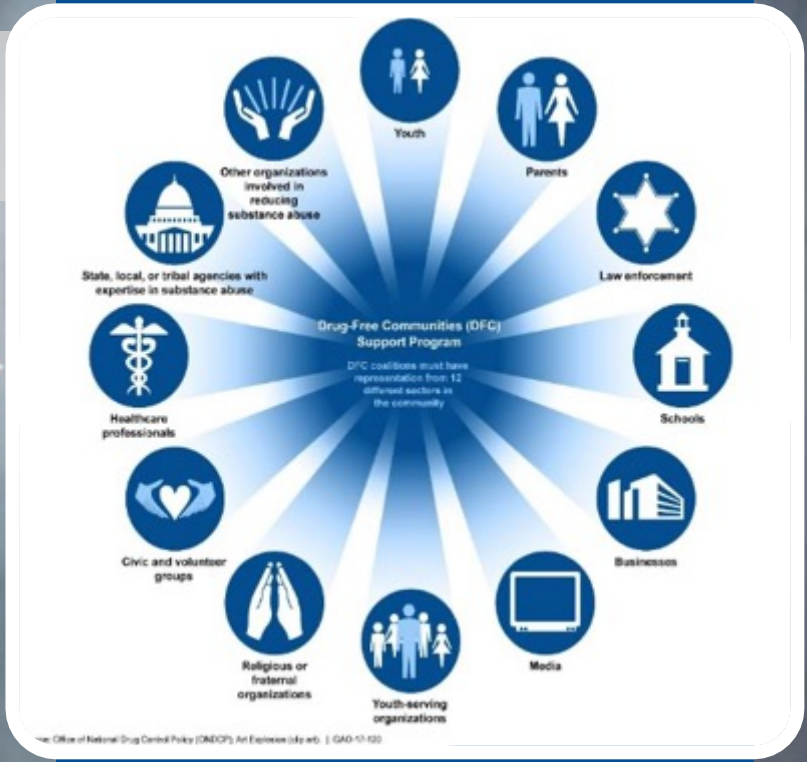
Jefferson County, AL
Seminole County, FL
Volusia County, FL
Camden County, NJ
Ocean County, NJ
Ulster County, NY
Dayton and Montgomery County, OH
Lorain County, OH

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

700+ COMMUNITY COALITIONS

Preventing and reducing substance use among youth 18 and younger



CDC

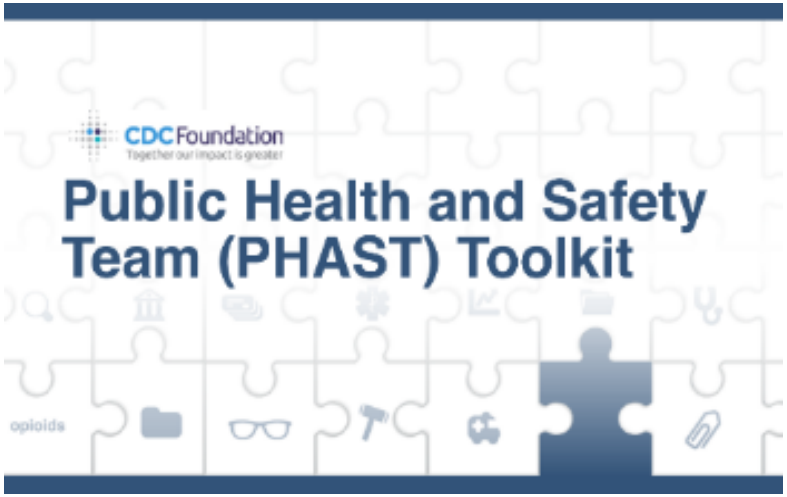
CADCA

www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/drug-free-communities/index.html

- Relevant Resources

Promoting What Works in Communities

www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf



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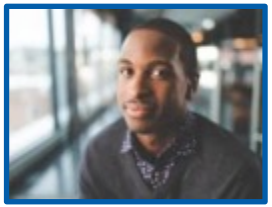
Resources for Patients

www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/patients/index.html
www.cdc.gov/RxAwareness/

Real stories from real people

Phase 2 - Launched July 2020


Tele

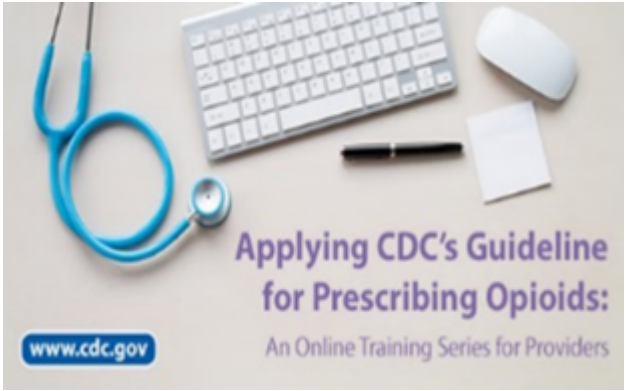
Jeni

David

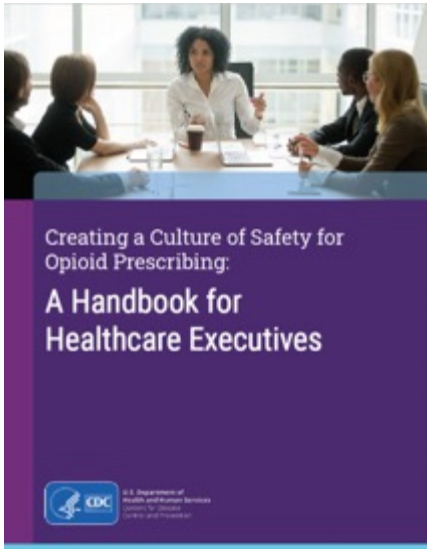
Britton

Tessa

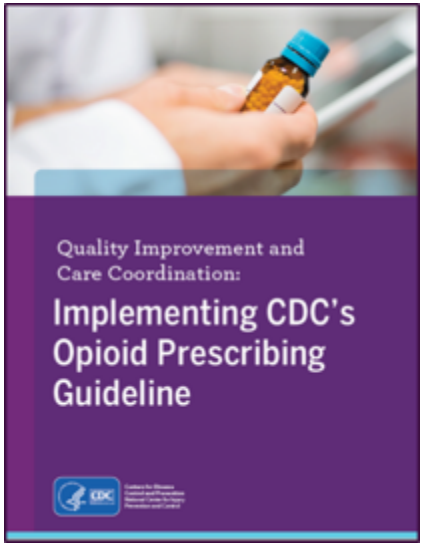
Resources for Providers



Free trainings to earn CMEs/CEs: www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/providers/index.html

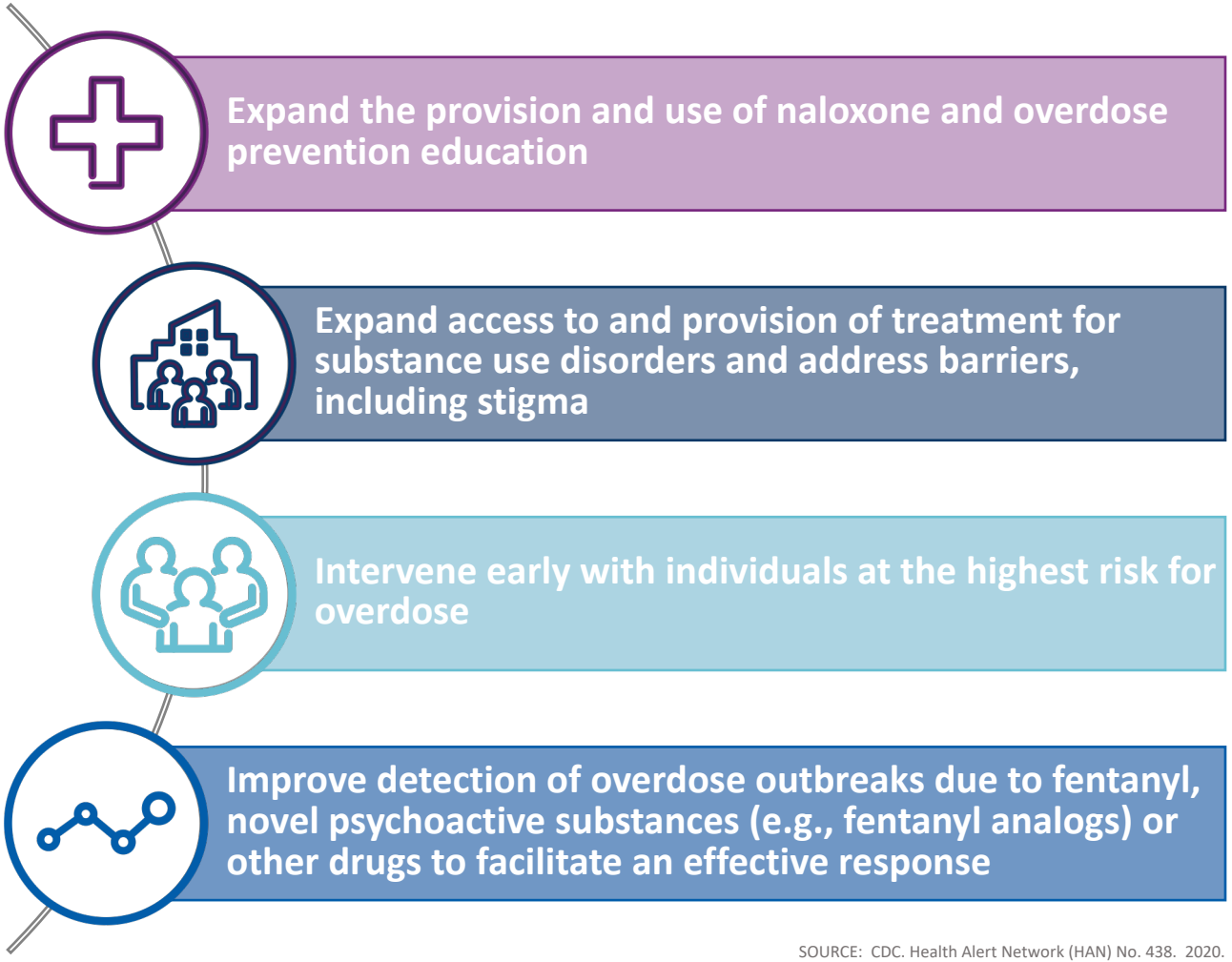


Quality Improvement www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/qi-cc.html



Creating a culture of safety for opioid prescribing www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/Handbook-for-Healthcare-Executives.pdf

Where do we go from here?



SOURCE: CDC. Health Alert Network (HAN) No. 438. 2020.

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