The U.S. Opioid Crisis
HHS Strategy and Response
THE STATE OF OPIOID MISUSE IN AMERICA

11.4 million people misused opioids in the past year
- 11.1 million misused pain relievers
- 886,000 used heroin
- 562,000 both misused pain relievers and heroin

2.1 million people had an opioid use disorder
- 1.7 million people with a prescription pain reliever use disorder
- 652,000 people with a heroin use disorder
- 252,000 had both pain reliever and heroin use disorders

Main reasons for opioid misuse: Pain 62.6%

53.1% obtained the last pain reliever they misused from a friend or relative
36% from a prescription from a health care provider

NSDUH, 2017 Data; published Sept. 2018
12 MONTH PREDICTED U.S. DRUG OVERDOSE MORTALITY

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, retrieved May 15, 2019

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
STATE OVERDOSE MORTALITY 12-MONTH CHANGE PREDICTED, CDC, May 2019 (-4.0%)

- **New York**, down 11.7%
- **New Jersey**, up 12.1%
- **Kentucky**, down 11.4%
- **Iowa**, down 14.7%
- **West Virginia**, down 8.1%
- **Ohio**, down 22.1%

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, retrieved May 15, 2019
Currently only 18 states report drug classes on provisional mortality reports

All 50 states report end of year final reports (now through 2017)

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, retrieved May 15, 2019
# Overdose Mortality by Class of Drug

Adapted from CDC Statistics, May 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Heroin</th>
<th>Nat &amp; Semi-Synthetic</th>
<th>Methadone</th>
<th>Synthetic Opioids</th>
<th>Cocaine</th>
<th>Psycho-Stimulants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2017</td>
<td>16,264</td>
<td>15,197</td>
<td>3266</td>
<td>28,690</td>
<td>14,581</td>
<td>10,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2018</td>
<td>15,305</td>
<td>13,103</td>
<td>3158</td>
<td>31,960</td>
<td>15,458</td>
<td>12,664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change   | -5.90% | -13.78%              | -3.31%    | 11.40%            | 6.01%   | 22.17%            |

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, retrieved May 15, 2019

- Number of predicted deaths for the 12 months ending in October of the indicated year
## States That Report More Deaths from Psychostimulants Than Synthetic Opioids (May 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Deaths from Psychostimulants</th>
<th>Deaths from Synthetics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*18 states reporting provisional deaths by drug type

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, retrieved May 15, 2019
NEWBORN VICTIMS OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Outcomes in the fetus
- Growth restriction
- Prematurity
- Death

Outcomes in the Newborn
- Low birthweight
- Small head circumference
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome

Outcomes in the Child
- Developmental disorders

Source: AHRQ HCUP State Inpatient Databases

McQueen, NEJM 2016
INFECTIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- HIV
- Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis B
- Endocarditis
- Skin, bone, and joint infections

National Academies Workshop
Sponsored by OASH, Report July 2018
LESSONS LEARNED

- **No single policy** will have a large enough impact to substantially reduce addiction related deaths

- **Portfolio approach required**
  - Prevent iatrogenic addiction
  - Prevent addiction from drug diversion
  - Treat addiction
  - Mitigate effects of addiction

- **Key factors** influencing effects of reducing opioid pill supply
  - Likelihood of transitioning from prescription opioids to heroin (fentanyl)
  - Mortality rate of heroin (fentanyl) use disorder

Pitt et al., AJPH, Oct 2018
HHS 5-POINT STRATEGY TO COMBAT THE OPIOIDS CRISIS

1. Better addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services
2. Better data
3. Better pain management
4. Better targeting of overdose reversing drugs
5. Better research

https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/
ACHIEVING RESULTS IN COMBATING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC PROGRESS (JANUARY 2017 – APRIL 2019)

The total morphine milligram equivalents dispensed monthly by retail and mail-order pharmacies declined by 31%

Naloxone prescriptions dispensed by pharmacies increased by 484%

The number of unique patients receiving buprenorphine monthly from retail pharmacies increased by 29%

The number of naltrexone prescriptions per month from retail and mail pharmacies has increased more than 62%

PRIORITIES (1)

• Directly address the resurgence of methamphetamines and cocaine

• Improve, demonstrate, and expand integration of federal, state, local, non-governmental efforts at the community level (HHS/NIH HEALing Communities Initiative)

• Implement the SUPPORT ACT

• Modeling the quantitative impact of policy interventions

• Assess and implement, as appropriate, recommendations from Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force

• Policy to Practice: FTS, SIFs, Opioid Tapering, others…

• Transition from a “crisis framework” into an integrated, sustainable, predictable, and resilient public health system for preventing and treating substance misuse

Applications due in May
PRIORITIES (2)

Specific Policy Initiatives

• Encourage expansion of comprehensive syringe service programs
• Enhance Emergency Room MAT treatment and warm hand-offs following overdose
• Improve MAT during transitions into, and out of, the criminal justice system

https://www.nastad.org/maps/syringe-service-program-policy-environments-across-united-states
Thank You