



The Opioid Epidemic & Public Health

Impact, Interventions, & Innovation

Presentation for the
Maryland Addiction Consultation Service
April 4, 2024

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Objectives

1. Outline the public health impacts of the opioid epidemic
2. Analyze the innovative public health approaches to the opioid crisis
3. Understand and explore the role of the social determinants of health for the treatment and support of patients with substance use disorders



Financial Disclosure

Sara Whaley, MPH, MSW, MA faculty for this activity, has reported no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

All planners, teachers/instructors/faculty, author(s), writer(s) and reviewers of this activity have reported no relevant financial relationships to disclose.



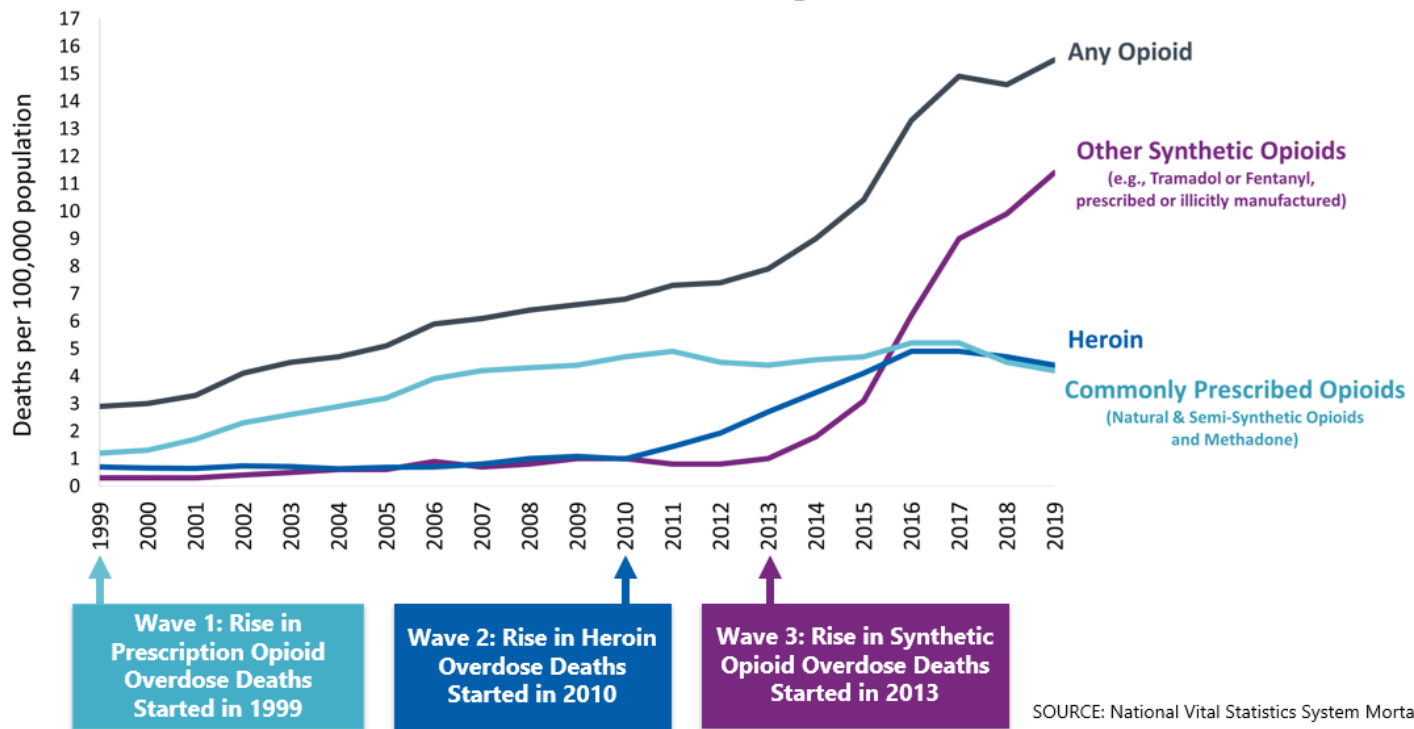
SECTION 1

IMPACT



History of Opioid Crisis

Three Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



Source: CDC



Current State of the Overdose Crisis

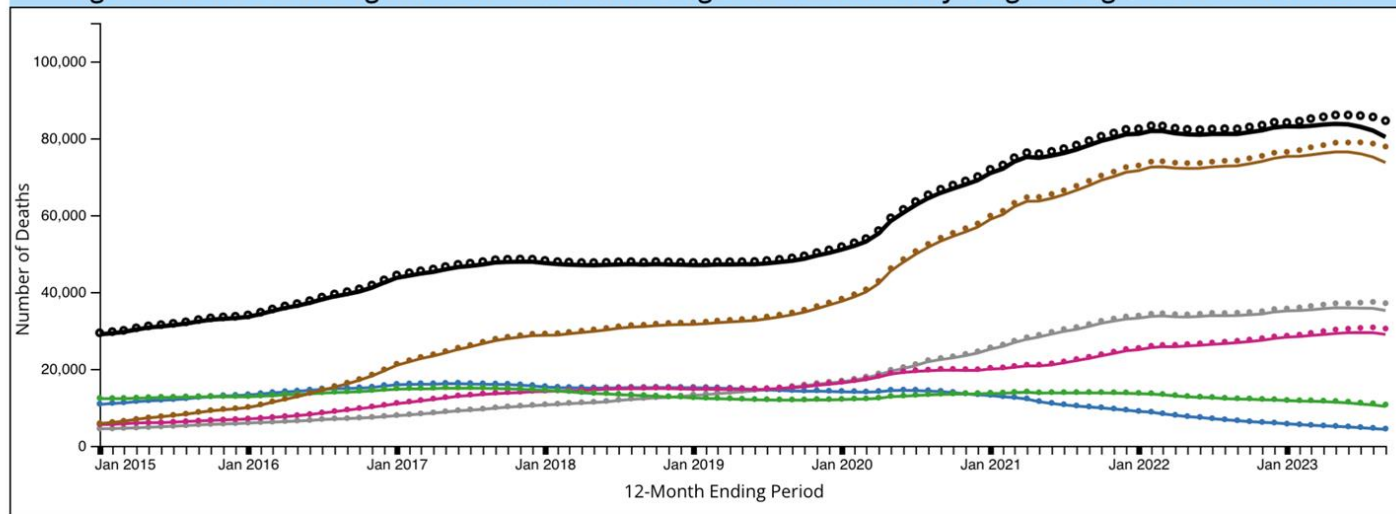
12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class

Based on data available for analysis on: February 4, 2024

After opening the **drug class dropdown**, click the top of the dropdown menu again to make the checkboxes disappear.

Select Jurisdiction: Select specific drugs or drug classes:

Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: United States



Legend for Drug or Drug Class

- Cocaine (T40.5)
- Heroin (T40.1)
- Natural & semi-synthetic opioids (T40.2)
- Opioids (T40.0-T40.4, T40.6)
- Psychostimulants with abuse potential (T43.6)
- Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)
- Reported Value
- Predicted Value

Source: CDC



Current State of the Overdose Crisis

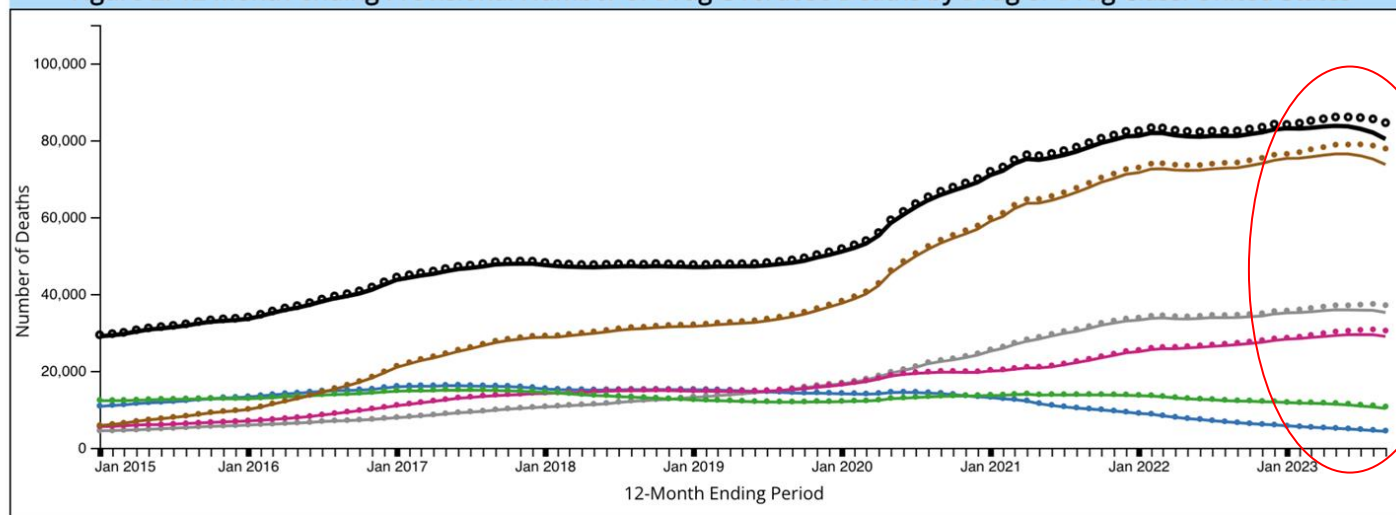
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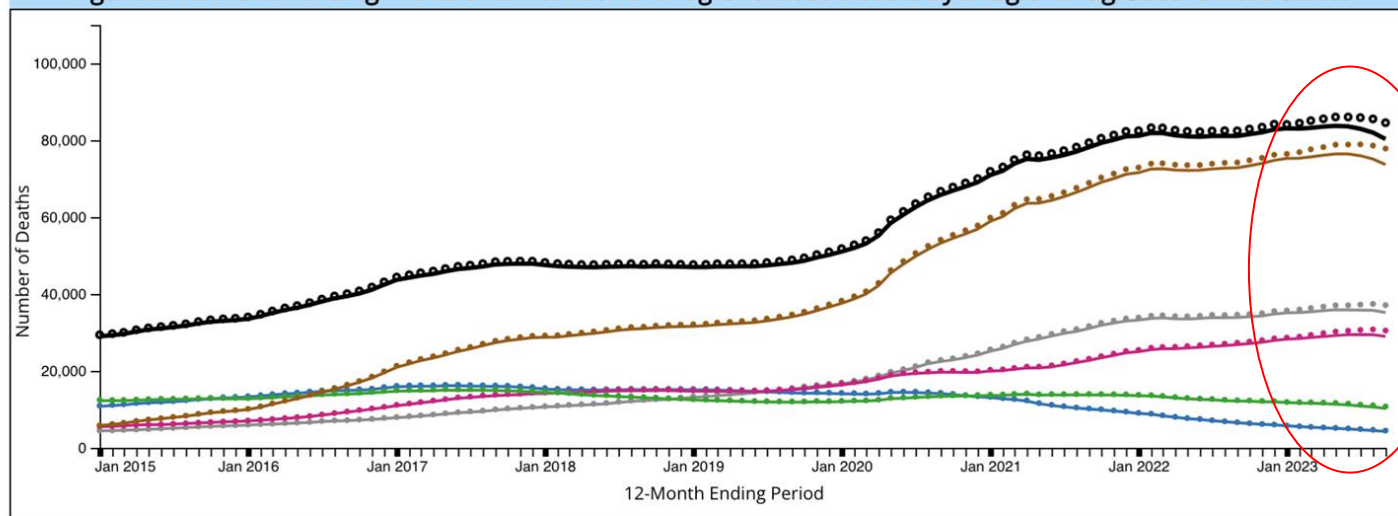
Select Jurisdiction

United States

Select specific drugs or drug classes

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Fentanyl

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Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)

--- Reported Value

○ Predicted Value

Source: CDC



Current State of the Overdose Crisis

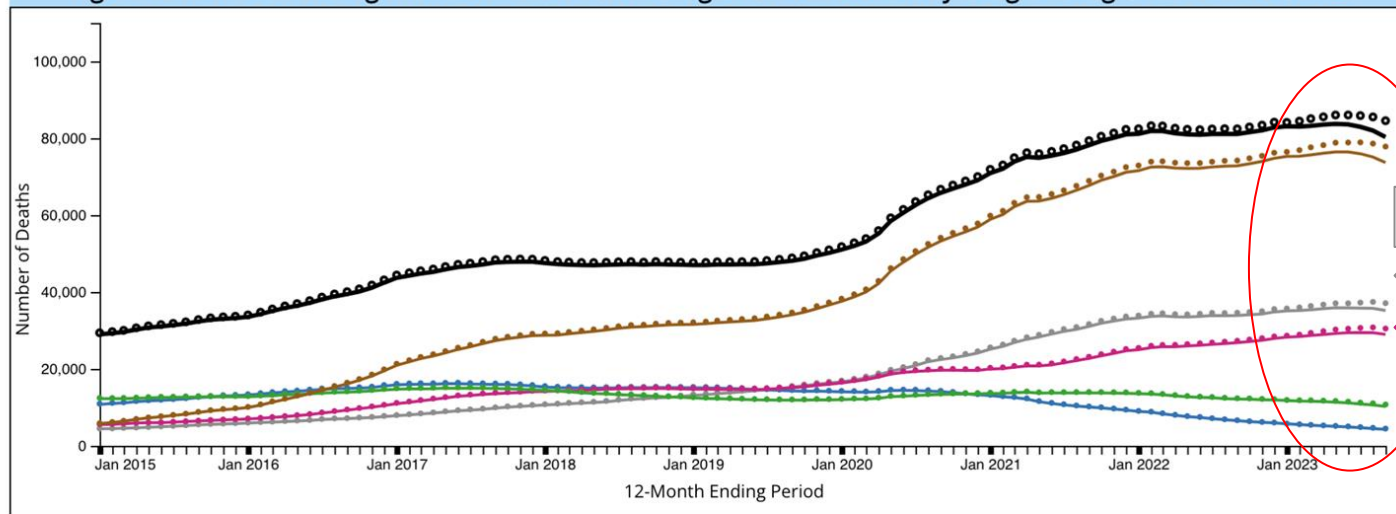
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- Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)
- Reported Value (dashed line)
- Predicted Value (line with circles)

Source: CDC

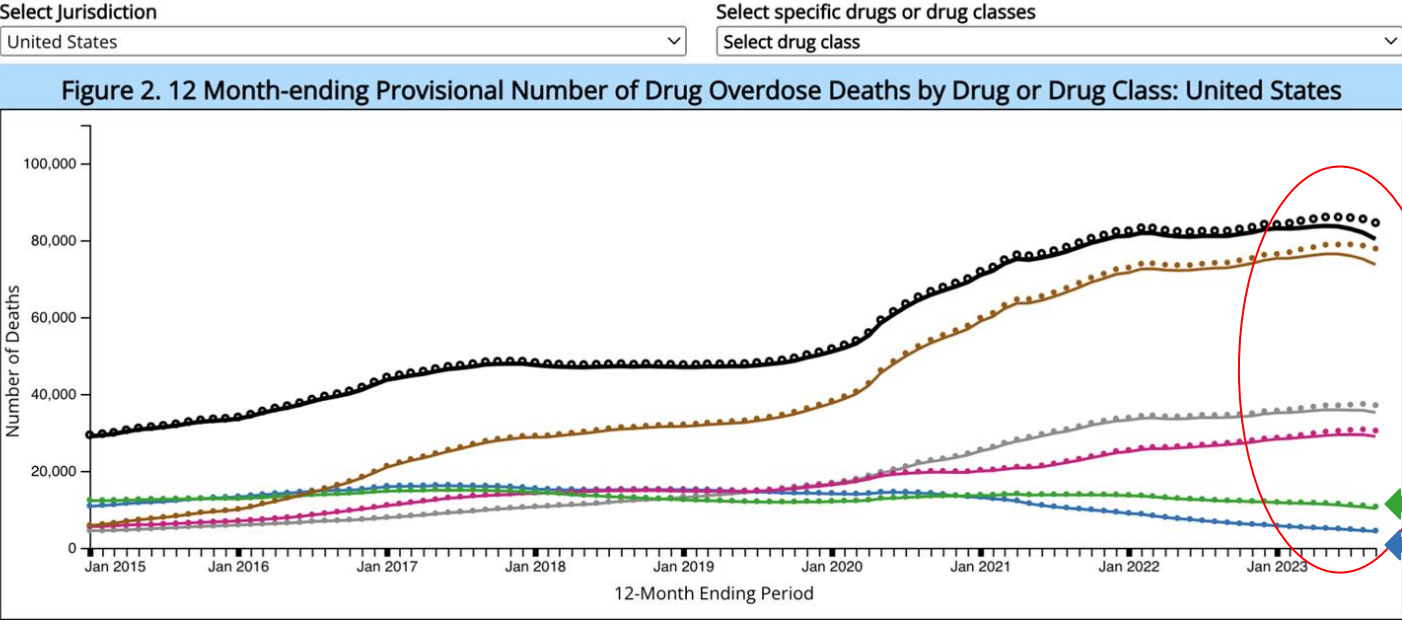


Current State of the Overdose Crisis

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Source: CDC



Knowledge Check #1

The current wave of the overdose crisis, or Wave 3, is defined by the increase in overdose deaths related to prescription opioids.

TRUE or FALSE



Knowledge Check #1

The current wave of the overdose crisis, or Wave 3, is defined by the increase in overdose deaths related to prescription opioids.

TRUE or **FALSE**



Cost of the opioid epidemic

Human Cost:

↓ life expectancy

Economic Cost:

>\$1.5 Trillion in 2020 (JEC Report, 2022)

Societal Costs:

- ↑ children in foster care
- ↑ incarceration
- ↑ homelessness/housing insecurity
- ↑ opioid-related emergency department visits and inpatient stays
- ↓ decreased labor force participation



SECTION 2

INTERVENTIONS



Proven Interventions Across the Continuum of Care



Why is the opioid crisis getting worse?



Evidence VS Reality

SSPs save lives by lowering the likelihood of deaths from overdose.



- Fewer fatal overdoses & increase access to naloxone
- Greater access to social services and medical treatment
- Reduction in new Hepatitis C and HIV cases
- Connection to care for existing Hep C & HIV cases
- Safe disposal of used syringes
- Reduction in sexually transmitted infections

Source: CDC



Evidence VS Reality

SSPs save lives by lowering the likelihood of deaths from overdose.



Needle exchanges are a proven tool to fight HIV, but officials still want to shut them down

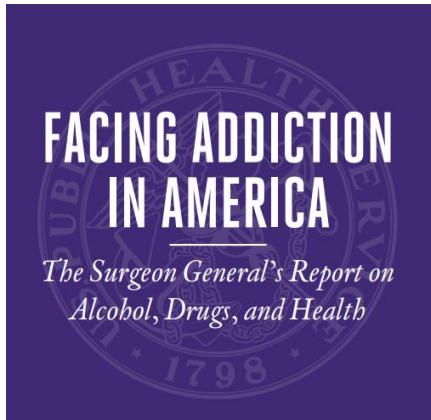
Indiana Needle Exchange That Helped Contain A Historic HIV Outbreak To Be Shut Down

Atlantic City is poised to shut down its syringe exchange — amid warnings of dire public health consequences

Source: CDC



Evidence VS Reality



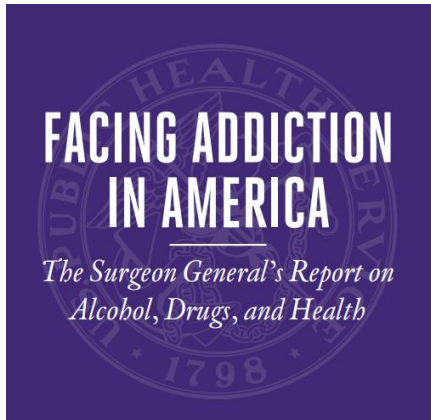
Prevention Programs and Policies

- School commitment, attachment, achievement
- Socioeconomic attainment
- Mental health
- Multi-generational effect on improved outcomes

Source: NIDA



Evidence VS Reality



Prevention Programs and Policies

Between 2009 and 2019, substance use prevention funding has been cut by 34%

Source: CADCA



Evidence VS Reality



- Longer retention in treatment
- Decreased opioid use
- Reduce all-cause mortality
- Increase quality of life

Source: National Academies



Evidence VS Reality



In 2016, **just 36%** of substance use treatment facilities offered any form of medication treatment for opioid use disorder

Source: National Academies



Evidence VS Reality



In 2021, **only 1 in 5** patients with OUD received an MOUD.

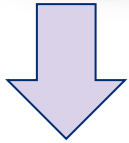
Source: Jones CM, Han B, Baldwin GT, Einstein EB, Compton WM. (2021)



Social Determinants of Health



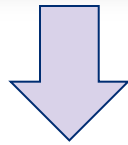
Social Ecological Model



- Physical and mental health
- Trauma and coping skills
- Social emotional learning and skills
- Perception of risk



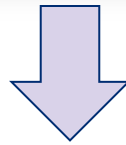
Social Ecological Model



- Attitudes and opinions towards substance use and SUD treatment
- Supportive peer and family network
- Naloxone education and carrying



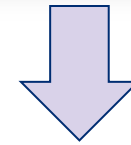
Social Ecological Model



- Availability of services
- Prescriber's attitudes and prescribing practices
- Access to naloxone and naloxone training
- Public health education programming
- Economic wellbeing and housing stability



Social Ecological Model



- Stigma towards people who use drugs
- Supportive legislation
- Policies that promote racial and health equity
- Health insurance coverage for mental health and substance use treatment



Stigma



Stigma

78%

of Americans believe people who are addicted to prescription opioids are, themselves, to blame for their problem

Source: [Associated Press - NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#)



Stigma

72%

of Americans believe that people addicted to prescription opioids lack self-discipline

Source: [Associated Press - NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#)



Stigma

58%

of individuals would not want to work with a
person with OUD

Source: [Associated Press - NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research](#)



Stigma

55%

of people would not want a person with OUD to
live next door to them

Source: [Associated Press - NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research](#)



Impact of Stigma

Societal:

Stigma blocks interest in effective policies:

- punitive measures vs support
- bans on harm reduction

**Community/
Interpersonal:**

“addiction by another name”

MOUD =

NIMBYism

Individual:

Internalized Stigma



Knowledge Check #2

Which part(s) of the socio-ecological model are impacted by stigma?

- A. Individual
- B. Interpersonal
- C. Community
- D. Society



Knowledge Check #2

Which part(s) of the socio-ecological model are impacted by stigma?

- A. Individual
- B. Interpersonal
- C. Community
- D. Society
- E. All the Above



SECTION 3

INNOVATION



What does this mean for
providers?



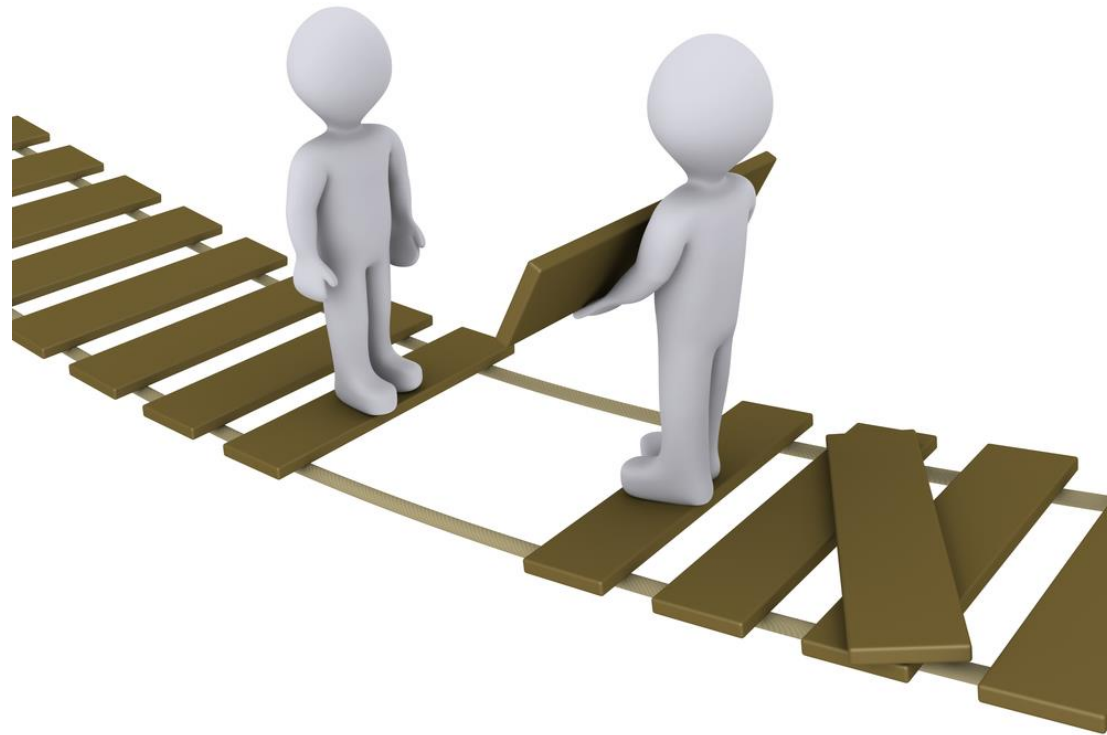
1. Reflect on our own biases



2. Consider the WHOLE PERSON



3. Address treatment gaps



4. Support each other to cope with burnout



Session Summary

1. Opioid crisis has evolved over time and continues to evolve. Our responses will need to respond with it.
2. Social determinants are NOT a root cause of the opioid addiction epidemic but they can impact opioid related morbidity and mortality. Addressing social determinants of health can improve outcomes for people with OUD.
3. Stigma has wide impacts from policies to medical service provision to social supports to and individuals willingness to seek help.
4. Addressing the crisis is going to take interdisciplinary, collective action and innovation to address the whole patient.



Thank you!

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