

CURRENT STATE OF THE OPIOID CRISIS: UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES

Stephen Patrick, MD, MPH, MS
Director, Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy
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VANDERBILT
Center for
Child Health Policy




TODAY'S CHARGE

How can the opioid crisis serve as a vehicle to advance human services that improve family outcomes even after the crisis subsides?

OVERVIEW

- The opioid crisis
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Beyond opioids – Key Issues
- Looking ahead



1827: Morphine marketed by Merck

- Pain relief
- Treatment of 'opium addiction'
- Treatment of 'alcoholism'

1874: Diacetylmorphine discovered

- 1898 Bayer pharmaceutical marketed under name Heroin
- The marketing campaign
- "safe, non-addictive" substitute for morphine

1906: American Medical Association approved Heroin for general use and recommended that it be used in place of morphine.



NEJM 1980

ADDICTION RARE IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH NARCOTICS

To the Editor: Recently, we examined our current files to determine the incidence of narcotic addiction in 39,946 hospitalized medical patients¹ who were monitored consecutively. Although there were 11,882 patients who received at least one narcotic preparation, there were only four cases of reasonably well documented addiction in patients who had no history of addiction. The addiction was considered major in only one instance. The drugs implicated were meperidine in two patients,² Percodan in one, and hydromorphone in one. We conclude that despite widespread use of narcotic drugs in hospitals, the development of addiction is rare in medical patients with no history of addiction.

JANE PORTER
HERSHEL JICK, M.D.
Boston Collaborative Drug
Surveillance Program
Boston University Medical Center

Waltham, MA 02154

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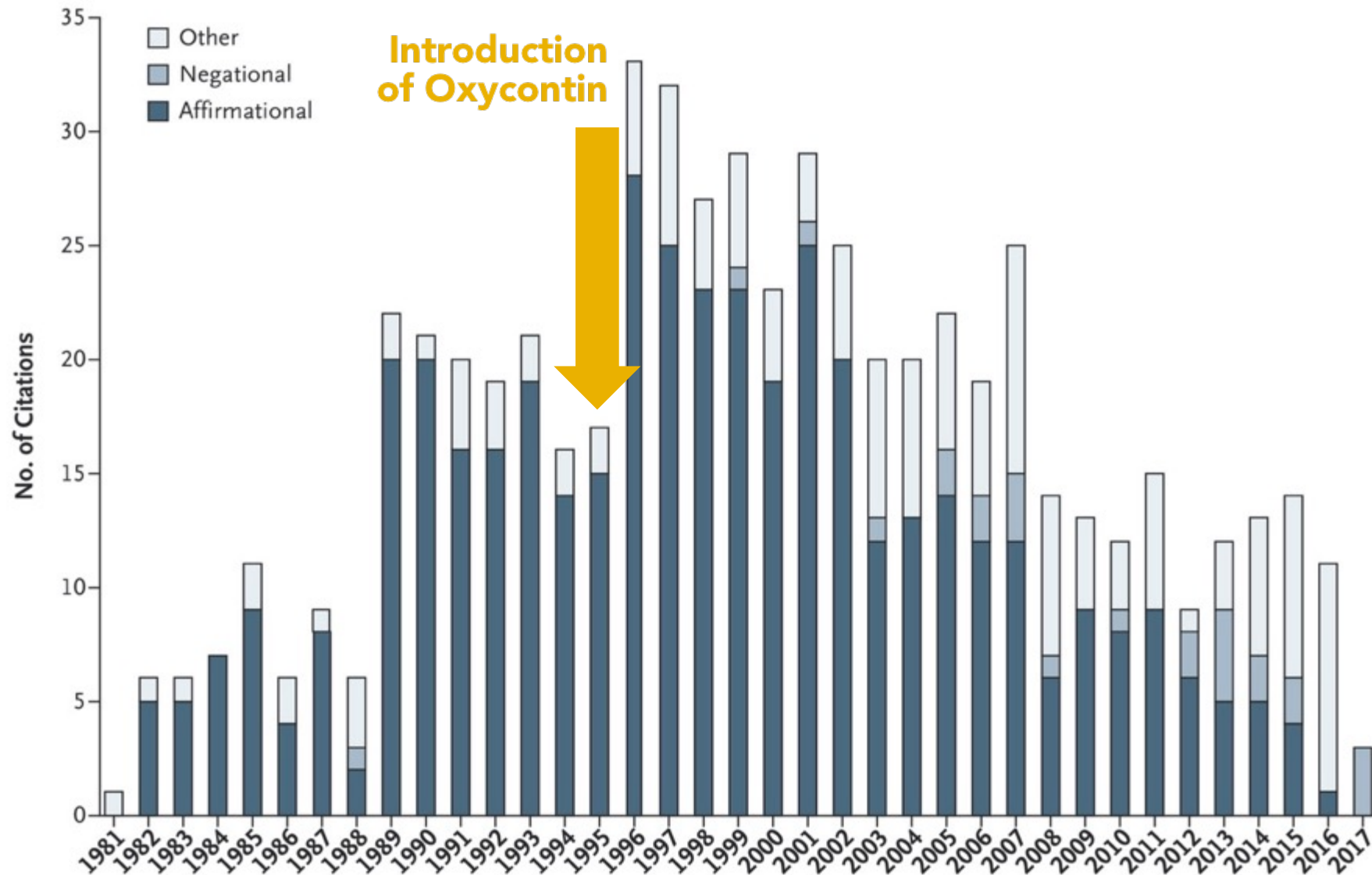
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Number and Type of Citations of the 1980 Letter



1996

American Pain Society "Pain as the 5th Vital Sign Campaign"

1998

Federation of State Medical Boards published "Model Guidelines for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

2003

The New York Times reports tripling of young adults (18-25) abusing opioid pain relievers. DEA and FDA create task force to crack down on internet sales of opioids.

2007

Maker of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, plead guilty to "criminal charges that they misled regulators, doctors and patients about the drug's risk of addiction and its potential to be abused." Results in a \$600M settlement.

2000+

Rapid expansion of opioid use in the US

OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS ARE INCREASING

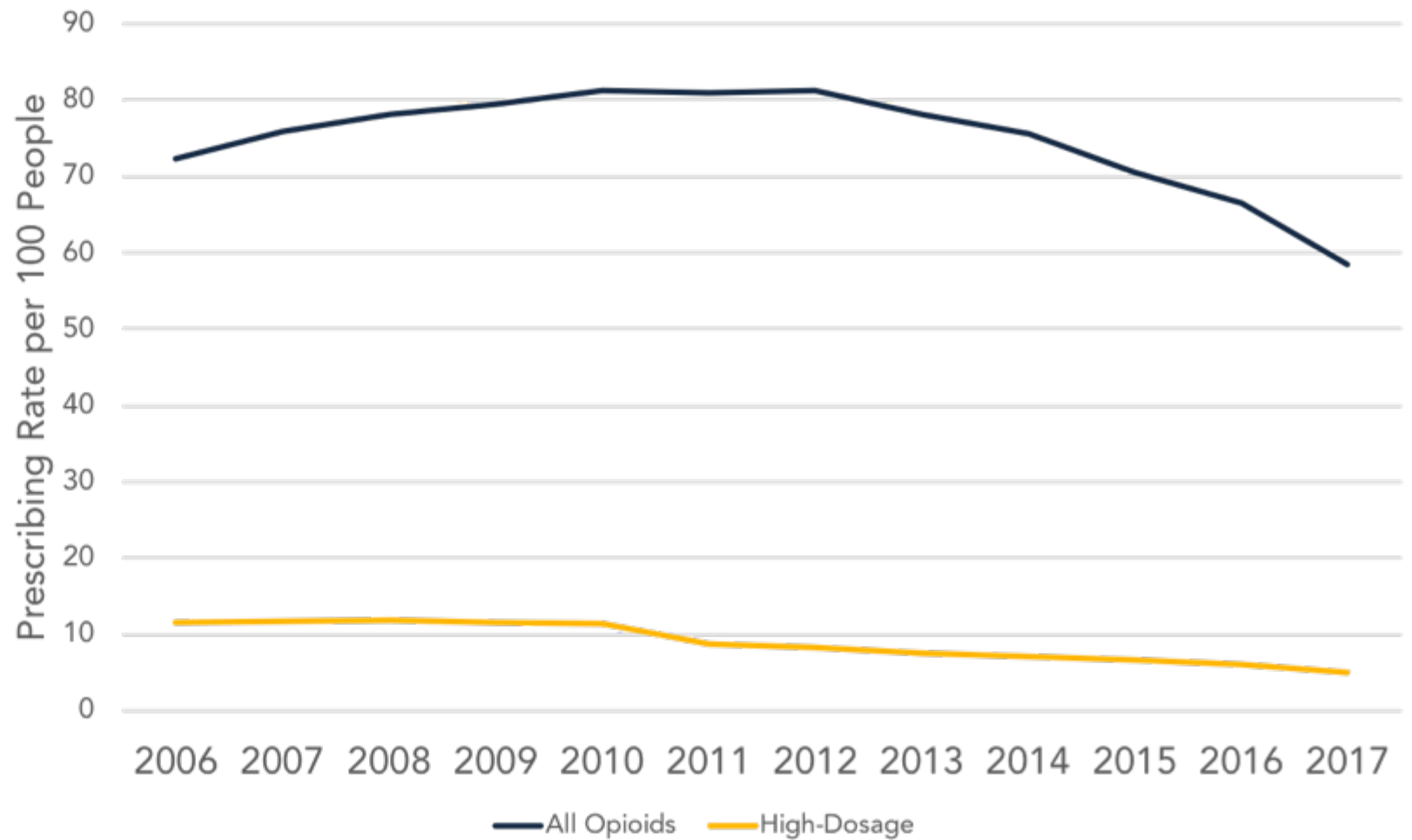


From 1999 to 2015, opioid prescribing rates rose by **3x**



The US uses **4x** as many opioids as Europe

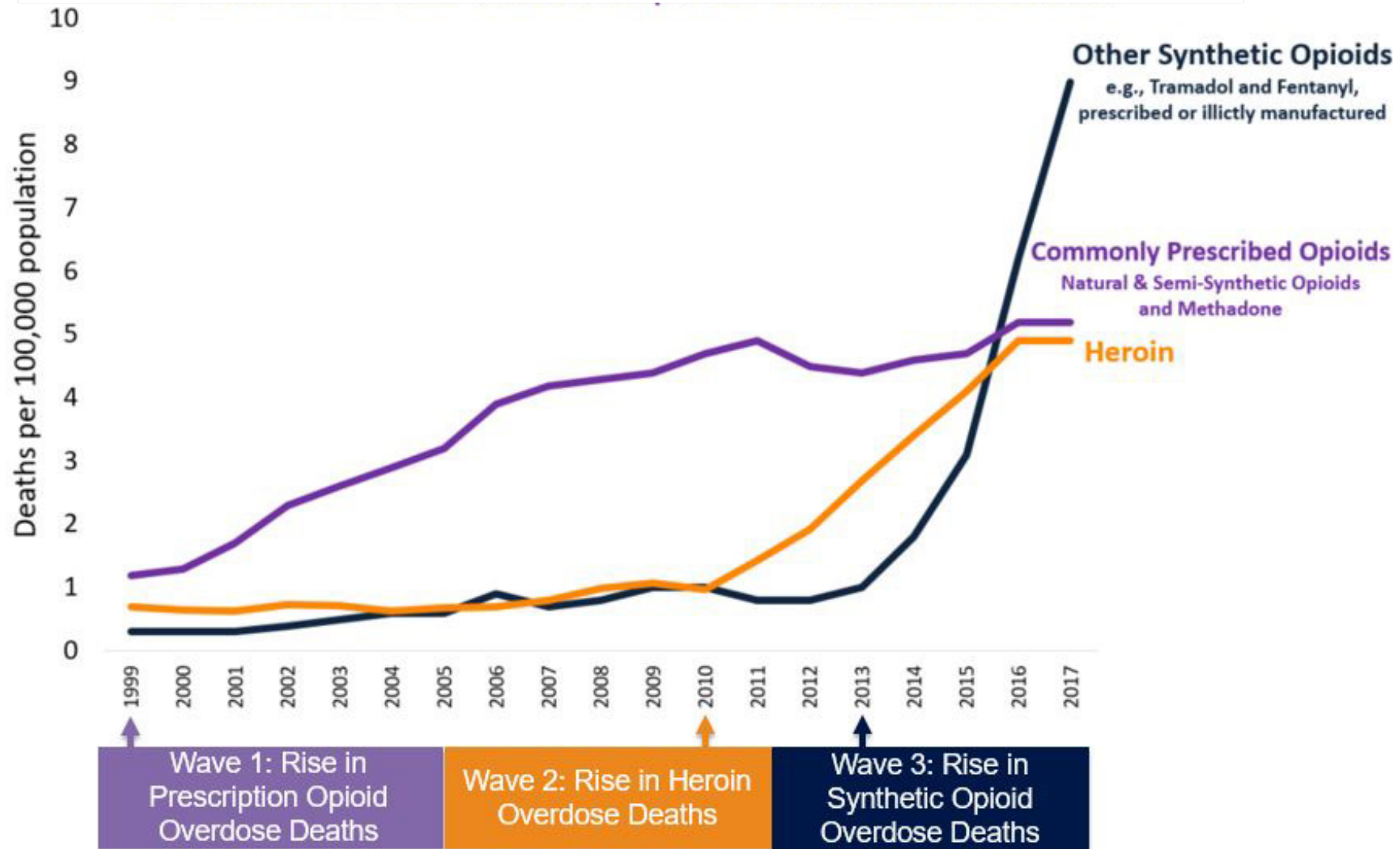
Opioid Prescribing in the US Has Dropped



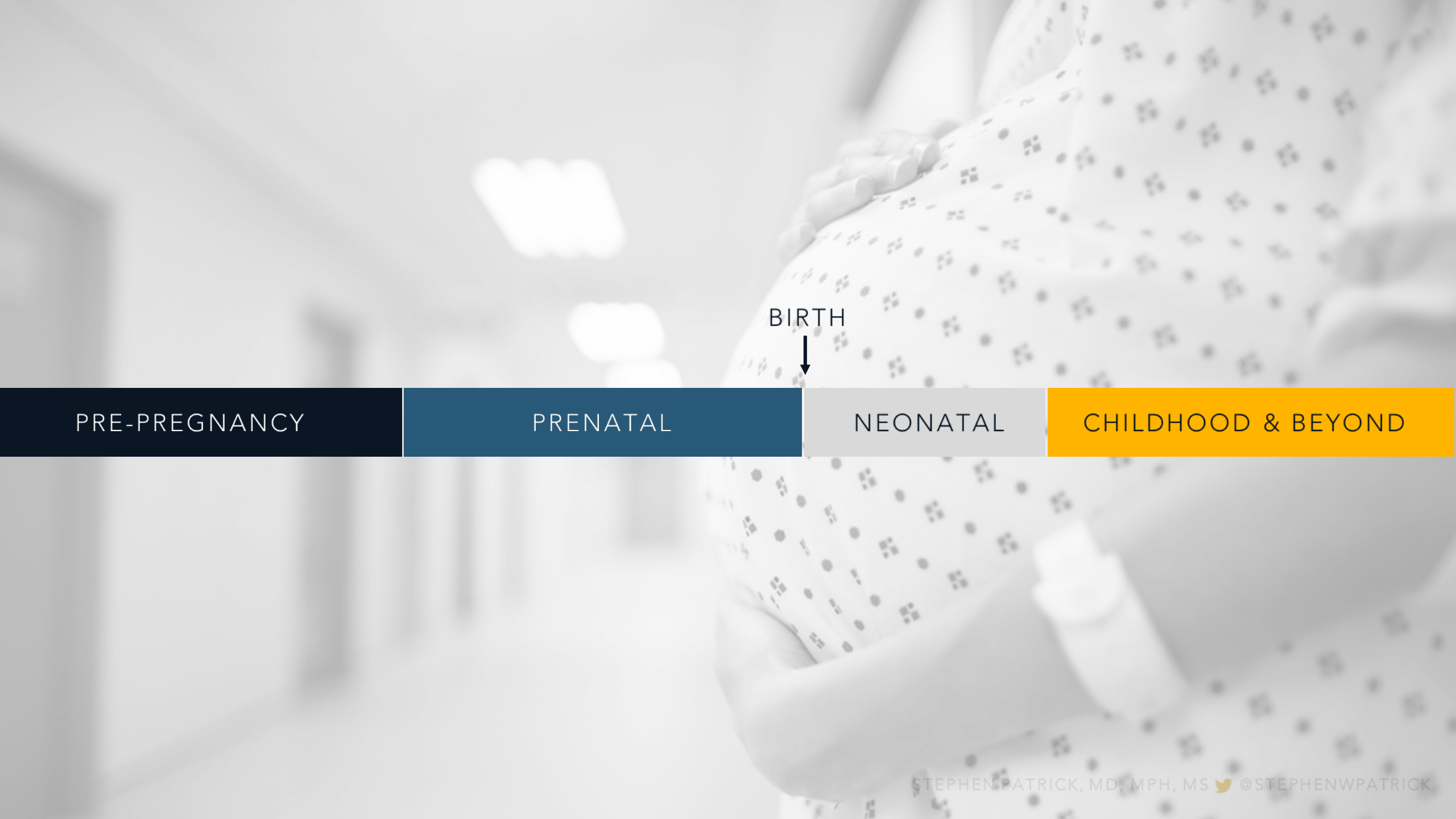
Source: CDC,
[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/
data/prescribing.html](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/prescribing.html)

STEPHEN PATRICK, MD, MPH, MS  @STEPHENWPATRICK

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Deaths



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.



BIRTH



PRE-PREGNANCY

PRENATAL

NEONATAL

CHILDHOOD & BEYOND



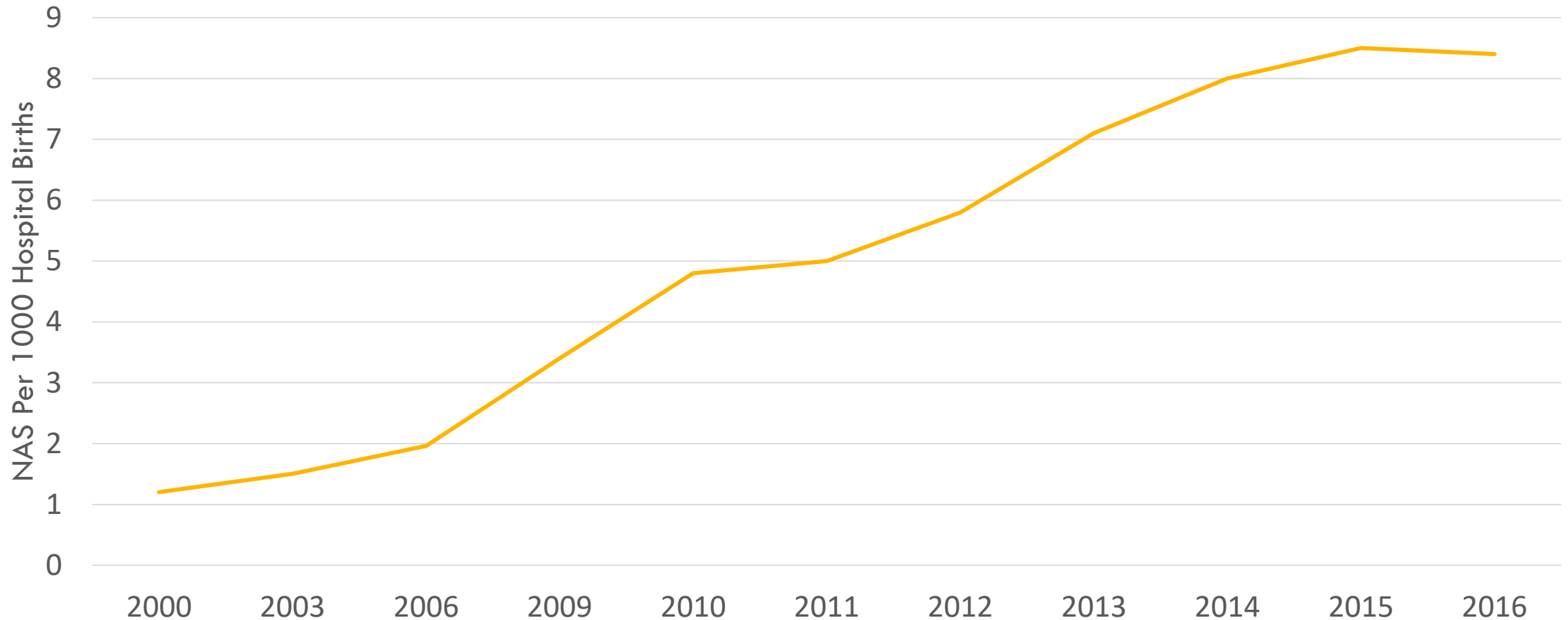


NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS)

- A withdrawal syndrome experienced by drug exposed newborns after birth
- Generally follows opioid exposure, though other drugs have been implicated
 - Alcohol, benzodiazepines (valium, etc.), barbiturates (phenobarbital, etc.)
- 40-80% of methadone exposed newborns develop NAS
 - ~5% of those exposed to opioid pain relievers



Incidence of NAS in the US, 2000-2016



Patrick SW, et. al. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Associated Healthcare Expenditures – United States, 2000-2009. JAMA. 2012 May 9;307(18):1934-40.

Patrick SW, Davis MM, Lehman CU, Cooper WO. Increasing incidence and geographic distribution of neonatal abstinence syndrome: United States 2009 to 2012. J Perinatol. Apr 30 2015.

Winkelman TNA, Villapiano N, Kozhimannil KB, Davis MM, Patrick SW. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome - Incidence and Costs Among Infants Enrolled in Medicaid, 2004-2014. Pediatrics. 2018 Apr;141(4).

MEDICAID COSTS

Mean hospital costs for an infant with NAS covered by Medicaid are often **5-fold higher** than for an infant without NAS.

NAS resulted in approximately **\$2 billion in excess costs** among Medicaid-financed deliveries between 2004 and 2014.



NAS TREATMENT

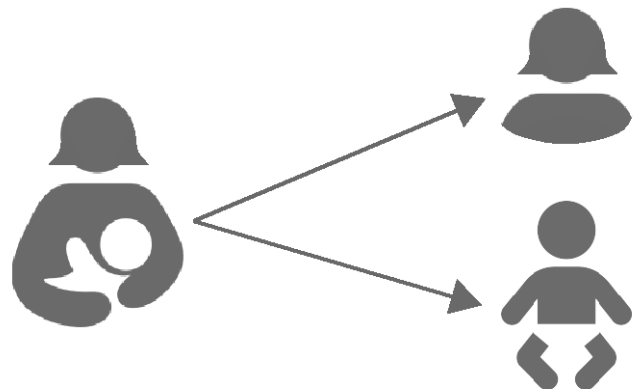
Goal of treatment: to “control” withdrawal, minimizing complications (e.g. seizure)

Non-pharmacologic intervention (e.g. environmental controls, etc)

- Rooming in, Breastfeeding

Involves using opioids (morphine, methadone) and slowing decreasing dose

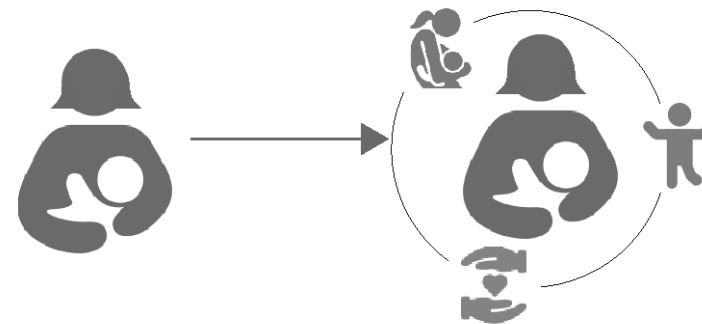
SHIFTING MODELS OF CARE



Traditional (and common):

- Transfer to a tertiary care facility
- Separate mom & baby, place baby in NICU
- Treatment separate from mother
- Breastfeeding not allowed, or inconsistent
- Focus on correct medicine, instead of care process
- Burn-out common, lack of trauma-informed processes
- Care not standardized
- Long lengths of treatment & stay

vs



Newer care models:

- Transfer to a tertiary care facility not necessary
- Keep dyad intact, out of NICU when possible
- Treatment inclusive of mother
- Breastfeeding encouraged & supported
- Focus on care process, not just medications
- Engage staff in trauma-informed care
- Use of standardized protocols
- Greater provider/patient satisfaction, reduced stay

TEAM HOPE

An interdisciplinary team from the Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Monroe Carrell Jr. Children's Hospital, Team HOPE seeks to **provide evidence-based care for opioid-exposed infants.** The team is comprised of:

- physicians
- nurses
- social workers
- child life specialists
- lactation consultants
- volunteers



CHARACTERISTICS OF TEAM HOPE INFANTS

231

Infants met
the Team
HOPE inclusion
criteria



24%

Were
diagnosed
With NAS



19%

Received one
or more doses
of morphine



3

Were
readmitted
within 7 days
of discharge



LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)

5 DAYS: median length of stay for all Team HOPE infants

13 DAYS: median length of stay for infants diagnosed with NAS

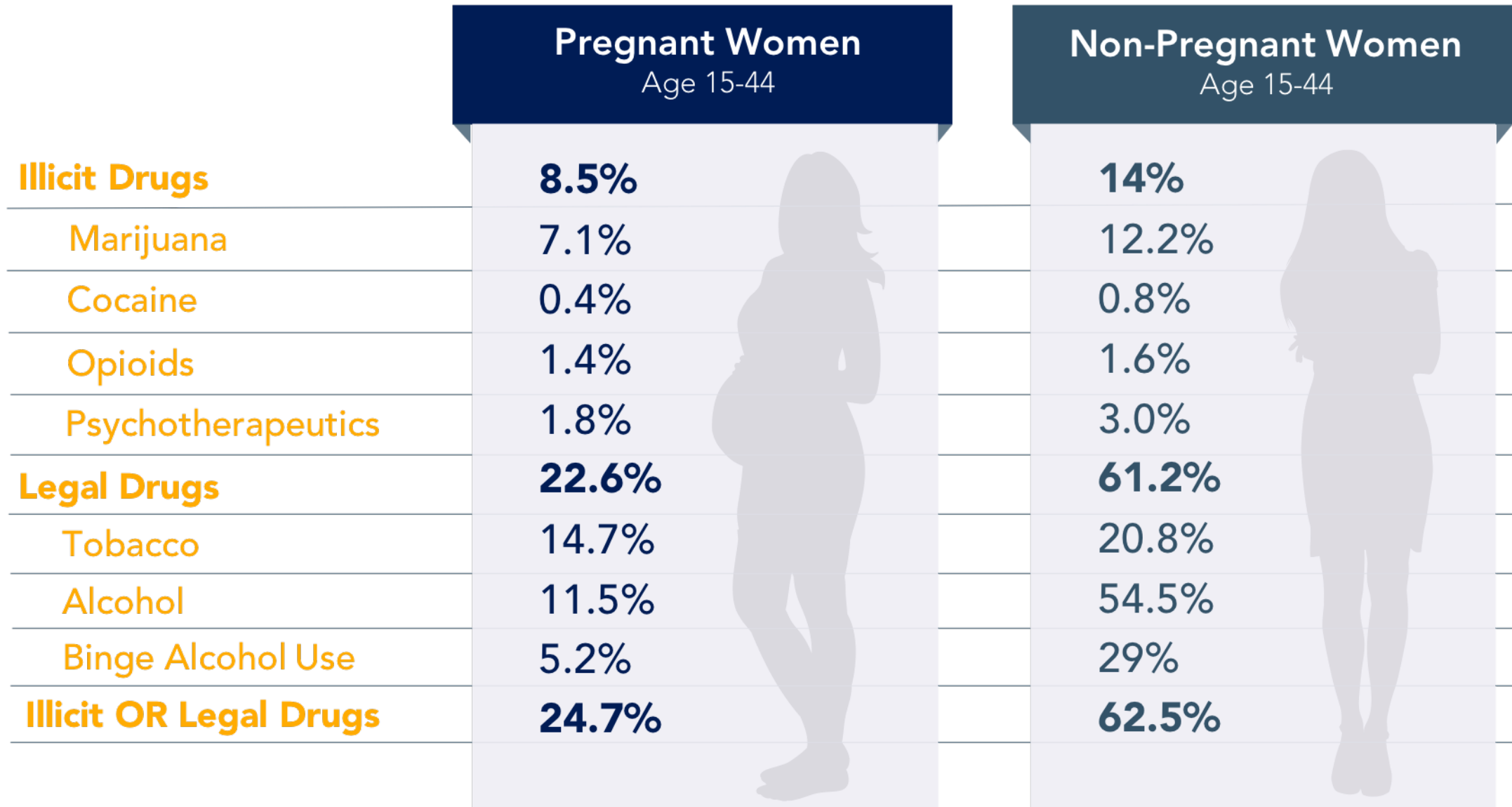






**KEY POINT #1:
It's Not Just About Opioids**

Percent of Women Using Substances in Past Month



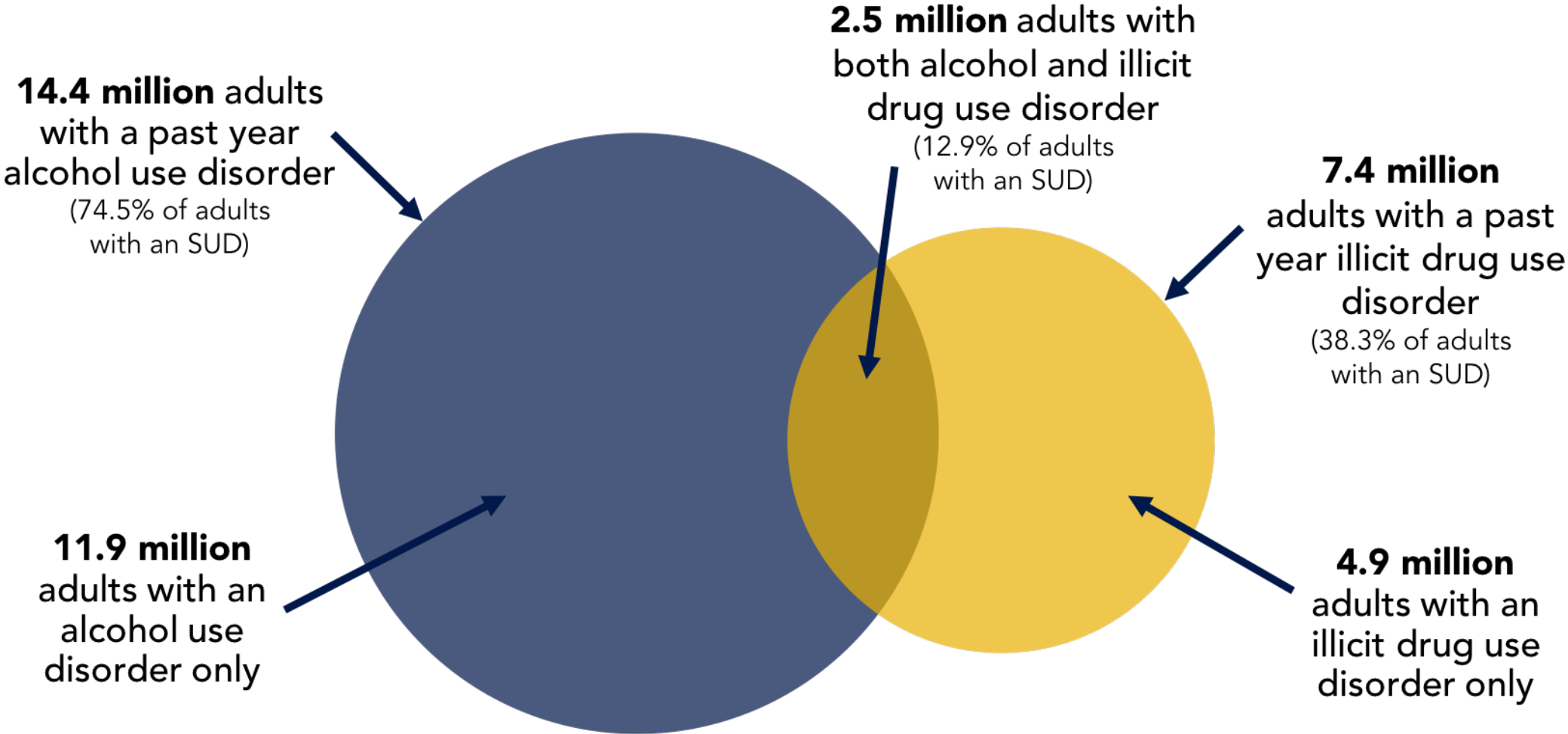
Percent of Women Using Substances in Past Month

	Pregnant Women Ages 18-25		Non-Pregnant Women Ages 18-25	
Illicit Drugs	8.5%	11%	14%	21.5%
Marijuana	7.1%	9.7%	12.2%	19.7%
Cocaine	0.4%		0.8%	
Opioids	1.4%		1.6%	
Psychotherapeutics	1.8%		3.0%	
Legal Drugs	22.6%		61.2%	
Tobacco	14.7%	21.2%	20.8%	21.8%
Alcohol	11.5%		54.5%	
Binge Alcohol Use	5.2%	6.9%	29%	32.8%
Illicit OR Legal Drugs	24.7%		62.5%	



**KEY POINT #2:
Getting Into Treatment is Difficult**

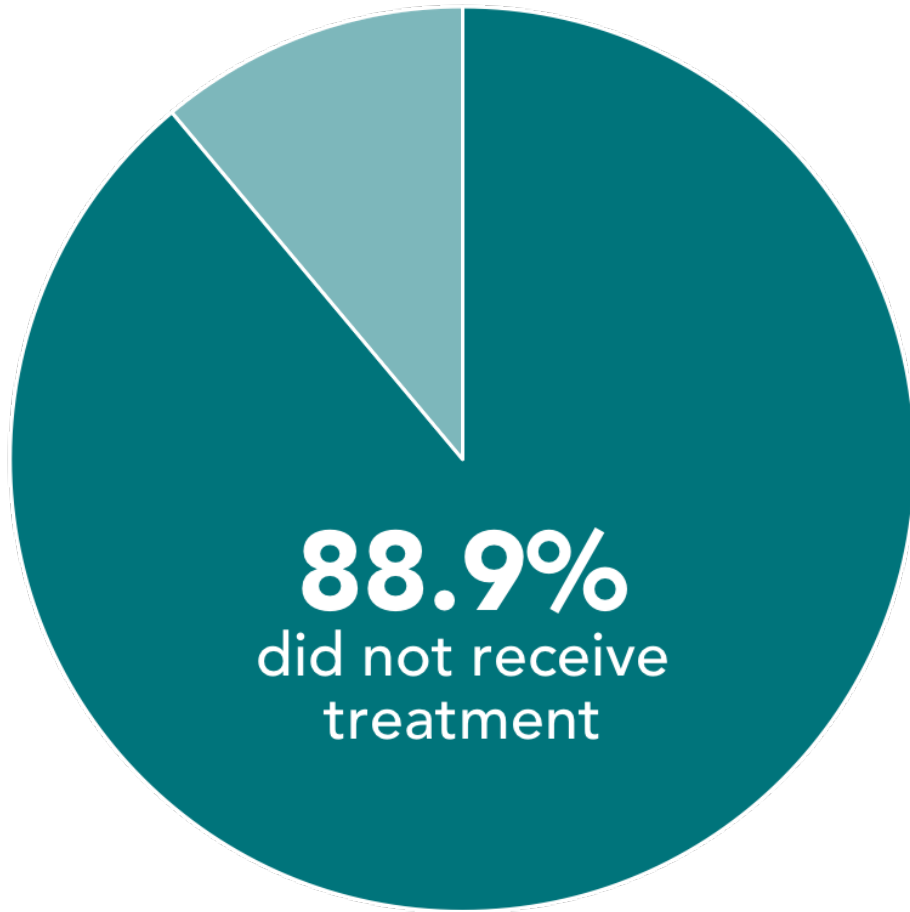
Millions need treatment...



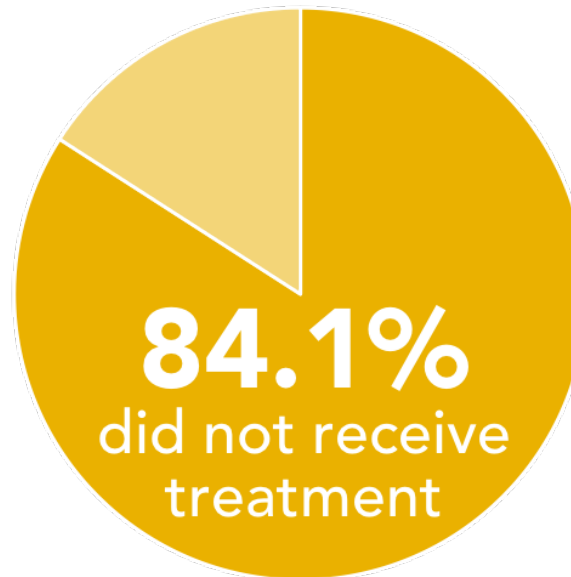
19.3 million adults aged 18 or older with past year SUDs (2018)

...and most aren't getting it

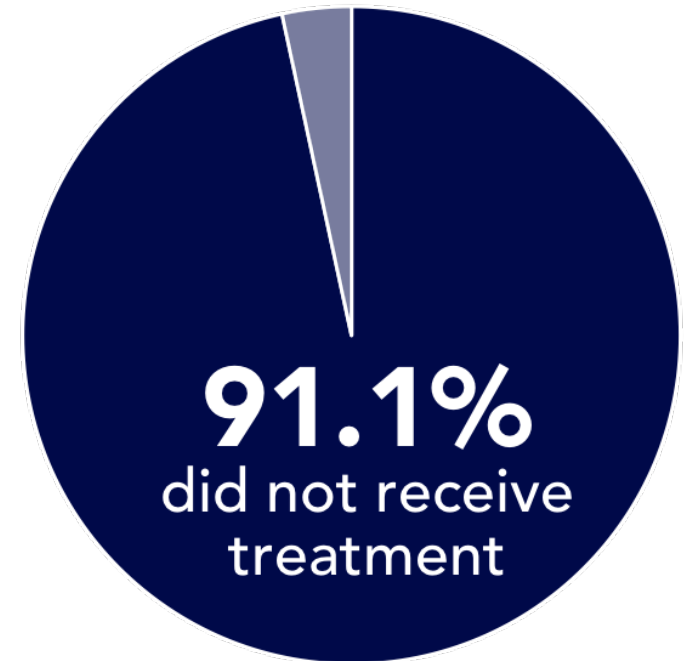
21.2 million people
needed substance use
treatment in 2018



8.7 million people
needed illicit drug
use treatment in 2018



15.5 million people
needed alcohol
use treatment in 2018



Source: Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2017 and 2018.

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Improve Outcomes

Buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone

- Methadone - full mu-opioid receptor agonist, typically requires daily outpatient visits to an OTP to receive medication
- Buprenorphine - partial mu-opioid receptor agonist and kappa-opioid receptor antagonist generally used in the outpatient setting, not requiring daily visits
- Naltrexone – (Vivitrol, injectable) – opioid antagonist, most affinity for the mu-opioid receptor, used in outpatient setting

Getting Treatment Difficult, Expensive

- 849 heroin-using “secret shoppers,” trying to get treatment with Medicaid or self-pay
- Appointments offered to 52% of those with Medicaid, 62% of self-pay
 - Rural: Medicaid 48%, self-pay 54%
- Wait time: median 6 days Medicaid, 5 days self-pay
- Median cash payment for an appointment: \$250

Despite evidence that medications for opioid use disorder improve outcomes for mothers and infants, most pregnant women with opioid use disorder in the US are not receiving these medications.

- Recommended to treat opioid use disorder in pregnancy

Decreased risk of relapse, overdose death, HCV, and other outcomes. More likely to go into remission, higher birth weights, and less neonatal withdrawal.



BARRIERS TO ACCESSING TREATMENT

PREGNANCY, INSURANCE:

Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) providers are less likely to treat pregnant women.

91%

Of opioid treatment providers accept pregnant patients.

53%

Of buprenorphine providers accept pregnant patients.

An aerial, black and white photograph of a town. A main road runs vertically through the center of the image. The town is surrounded by dense trees and residential buildings. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear sky. The text 'KEY POINT #3: Communities Matter' is overlaid in white on a dark horizontal band across the middle of the image.

KEY POINT #3:
Communities Matter

Economic Factors, Lack of Opportunity Matters

Rate of NAS per
1000 hospital births

ECONOMIC FACTORS

From 2009-2015
the 10-year
unemployment
rate increased
from

8.2%
to
6.5%

and was
associated with
**higher rates
of NAS in rural
remote counties**

Adjusted IRR, 1.34



In rural
remote
counties,
a **higher proportion
of manufacturing jobs**
**WAS ASSOCIATED WITH
higher rates of NAS**
Adjusted IRR, 1.06

MENTAL HEALTH



of metropolitan counties



of metro-adjacent rural counties



of rural remote counties

IN OUR STUDY
had a shortage of mental health providers

Counties with a shortage of mental health providers were associated with **higher rates of NAS**

Adjusted IRR, 1.17





**KEY POINT #4:
Context Matters**

TRAUMA & TOXIC STRESS



Trauma common among women in treatment

- 74% reported sexual abuse
- 72% reported emotional abuse
- 52% reported physical abuse



Adverse child experiences likely also common

- Adults with >5 adverse child experiences compared to 0
 - 8 times as likely to have life time substance dependence (aOR 7.7, 95%CI 4.7-12.7)
 - 10 times as likely to have ever injected drugs (aOR 10.1, 95%CI 4.6-22.0)



How can human services programs partner with health systems to set families up for success?

Start with training/bonding during the birth hospitalization

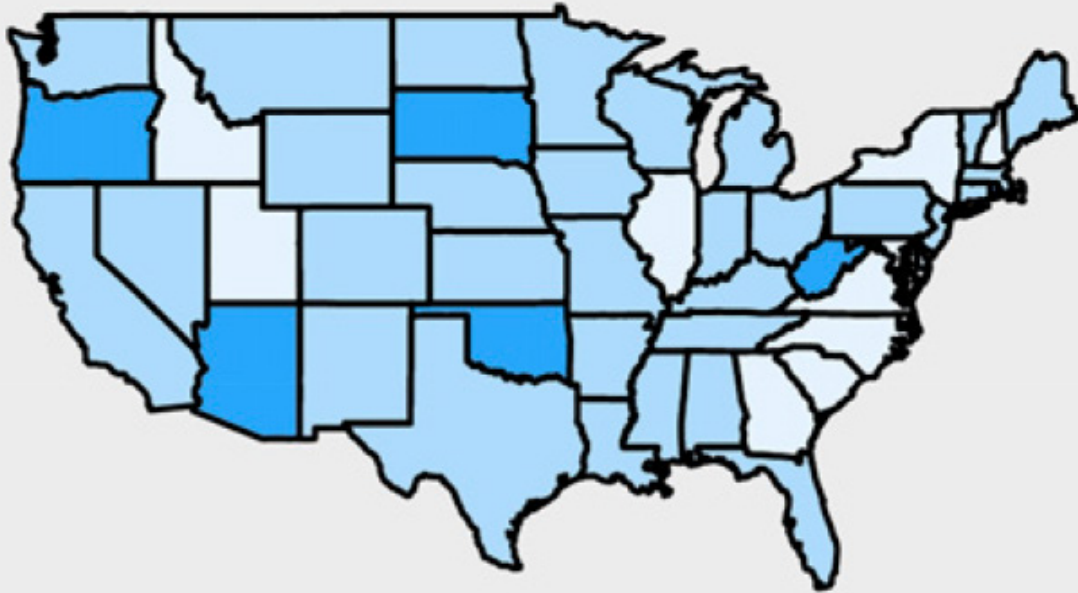
- Breastfeeding
- Engaging family
- Promoting maternal (and paternal) recovery
- Assesses family needs/follow-up
- Assesses other risks (mental health, infectious)

Consider post-discharge needs

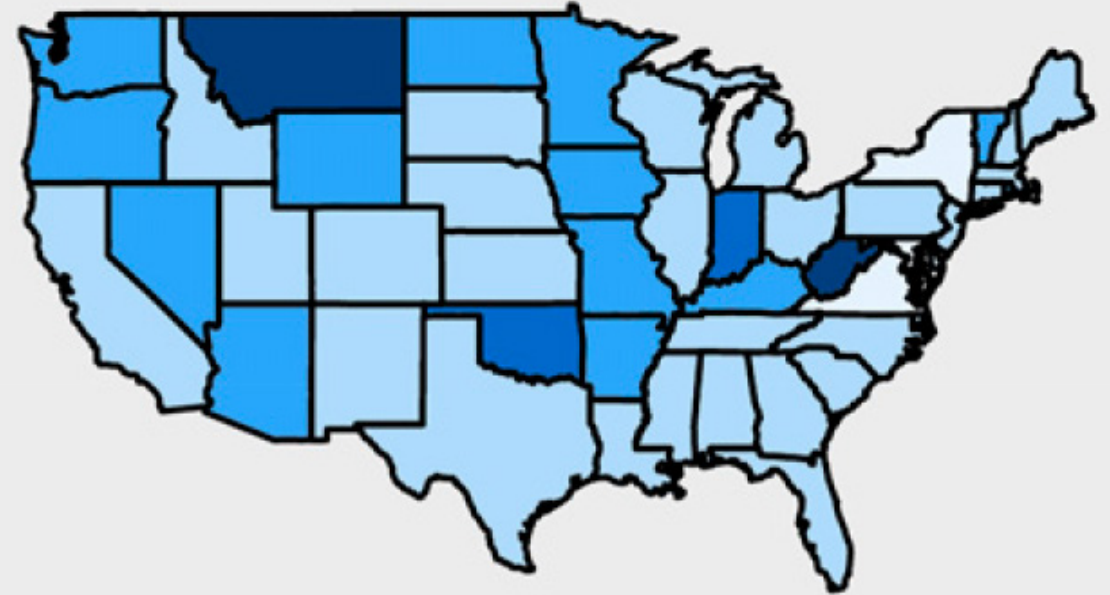
- Home Visitation
- Child Welfare
- IDEA Part C (Early Intervention)
- More frequent pediatrician follow-up
- Early Head Start
- Coordinate with maternal treatment and recovery
- Programs for economic stability
- Housing

More Infants US in the Foster Care System

2011



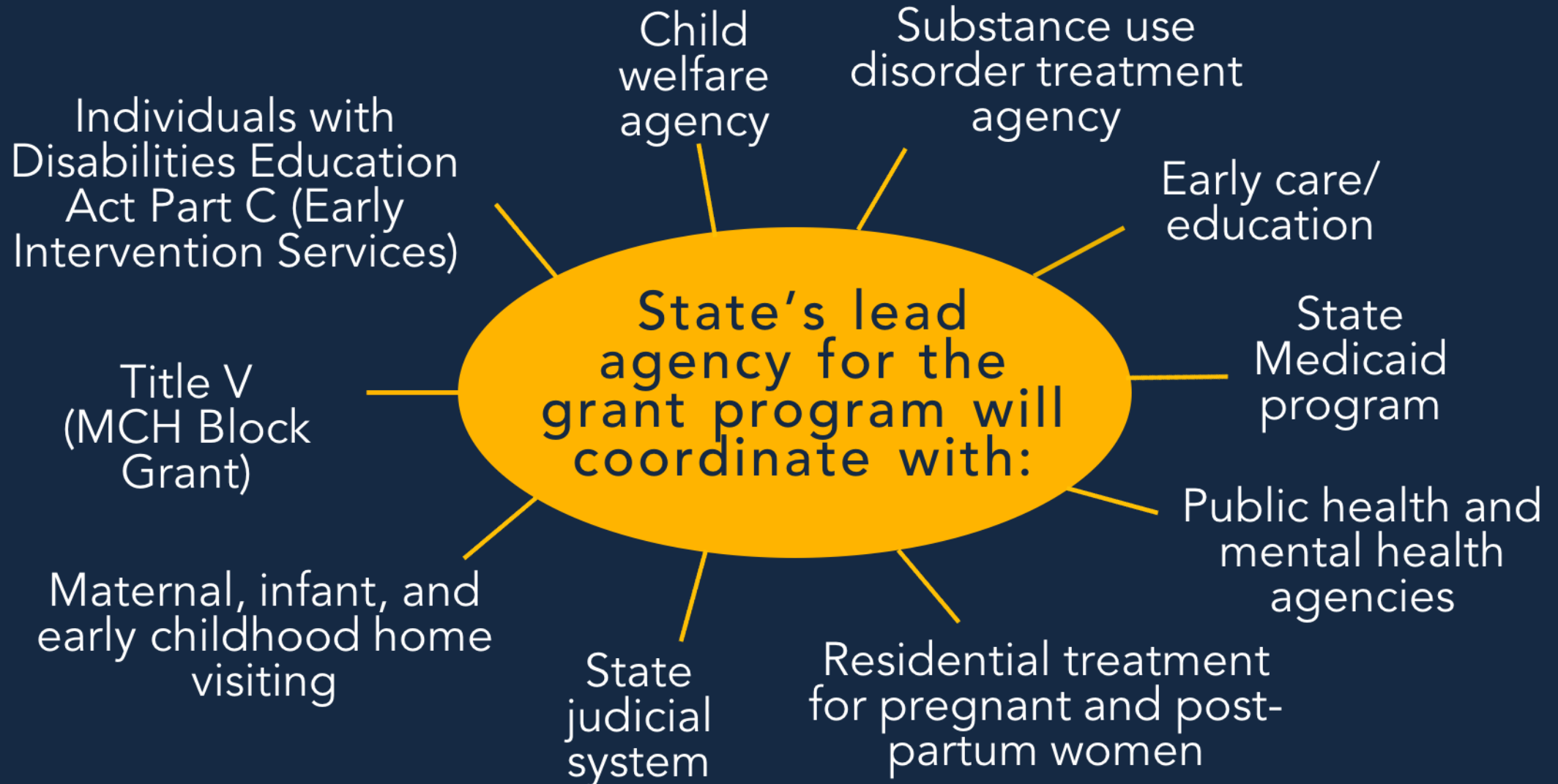
2017



Removals per 1000 births

0-8	>8-16	>16-24	>24-32	>32
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PLANS OF SAFE CARE





CONCLUSIONS

- The scope of the current crisis is unprecedented
- We cannot forget about substances other than opioids
- This is not just about drug use, it's about the context, community, economic opportunity, social network
- The opioid crisis could be a vehicle to connect & grow collaborations in human services and beyond

QUESTIONS?

Stephen.Patrick@vanderbilt.edu
www.childpolicy.org



@stephenwpatrick
@VUMCchildpolicy

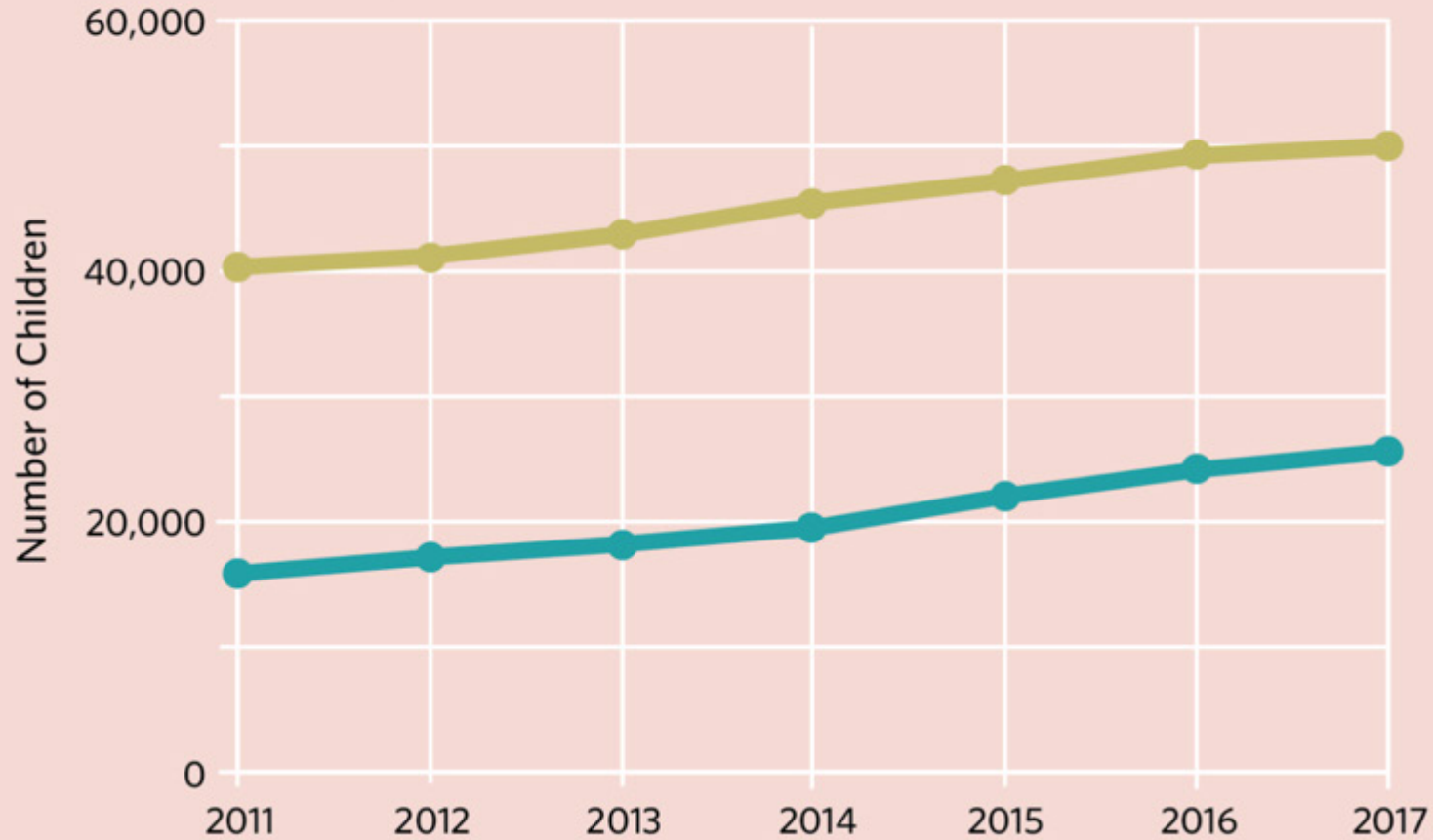


USING MULTIPLE SUBSTANCES

- Opioid misuse often occurs with other substances
 - Among pregnant women misusing opioids in last year (compared to those who did not), in the last month:
 - 22.9% used marijuana (versus 2.6%)
 - 23.9% used alcohol (versus 8.1%)
 - 43.5% used tobacco (versus 14.5%)

Kozhimannil KB, Graves AJ, Levy R, Patrick SW. Predictors of Prescription Opioid Abuse Among Pregnant US Women. *Women's Health Issues*. 2017 Mar 31. pii: S1049-3867(16)30329-2. doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2017.03.001. [Epub ahead of print]

Overall Foster Care Removals & Parental Substance Use Removals for Infants (<1 year) in the U.S. Foster System Are Growing



At least 1/2
of U.S. foster care
placements for infants
are associated with
**PARENTAL
SUBSTANCE
USE**





KEY POINT:

Transition from Incarceration High-Risk

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Release from Prison — A High Risk of Death for Former Inmates

Ingrid A. Binswanger, M.D., Marc F. Stern, M.D., Richard A. Deyo, M.D.,
Patrick J. Heagerty, Ph.D., Allen Cheadle, Ph.D., Joann G. Elmore, M.D.,
and Thomas D. Koepsell, M.D.

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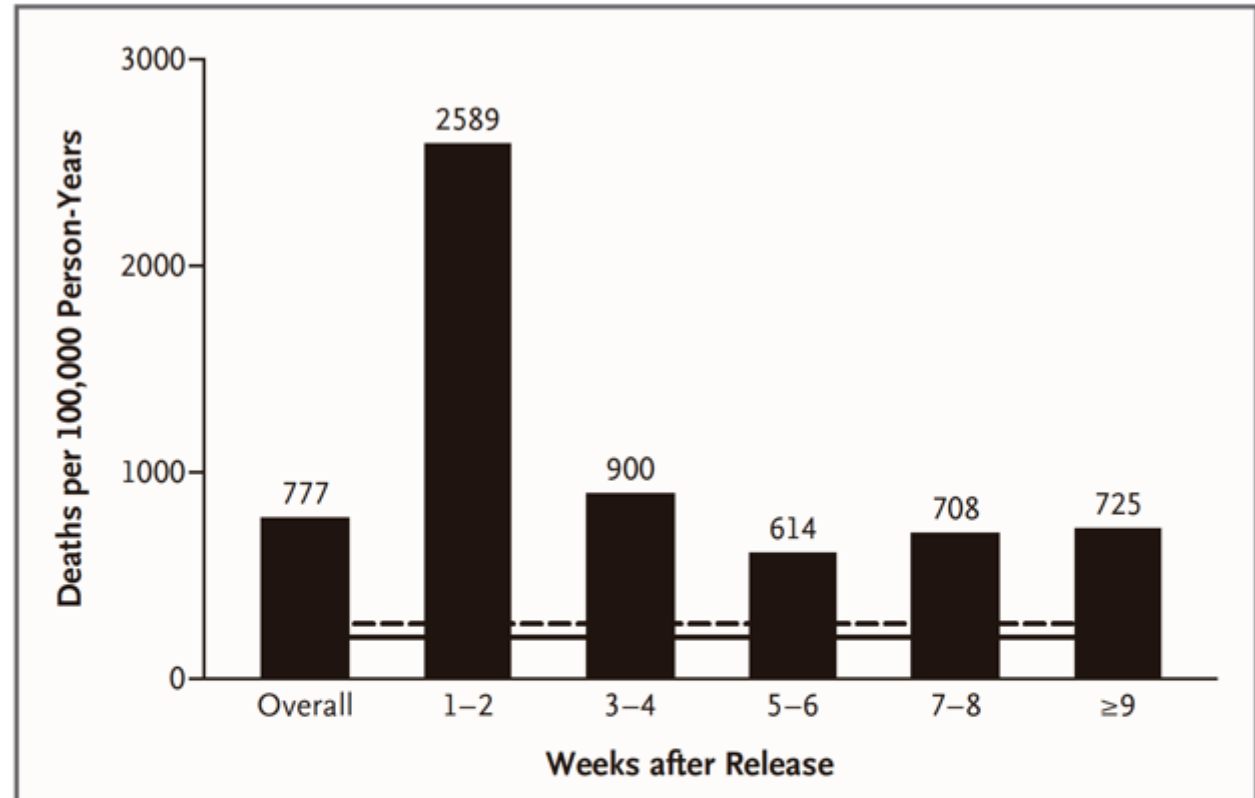
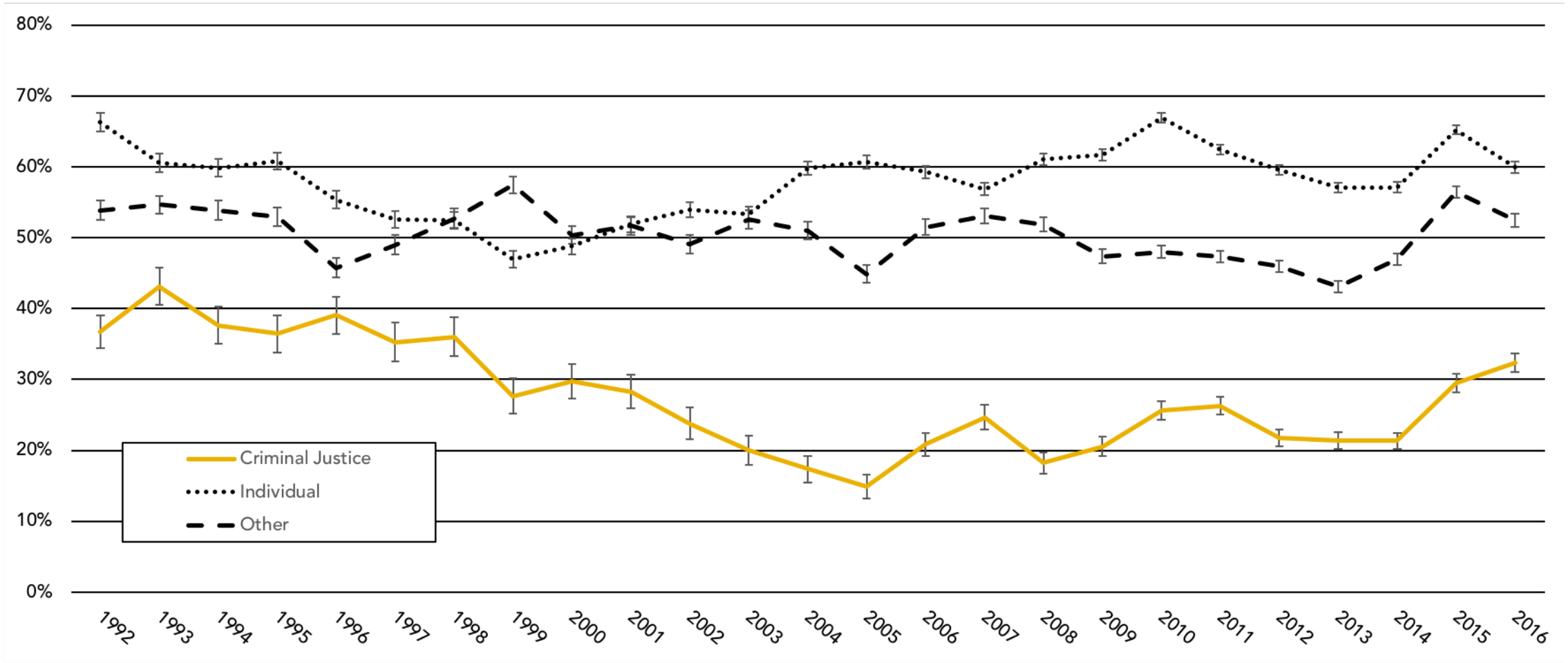


Figure 1. Mortality Rates among Former Inmates of the Washington State Department of Corrections during the Study Follow-up (Overall) and According to 2-Week Periods after Release from Prison.

The dashed line represents the adjusted mortality rate for residents of the State of Washington (223 deaths per 100,000 person-years), and the solid line represents the crude mortality rate among inmates of the state prison system during incarceration (201 deaths per 100,000 inmate person-years).

Pregnant Women Referred for Treatment from the Criminal Justice System Are Not Receiving Medications



*Adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, employment, census region, and service setting
Winkelman TNA, Ford BR, Schlafer R, McWilliams A, Admon L, Patrick SW. Medicaid expansion and receipt of medication for opioid use disorder among pregnant women involved in the criminal justice system. *Under review.*

STEPHEN PATRICK, MD, MPH, MS [@STEPHENWPATRICK](#)