



Addressing the Evolving Opioid and HCV Epidemics

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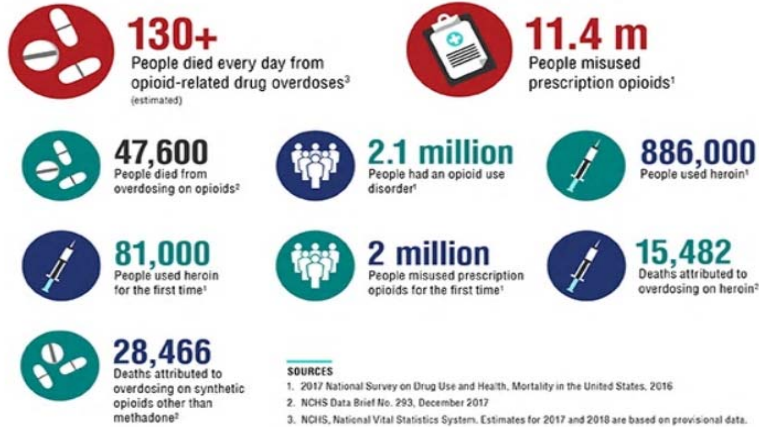
Agenda

- To understand the parallel between the opioid and HCV epidemics
- Recognize harm reduction strategies
- Gain knowledge of the need to treat and cure People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) to prevent new infections and eliminate HCV



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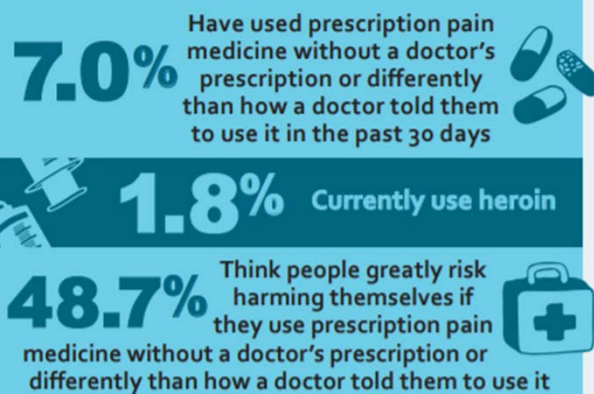
THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS



NHS.GOV/OPIOIDS



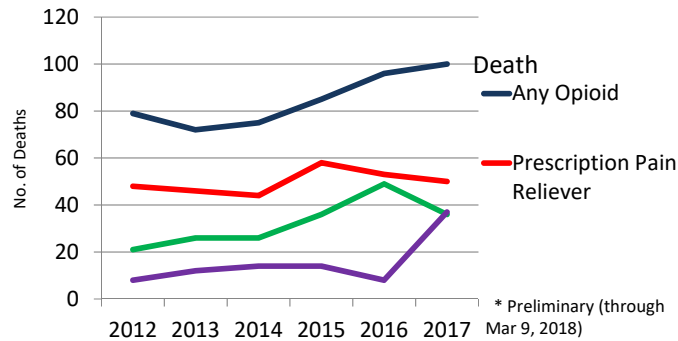
Opioids NEW



Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, DHSS Alaska 2017.



Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, Alaska, 2012-17



Dr. Butler's power point Opioid Symposium March 2018. Data Source: Alaska Division of Public Health, Vital Statistics, Mortality



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Opioid Epidemic

The US has seen a dramatic increase in the use of opioids and with it:

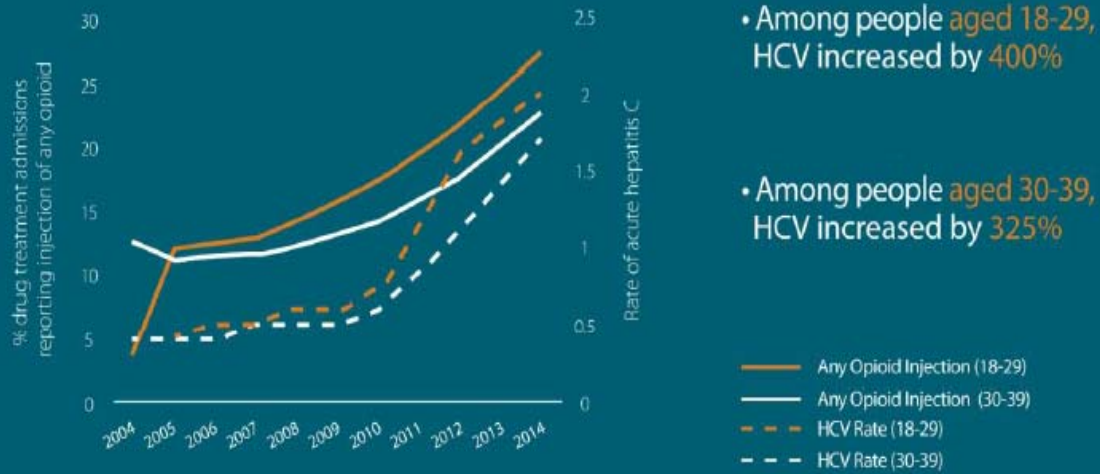
- Transmission of long-term viral infections (HIV, Hepatitis C and B)
- Bacterial infections of the skin, bloodstream and heart
- Death due to overdose
- Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome due to prenatal exposure

➤ Impacts individuals, families and entire communities



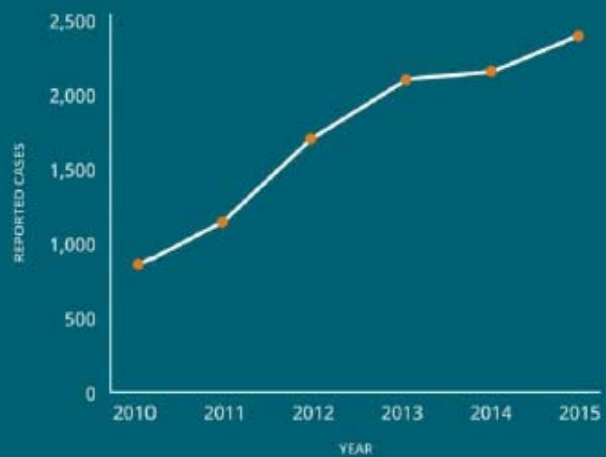
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HEPATITIS C AND OPIOID INJECTION ROSE DRAMATICALLY IN YOUNGER AMERICANS FROM 2004-2014



Ref: Zibbell, Jon E., et al. "Increases in acute hepatitis C virus infection related to a growing opioid epidemic and associated injection drug use, United States, 2004 to 2014." *American journal of public health* 108.2 (2018): 175-181.

NEW HEPATITIS C INFECTIONS HAVE NEARLY TRIPLED SINCE 2010

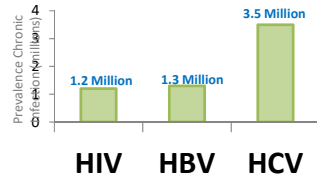


GIVEN LIMITED TESTING AND UNDERREPORTING, CDC ESTIMATES THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS NEWLY INFECTED IS **34,000**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Snapshot of HCV and HIV in the U.S.

HCV is the **most common** blood-borne chronic viral infection in the US



1 in 2 People
With Hepatitis C Don't Know It

Over half of people living with HCV are current or former **injection drug users**

60% of persons with HCV are current or former PWIDs

80% of new HCV infections occur among PWIDs

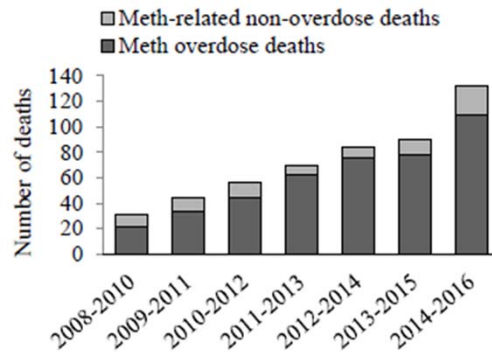
HCV Testing & Linkage to Care is **Paramount**

Only **2%-20%** of PWIDs diagnosed with HCV have been linked to care

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HIV/AIDS Basic Statistics. www.cdc.gov. Accessed 5/24/17; CDC. Viral Hepatitis Statistics and Surveillance. www.cdc.gov.



Methamphetamine-Related Deaths (3-Year Moving Averages), Alaska, 2008-16 N=233



Alaska Epidemiology Bull rec rep, Nov 7, 2017



Harm Reduction



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What is Harm Reduction?

WHAT IS HARM REDUCTION?

Harm reduction is a respectful nonjudgmental approach to reducing harms of drug and alcohol use that meets people “where they are at”. For example:



PEER
SUPPORT



NEEDLE
DISTRIBUTION/
SUPERVISED
INJECTION SITE



DISTRIBUTING
CONDOMS



ACCESS TO
NALOXONE TO
REVERSE OPIOID
OVERDOSE



ADDICTION
PROGRAMS

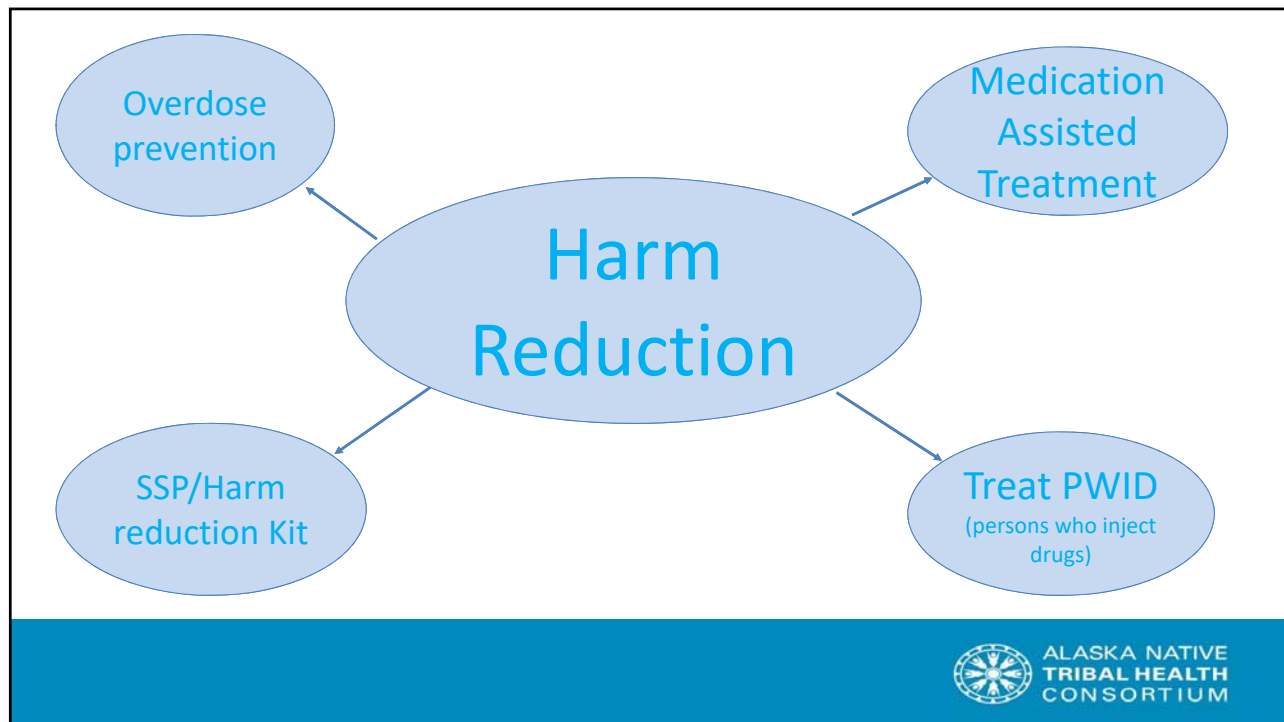


OPIOID
REPLACEMENT
PROGRAMS



CONNECT
TO CARE

Ref: Harm reduction slides courtesy of Cornelia Jessen, MA, HIV/STD Prevention Program Manager, ANTHC



A rise in opioid overdoses is detected. What now?

 <p>Naloxone is a drug that can reverse the effects of opioid overdose and can be life-saving if administered in time.</p>	 <p>Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD) can aid in preventing repeat overdoses. MAT combines the use of medication (methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone) with counseling and behavioral therapies.</p>
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Expand access to and use of naloxone – a non-addictive, life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time.

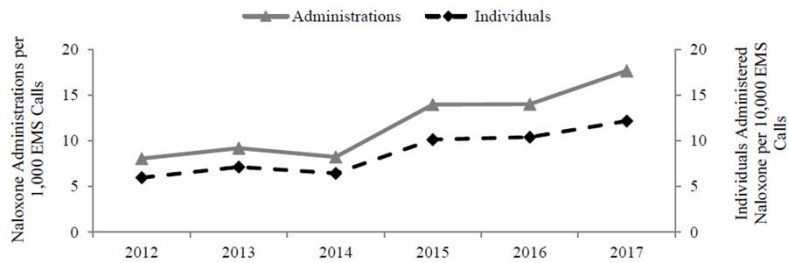
Access to naloxone can be expanded through:

- Standing orders at pharmacies
- Distribution through local, community-based organizations
- Access and use by law enforcement officials
- Training for basic emergency medical service staff on how to administer the drug

****Prescribe to your patient and their friends & family****

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prevention/reverse-od.html>

Rate of Individuals Receiving At Least One Naloxone Administration and Rate of Total Naloxone Administrations, per Total Number of EMS Calls- Alaska, 2012-2017*



*Statewide EMS data for 2014 do not include Anchorage.



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State of Alaska Naloxone Program

Project HOPE program offers Narcan® to people at risk of overdose

People at risk from opioid overdose can receive a Project HOPE Overdose Response Kit. Kits include:

- › Two doses of Narcan® (Naloxone), a drug that temporarily blocks or reverses the effects of opioids
- › Sanitary gloves
- › Brochure on how to give Narcan® to someone
- › Carrying case

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/heroin-opioids/narcan.aspx>



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- Medications to Treat Opioid Addiction

- **Methadone** – Clinic administered. Opioid Agonist, does not block other narcotics. Prevents withdrawal while taking. Daily liquid dispensed only from specialty clinic
- **Naltrexone (Vivitrol, ReVia)**– Non-addictive opioid antagonist block effects of other narcotics, monthly injection
- **Buprenorphine** – Opioid agonist/antagonist blocks other narcotics, reduces withdrawal, daily dissolving tab, film or 6-month implant under the skin



 A large landscape photograph of a rural Alaskan scene. In the foreground, there is a green, grassy hillside. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a valley. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with significant snow cover under a blue sky with some clouds.

Rural Alaska Harm Reduction ToolKit

Reducing harms of substance use and providing Indigenous perspective of Harm Reduction principles to Rural communities throughout Alaska

Harm reduction slides courtesy of Cornelia Jessen, MA, HIV/STD Prevention Program Manager, ANTHC

ANTHC HARM REDUCTION KITS

- Nevershare syringes
- Cookers
- Filters
- Ascorbic acid or vitamin C to assist in dissolving drugs such as black tar heroin
- Sterile water vials
- Bleach tablets provided for cleaning used syringes
- Alcohol swabs
- Tourniquets
- Needle clippers encouraging safe disposal of syringes
- Fentanyl testing strips
- Condoms & lubricant
- Instructions as well as educational and resources materials

www.iknowmine.org/harmreduction



SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL

Using safe drug deactivation bags prevents drug misuse and protects the environment.

1. Place unused medication in pouch
2. Fill halfway with warm tap water and wait 30 seconds
3. Seal and gently shake pouch and dispose with normal trash.

Order safe medicine bags at:

www.iknowmine.org/safemedicine

Is Harm Reduction Enabling?



- It does not enable people to do drugs or have sex or engage in behaviors...
- People are already doing drugs & having sex & engaging in behaviors

Harm Reduction Enables Health, Respect and Community
- Harm Reduction Coalition
<https://harmreduction.org/enablinghealth/>



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Is Harm Reduction Enabling?



- Keep themselves safer while they engage in behaviors that can be harmful!
- Reduce HIV, HBV & hepatitis C transmission
- Be honest about their drug use or behavior...
- See their own strengths & what they can do... and be successful

Harm Reduction Enables Health, Respect and Community
- Harm Reduction Coalition
<https://harmreduction.org/enablinghealth/>



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Indigenizing Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction



Culture & Tradition



High SVR in PWID with HCV despite imperfect medication adherence: Data from the ANCHOR study

Objective: To understand if people who inject drugs (PWID) with HCV and active injection drug use (IDU) can adhere to DAAs and achieve SVR

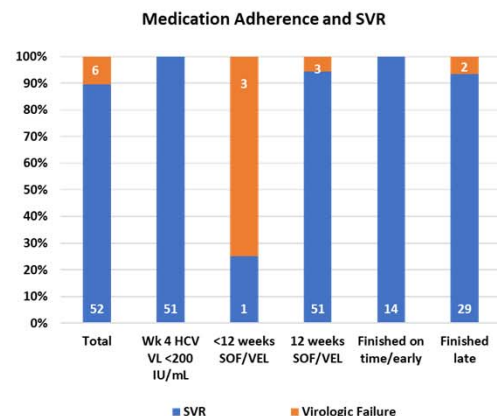
Methods: Single-center study of PWID with chronic HCV, opioid use disorder, and active IDU of heroin within 3 months, treated with SOF/VEL x12 weeks

Main findings:

- Of the patients who have reached the SVR time point and have attended the week 24 visit, 52 (90%) patients achieved SVR.
- SVR was significantly associated with HCV VL <200 IU/mL at week 4 ($p=0.004$) and taking all 84 pills of SOF/VEL ($p=0.003$).
- Completing treatment after 12 weeks did not impact SVR, even in patients finishing more than 14 days late.

Conclusions: PWID with HCV and ongoing IDU have high rates of adherence, treatment completion, and SVR. Even with imperfect adherence, patients are able to achieve high rates of SVR with completion of treatment.

Kattakuzhy S, et al., Abstract 18



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Take Home Points

Opioid and HCV Epidemics parallel each other

Consider Harm Reduction at every visit

Treat PWID to eliminate hepatitis C and prevent transmission of infection

Treatment is prevention



Thank you! Questions?

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www.anthc.org/hep for hepatitis C treatment and other liver diseases information

www.iknowmine.org/safemedicine for harm reduction information



Registration

- If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to sign in using the link or QR Code below. The QR Code can be scanned with your phone's camera to open the link.

<http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Feb-GP>

