

# New Hampshire Chapter ACP: Highlights from the World of Public Health and its Nexus with Primary Care, with a Focus on the Opioid Crisis

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#### Goals

- Focus on the nexus of Public Health, Primary Care and ACP positions and policies:
  - Describe the elements of a comprehensive public health approach to the opioid epidemic, and successes in prevention, harm reduction, and treatment amidst ongoing challenges.
  - Explain health equity and address state and healthcare system approaches to the "social determinants".
  - Discuss a public health approach to firearm-related injury and death.
  - Provide up to date information on the dual epidemics of ENDS use and EVALI.

### **Health and Public Policy ...**

#### **Annals of Internal Medicine**

### POSITION PAPER

Health and Public Policy to Facilitate Effective Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders Involving Illicit and Prescription Drugs: An American College of Physicians Position Paper

Ryan Crowley, BSJ; Neil Kirschner, PhD; Andrew S. Dunn, MD; and Sue S. Bornstein, MD; for the Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians\*

### **Impact of the Opioid Crisis**

#### Touches everyone

#### Health:

- Hepatitis C, HIV
- Premature death
- Other Infections

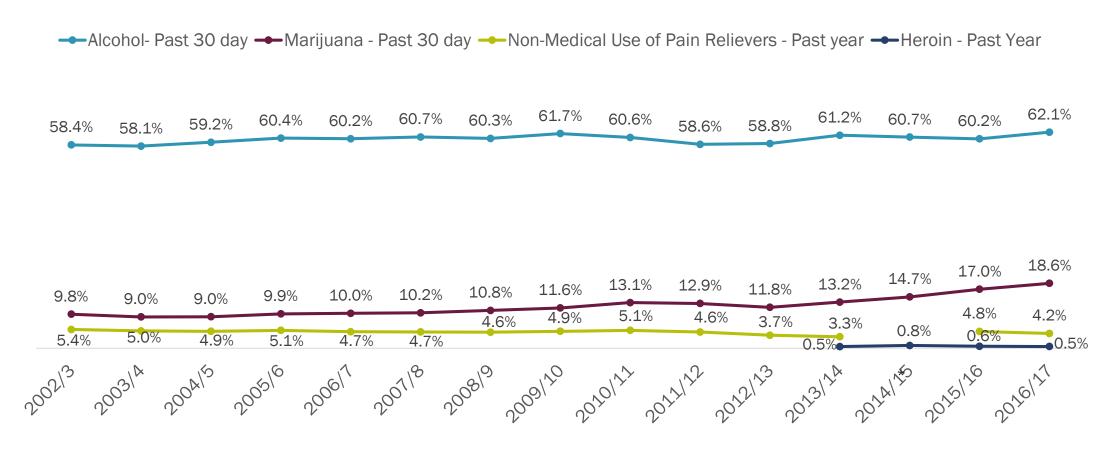
#### Families:

- Child neglect, custody issues
- Splintering of families

#### Communities:

- Workforce issues
- Housing
- Social
- Economic
- Crime

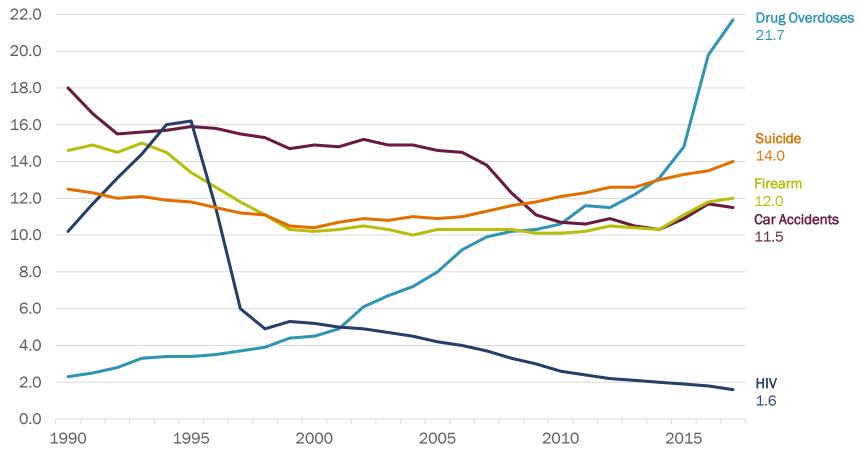
# Percent of Vermonters age 12+ using selected substances: Alcohol is the mostly commonly used substance



<sup>\*</sup> Pain reliever question changed 2014/2015 data are not available and 2015/16 and above are not comparable to previous years

# Drug overdoses have overtaken car accidents, guns and suicide as cause of death

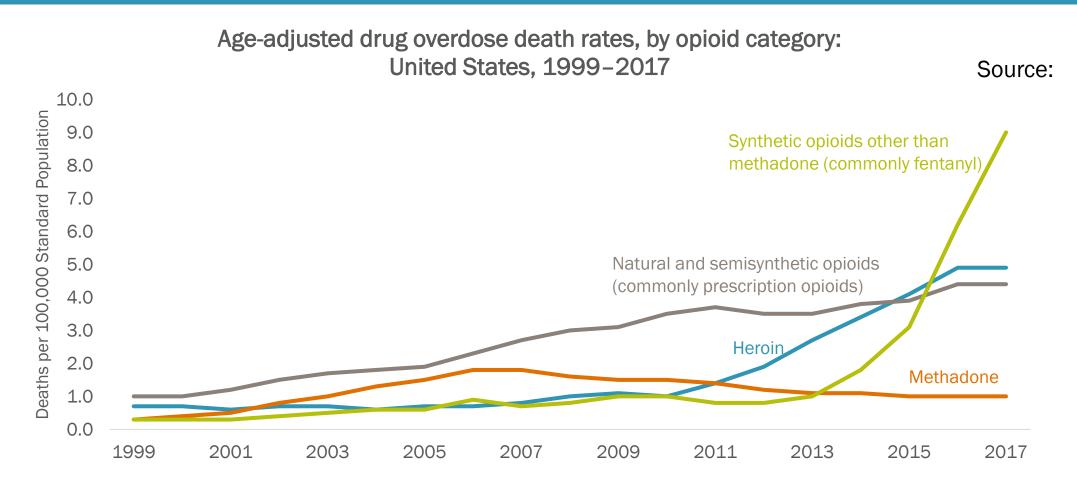
(Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 people)



2017 is preliminary and not all measures are available

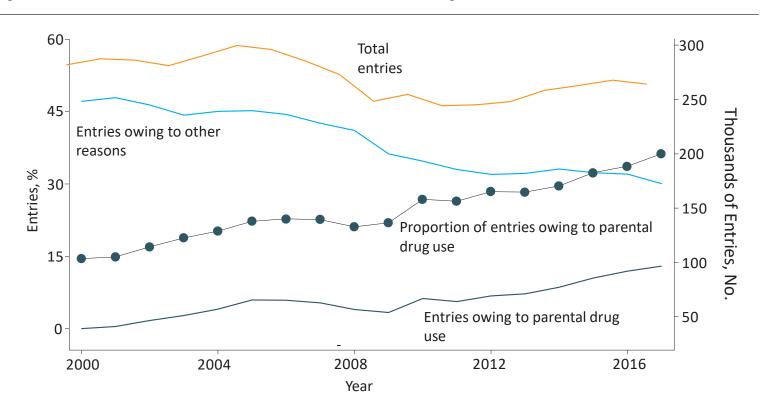
Source: CDC - Table 17. Age-adjusted death rates for selected causes of death, by sex, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, selected years 1950–2016 Vermont Department of Health

### The age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone increased by 45% from 2016 to 2017



#### **JAMA National Trends in Foster Care**

Figure. National Trends in Foster Care Entries Attributable to Parental Drug Use, 2000 to 2017

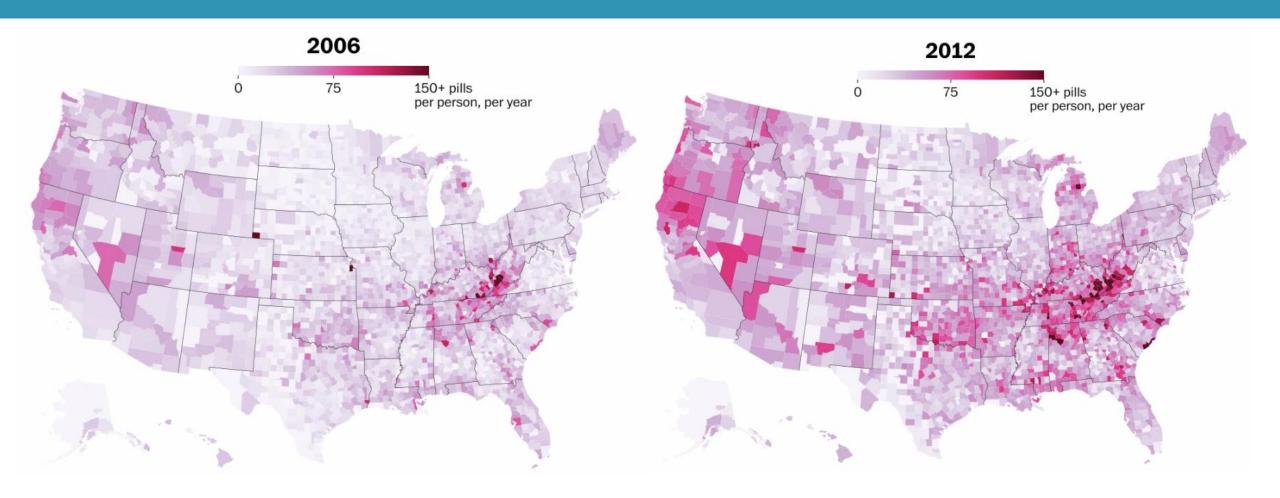


Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data for fiscal years 2000 to 2017. Fiscal years are from October 1to September 30. Parental drug use was missing for 3.5% of the sample. Total foster care entries were stratified into removals for parental drug use (n = 1162668) and other reasons (n = 3636177). Logistic regression was performed to estimate a linear trend in the proportion of entries for parental drug use during the study period (coefficient, 107; P < .001).

### Major Factors Driving the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic



# Oxycodone and hydrocodone distribution increased in most parts of the United States between 2006 and 2012

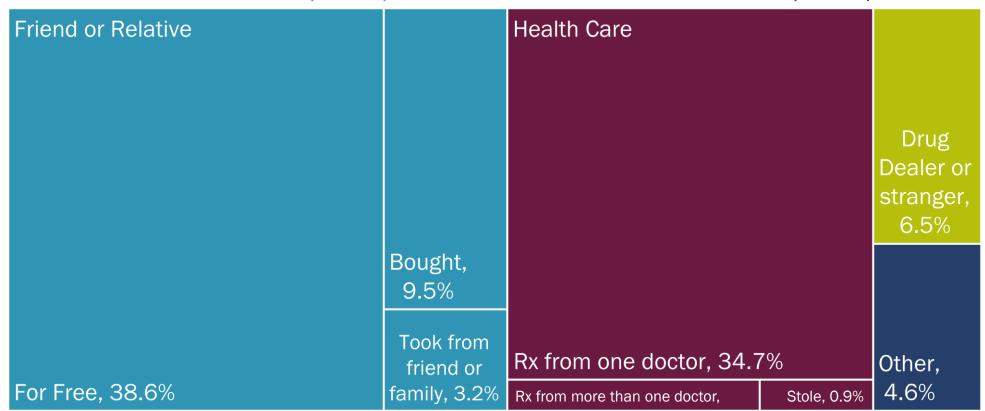


# Over half of those who misused a prescription pain reliever got it from a friend or relative

Source Where Pain Relievers Were Obtained for Most Recent Misuse, 2018

Friend or Relative (51.3%)

Health Care Provider (37.8%)



### The "Basic" Elements of a Comprehensive Public Health Response

- 1. Leadership shared vision
- 2. Partnership and collaboration: multi sector work
- 3. Epidemiology and surveillance capacity for near real time data for decision making.
- 4. Prevention Intervention Treatment Recovery strategies

### The Basic Three Components that any State Must Prioritize

- 1. Prescriber-focused prevention: decrease circulating supply, develop clinical and surveillance tools.
- 2. Harm reduction-focused: improve naloxone availability, SSPs
- 3. Treatment-focused: expand access to Medication-Assisted Treatment.

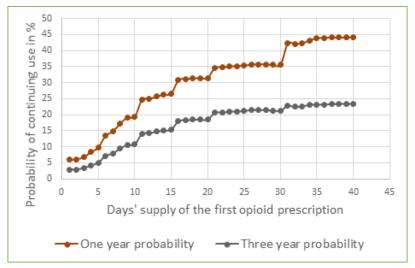
#### **Prescriber-Focused Prevention**

- □ Pain management and prescribing practices:
  - □ Pain management core competency education for practicing clinicians, students, graduate medical education, dental students and practitioners.
  - □ Prescriber rules, guidelines and tools
  - Prescription Drug Monitoring Program clinical, surveillance, and self-monitoring system. Enhancements include interstate data sharing and quality improvement tools.
- DATA waiver training for all medical students and residents before graduation.

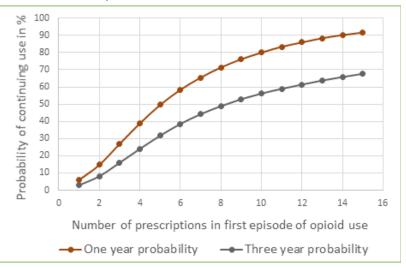
# The more opioids prescribed during the first episode of opioid use, the greater the likelihood of continued opioid use

#### Characteristics of Initial Prescription Episodes and Likelihood of Long-Term Opioid Use — United States, 2006–2015

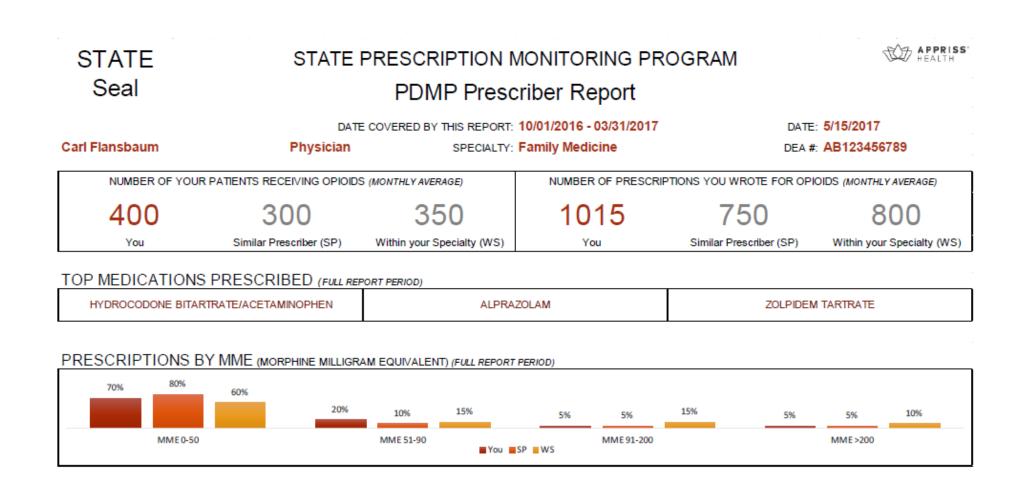
One- and 3-year probabilities of continued opioid use among opioid-naïve patients, by number of days' supply\* of the first opioid prescription — United States, 2006–2015



One- and 3-year probabilities of continued opioid use among opioid-naïve patients, by number of prescriptions\* in the first episode of opioid use — United States, 2006–2015

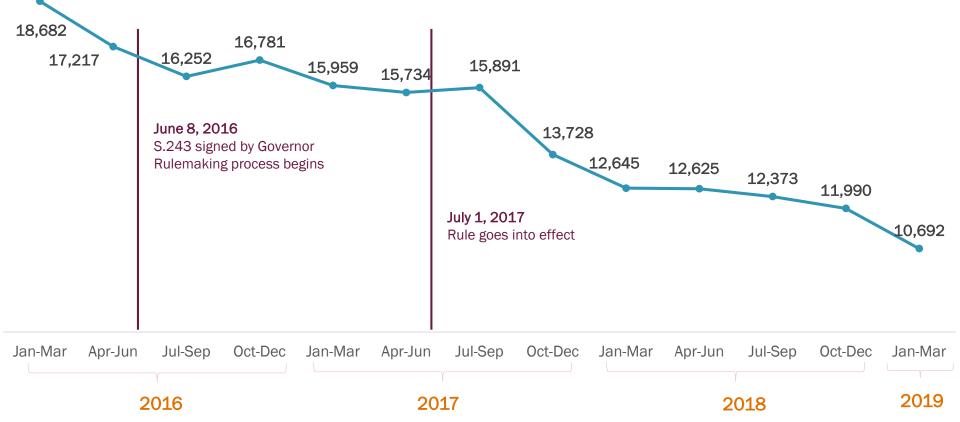


### **Prescriber Report**



# MME Opioid Analgesics per 100 Residents began to decrease as discussion began around the implementation of the Vermont Pain Rule

There was a 43% decrease in MME/100 people dispensed between Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2016 and Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2019



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18

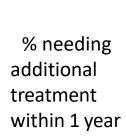
### **Opioid Use Disorder = A Disease of the Brain**

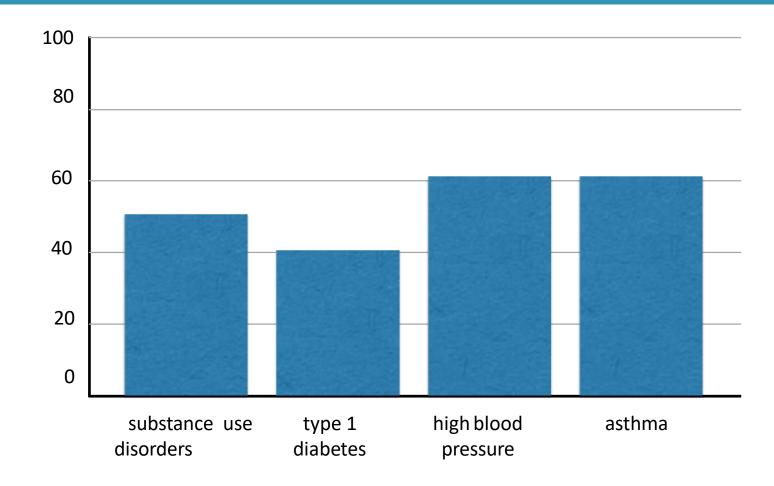
In my experience, stigma can be distilled down to a lack of understanding of brain chemistry.

### **Opioid Use Disorder = A Disease of the Brain**

- 1. Humans have brain systems that motivate us to seek out pleasure, avoid distress, and learn behaviors that help us do these things.
- 2. Addictive substances hijack these basic systems by activating them more powerfully than natural experiences.
- 3. Addiction involves long-term changes in the brain that decrease pleasure, increase distress, and impair decision-making.
- 4. Adolescent and young adult brains have enhanced susceptibility.

# Substance use disorders should be treated and evaluated like other chronic illnesses





Source: McLellan et al., 2000

### **Harm-reduction strategies:**

- Drug disposal systems; safe storage guidelines
- Sharps collection and disposal programs
- Naloxone distribution programs/training for first responders and the public
- Statewide Naloxone standing order
- Good Samaritan Law
- Syringe services programs

22

### The Importance of Syringe Service Programs (SSP)

- The actual "exchange"
- Case management services
- Naloxone distribution point
- HIV/Hep C prevention and screening
- Fentanyl test strips
- A social community behind every client
- Referral to treatment opportunity
- Rapid Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (RAM)

### Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) are safe, effective, and save money. They do not increase illegal drug use or crime and they reduce transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections

Compared to users who don't access SSP services:

- new users of SSPs are five times more likely to enter drug treatment
- new users of SSPs are about three times more likely to stop using drugs
- Users who meet with a nurse are more likely to access primary care

SSPs are associated with an approximately 50% reduction in HIV and HCV incidence. When combined with MAT, transmission is reduced by more than two-thirds. Lifetime cost of treating a person with HIV is estimated to be nearly \$450,000

SSPs can reduce overdose deaths by teaching people who inject drugs how to prevent and respond to a drug overdose

SSPs protect first responders and the public by providing safe needle disposal and reducing community presence of needles. Miami, with no SSPs, had eight times as many improperly disposed of syringes than San Francisco which has SSPs.

Studies in Baltimore and New York City found no difference in crime rates between areas with and without SSPs

# **Vermont and New Hampshire Efforts to Address OUD and Opioid Overdose**

Measure	Vermont	New Hampshire
PDMP	Legislation: 2006 Implementation: 2009 Managed by: Health Department	Legislation: 2012 Implementation: 2014 Managed by: Board of Pharmacy
Pain Rule Effective Dates	Chronic Pain: 2015 Acute & universal precautions Rule: 2017	Emergency Rules: 2015 Rules for opioid prescribing: 2017
Good Samaritan Law	2013	2015
Syringe Service Programs	Authorizing legislation passed: 1999	Authorizing legislation passed: 2017
Naloxone Distribution	Authorizing legislation passed: 2013	Authorizing legislation passed: 2015
Opioid Data Dashboard	Limited: <a href="https://www.healthvermont.gov/scorecard-opioids">https://www.healthvermont.gov/scorecard-opioids</a>	Limited SUD: <a href="https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/rphn-data-dashboard/">https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/rphn-data-dashboard/</a>
Hub and Spoke System for OUD	2014	Currently under development – structurally different than VT.

### The Basic Three Components that any State Must Prioritize

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26

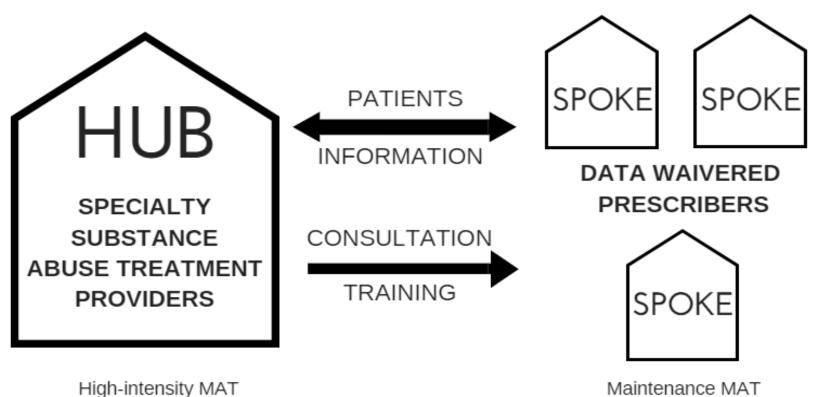
#### **Effectiveness of Medication Assisted Treatment**

- □ Several studies have clearly demonstrated MAT is effective across a number of behavioral dimensions compared to placebo or psychological treatment alone:
  - □Reduced opioid use (including injection drug use)
  - □Increased engagement and retention in treatment
  - □Reduced morbidity and mortality
  - □Improved social functioning
  - □ Reduced criminal activity
  - □ Reduced transmission of infectious diseases

### **Treatment-focused: expand access to Medication-Assisted Treatment**

- □ Widely available evidence-based outpatient Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with methadone, buprenorphine or naltrexone
- □ Health Home model: integrate and coordinate primary, acute, behavioral health, and long-term services and supports
  - With added counseling services and treatment for poly substance use
  - □ Effective use of Medicaid design, reimbursement, rebatesm waivers
  - □ A system of residential treatment facilities

### **Vermont's Hub and Spoke Model**



High-intensity MAT
Methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone
Regional locations

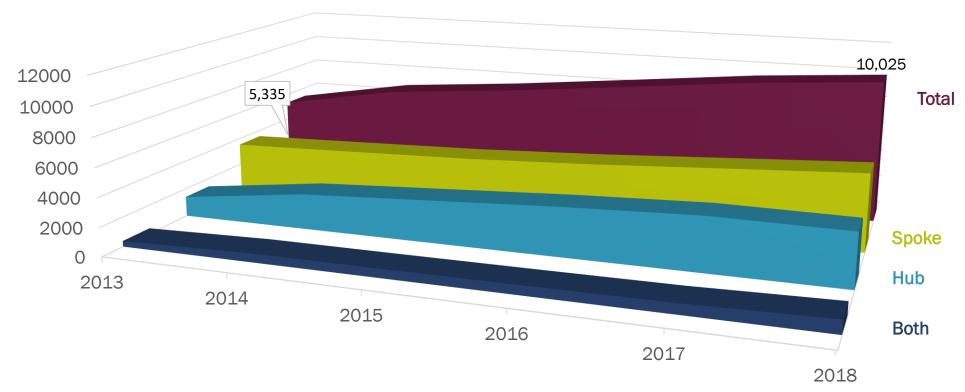
Maintenance MAT
Buprenorphine, naltrexone
Community locations
Prescriber + nurse + licensed counselor

# What Does it Take to Have a Successful Health Home Model, or Why did the Hub & Spoke Work in Vermont?

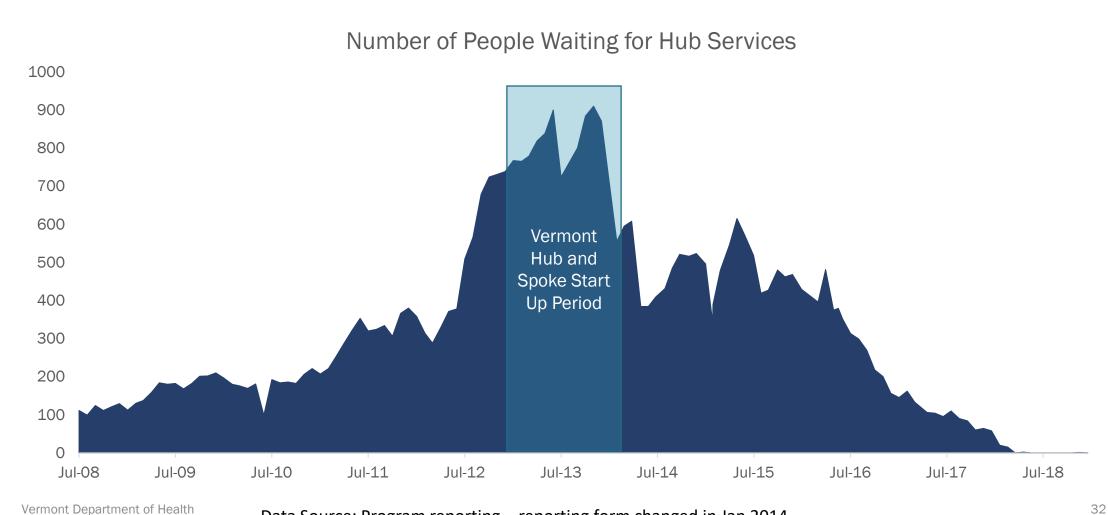
- Collaborative effort: Health Department, State Medicaid program, substance abuse treatment providers, primary care practices
- Pre-existing medical model of chronic disease management = PCMH
- □ "Culture" bidirectional integrated care system
- Medicaid 1115 waiver, Blueprint for Health, framework for health reform
- □ VDH = SOTA = historically oversaw OUD treatment

## Vermont nearly doubled the number of people receiving Medication Assisted Treatment between 2014 and 2018

In 2018, 2.6% of the Vermont Population Age 18-64 Received MAT for OUD



#### Waits for medication assisted treatment in hubs were eliminated



Data Source: Program reporting – reporting form changed in Jan 2014

### **Mostly Non-Controversial Innovations in Treatment**

- Meet the person with OUD where they are
- □ Rapid access to MAT ("low barrier buprenorphine")
  - □ In Emergency Departments and Hospitals
  - □ In Syringe Service Programs
  - □ In the correctional setting
  - In the NICU
- ☐ The first line of offense = peer recovery coaches
  - □ Issues:
    - Career/salary
    - □ Credentialing issues
    - □ Academic
    - Workforce
- Drug courts as a vehicle to MAT

# Provision of MAT to individuals in corrections custody in RI was associated with decreased overdose fatalities after release from custody

- Screening and protocoled treatment with MAT is provided in the facility
- Those on MAT entering the facility stayed on MAT
- Those needing MAT received services in custody
- At release, inmates are transferred to community treatment providers the provider is involved in the program at the facility

In the 2016 period, 26 of 179 individuals (14.5%) who died of an overdose were recently incarcerated compared with 9 of 157 individuals (5.7%) in the 2017 period, representing a 60.5% reduction in mortality

Green TC, Clarke J, Brinkley-Rubinstein L, et al. Postincarceration Fatal Overdoses After Implementing Medications for Addiction Treatment in a Statewide Correctional System. JAMA Psychiatry. 2018;75(4):405–407. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2017.4614

### **Controversial Aspects of Treatment**

- ☐ The role and efficacy of residential programs
- ☐ The role and efficacy of faith-based programs
- ☐ The role and efficacy of abstinence based, 12 step programs
- ☐ The role and efficacy of telehealth
- ☐ Is counseling even needed with MAT?

### It is Essential to Support Recovery

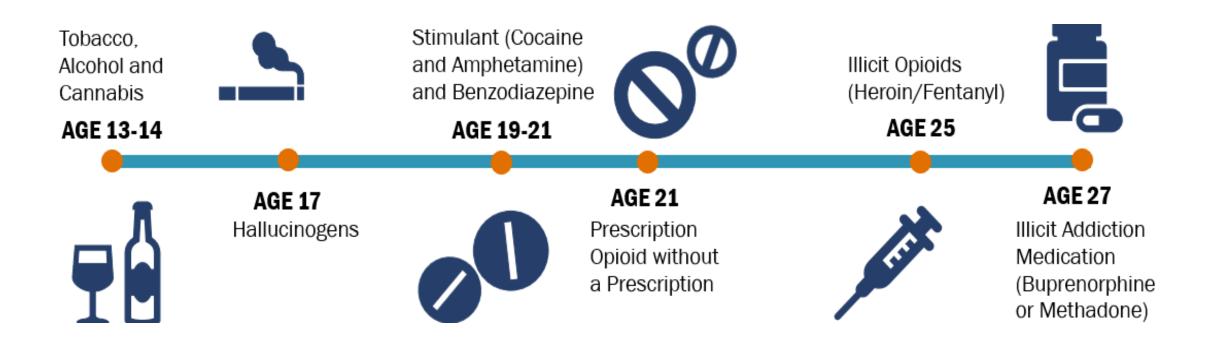
- Statewide network of recovery centers with a wide variety of supports and services
- □ Peer recovery coach training and use Academy, certification, workforce
- Access to stable recovery housing
- Employment supports and opportunities for individuals in recovery
- Transportation supports

#### **Prevention**

#### Hope for a brighter future

## People who use opioids typically use other substances before beginning to use opioids

#### Typical Substance Use History of Study Participants

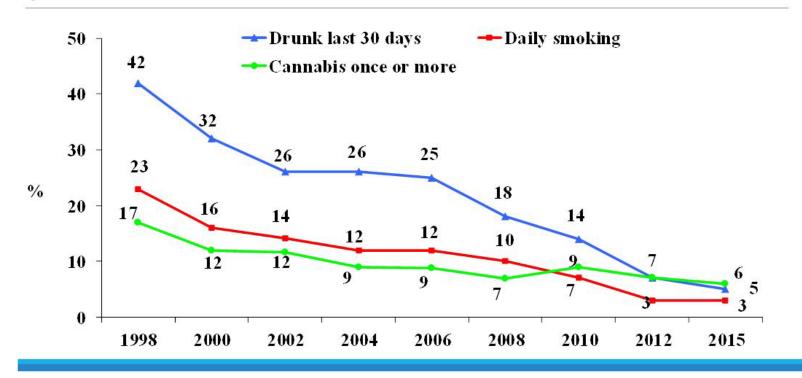


#### **Our Future is in Prevention-Across the Lifespan**

- Messaging campaigns and education to raise awareness, address stigma.
- Evidence-based nurse practitioner home visiting models ACEs reduction.
- □ Afterschool curricula and activities for adolescents the "third space".
- □ Iceland model community activation, parental investment, youth voice.
- School-based primary prevention programs.
- Community mobilization developing and expanding community coalitions.

#### **The Iceland Model**

# Substance use decrease amongst 15-16 year old adolescents



#### **Addressing Social Determinants...**

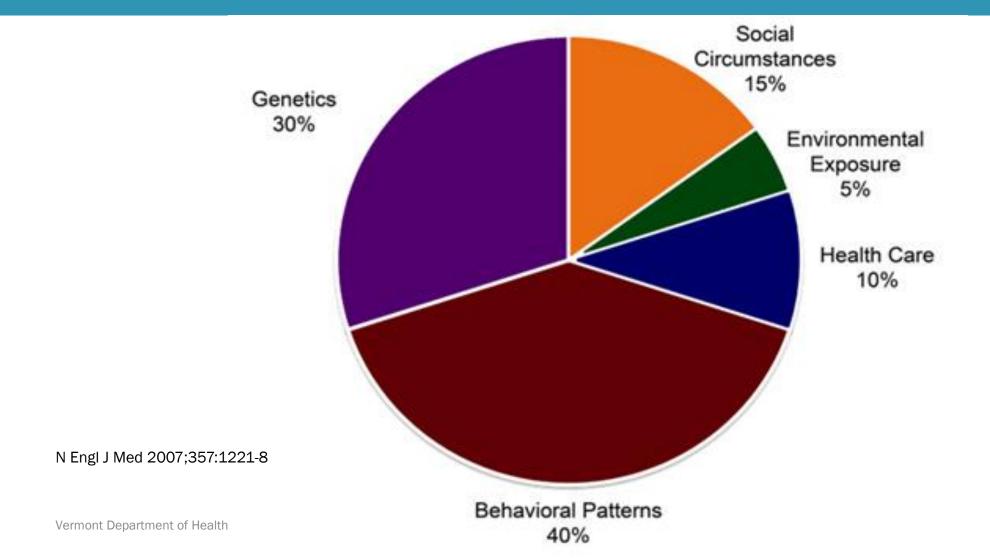
#### **Annals of Internal Medicine**

#### POSITION PAPER

# Addressing Social Determinants to Improve Patient Care and Promote Health Equity: An American College of Physicians Position Paper

Hilary Daniel, BS; Sue S. Bornstein, MD; and Gregory C. Kane, MD; for the Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians\*

#### **Factors that determine health**



42

#### **Factors that Affect Health**

Smallest Impact

Counseling & Education

Clinical Interventions

Long-lasting
Protective Interventions

Changing the Context to make individuals' default decisions healthy

Largest Impact

**Socioeconomic Factors** 

Examples

Condoms, eat healthy be physically active

Rx for high blood pressure, high cholesterol

Immunizations, brief intervention, cessation treatment, colonoscopy

Fluoridation, 0g trans fat, iodization, smokefree laws, tobacco tax

Poverty, education, housing, inequality

#### Which populations are most affected?

**Disparities:** Statistical differences in health that occur among populations defined by specific characteristics (e.g. age, sex) Could be from any cause.

**Inequity:** Differences in health outcomes that are avoidable, unfair, and shaped by condition of people's lives related to the distribution of money, power and resources.

Often associated with social categories of race, gender, ethnicity, social position, sexual orientation and disability.

#### **Health Equity**

Health equity exists when all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy, especially those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage, historical injustice and other avoidable inequalities that are often associated with social categories of race, gender, ethnicity, social position, sexual orientation and disability.

#### **What is Health Equity?**

#### **EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY**



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

In five years, if we have successfully worked towards achieving health equity, what would we have accomplished?

Vision: All people in Vermont have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy and live in healthy communities

Everyone feels respected, valued, included, and safe to pursue healthy and meaningful lives;

All ages, all abilities, and all Vermonters have equitable access to the conditions that create health;

Investments are focused on prevention and the conditions that create positive health outcomes; and

Services are available, accessible, affordable, coordinated, culturally and linguistically appropriate and offered with cultural humility.

Core Values: Equity • Affordability • Access



Affordable, Healthy, Local Food



Health and Prevention Services



Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources



Safe and Efficient Transportation



Safe, Quality Housing



Safe and Supported Community Early Childhood Development



Economic Prosperity, Equitable Law and Justice System



Family Wage Jobs and Job Opportunities



Clean and Sustainable Natural Environments



Quality Education



Strong, Vibrant Communities



Civic Engagement and Community Connections

#### **Priorities from the State Health Assessment**

#### Health Conditions/Outcomes

- Child Development (chD)
- Chronic Disease (CD)
- Mental Health (MH)
- Oral Health (OH)
- Substance Use Disorder (SU)

#### Social Conditions (SDOH)

- Housing
- Transportation
- Food
- Income/Economic Stability

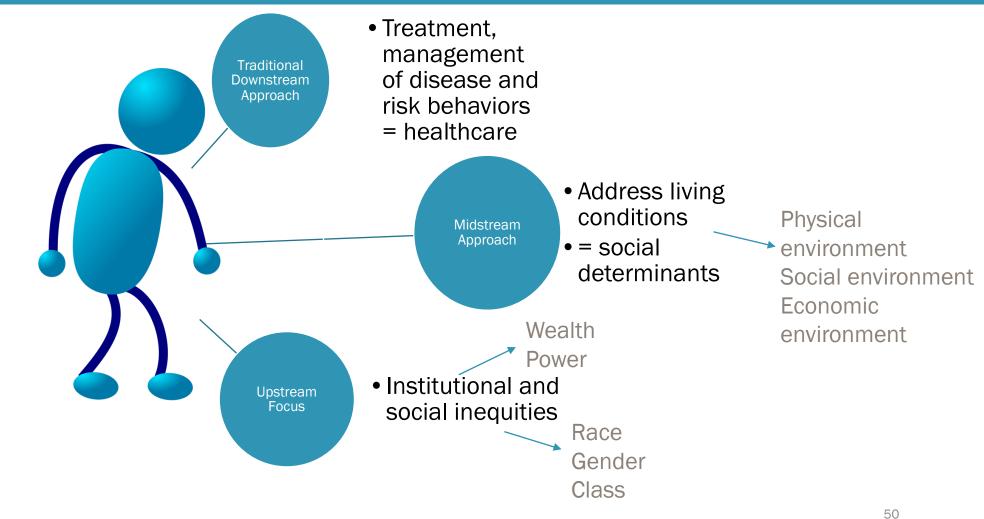
http://www.healthvermont.gov/about/reports/state-health-assessment-2018

#### **Populations in Focus**

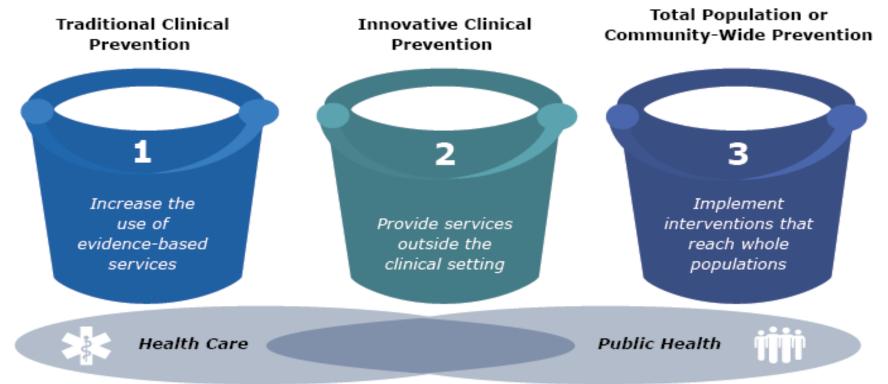
- Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- LGBTQ Identity
- People Living with Disabilities
- Social Class and Socioeconomic Status
- Rurality

49

#### **Public Health Framework for Reducing Health Inequities**



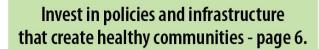
#### Framework for Strategies with Health Care Partners



To read more: http://journal.lww.com/jphmp/toc/publishahead



#### **State Health Improvement Strategies**



Implement policies and promote norms that encourage physical activity and healthy eating, and discourage tobacco, alcohol, drug use/misuse.

Use health care reform and regulatory levers to support access to food, housing, transportation.

Expand housing and weatherization programs.

Form partnerships and shared investments to expand transportation services.

Expand community water fluoridation.



#### **Expand access to integrated** person-centered care - page 10.

Integrate oral health, mental health, substance use disorder prevention into primary care.

Create a universal system for developmental screening and referrals for children and families.

Implement SBINS\* for health behaviors, housing, transportation, food and economic security.

Integrate oral health into health care practice and other settings (nursing homes, schools, etc.).

Promote practice improvements and professional development for early care and learning providers.

# \* Screening, Brief Intervention & Navigation to Services

#### Adopt organizational and institutional practices that advance equity - page 12.

Meaningful community engagement • Equitable programs, policies and budgets • Respectful care and services • Informed actions and decisions



Chronic Disease Prevention

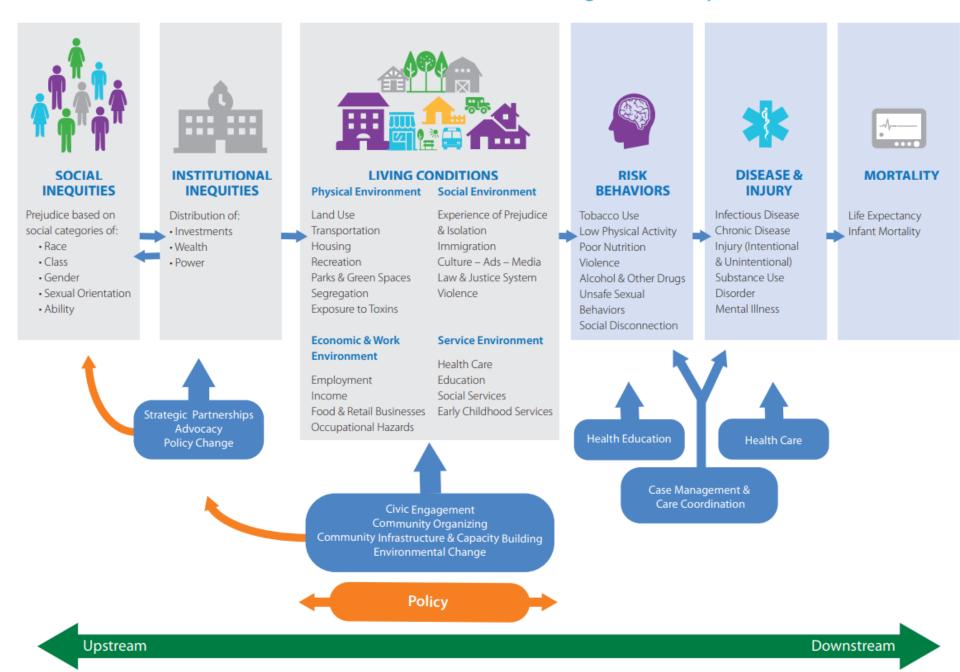
Mental Health



Oral Health Substance Use Prevention

OHousing, Transportation, Food & Economic Security

#### A Public Health Framework for Reducing Health Inequities



#### **How IM Fits in, Per ACP**

- Screen for SDoH and collect data to aid in health impact assessment and support evidence-driven decision making.
- Advocate for patients through advocacy for public policies that reduce socioeconomic inequities that have a negative impact on health.
- Support a robust medical education and research agenda.
- Support a health in all policies approach that integrates health considerations into community planning and development decisions.
- Use EHR systems as a tool to improve individual and population health.

#### **Importantly:**

- Understand the <u>context</u> of our patient's health, the <u>person</u> with the disease.
- Avoid increasing the complexity of patient care: documentation, quality, payment rules.
- Don't "medicalize" the SDoH and don't overwhelm the social services system.
- Instead of expecting health care to address and solve SDoH, we should strengthen our partners in social systems.

#### Ultimately, in an Environment that Values Health Equity in NH

- Everyone feels respected, valued, included, and safe to pursue healthy and meaningful lives;
- All ages, all abilities, and all citizens have equitable access to the conditions that create health;
- Investments are focused on prevention and the conditions that create positive health outcomes; and
- Services are available, accessible, affordable, coordinated, culturally and linguistically appropriate and offered with cultural humility.

#### **Firearm-Related Injury and Death...**

#### **Annals of Internal Medicine**

#### SPECIAL ARTICLE

# Firearm-Related Injury and Death in the United States: A Call to Action From the Nation's Leading Physician and Public Health Professional Organizations

Robert M. McLean, MD; Patrice Harris, MD; John Cullen, MD; Ronald V. Maier, MD; Kyle E. Yasuda, MD; Bruce J. Schwartz, MD; and Georges C. Benjamin, MD

#### **US** deaths by firearms

- A public health epidemic.
- 38,000 deaths per year nationwide.
- 85,000 nonfatal gun injuries

#### Vermont Data (2017)

- Age-adjusted rate of firearm deaths 11.5/100,000 (similar to US rate).
- Suicide death rate 17.3/100,00 : 52% by firearms.
- Most firearm deaths are due to suicide = 88% (9% homicides).
- Deaths/100,000: male 20 female 31
- Injuries/100,000: male 12 female .07

#### Firearm Safety Policy in Vermont, February, 2018

#### Jolted!

#### **Results = 3 bills passed and signed**

- Act 94 Background checks including private sales, purchase age 21 (with exceptions), bans on large capacity ammunition feeding devices (>10 rounds) and bump stocks.
- Act 92 Allows removal of firearms from person cited or arrested for domestic assault.
- Act 97 Allows certain prosecutors to act to temporarily (up to 6 months) disarm dangerous people using an Extreme Risk Protection Order.

#### **Other Actions**

- Strengthen school security (grants, media campaigns, shield laws).
- More focus placed on safe and healthy community legislation.
- Formed Violence Prevention Task Force.

62

#### Scientific Evidence: RAND Gun Policy in America initiative 2018

- What science tells us about the effects of gun policies on unintentional injuries and deaths, homicides and suicides.
- Only one policy had "supportive evidence" = child access prevention laws (safe storage laws).
- "Moderate evidence" for background checks, mental illness prohibition.
- "Minimal evidence" for age 21.
- Conclusion: very limited base of rigorous scientific evidence on effects of many commonly discussed policies.

#### **Public Health Strategy**

- Take the focus off of gun ownership commonsense regulations that lead to conflict.
- Conduct surveillance.
- Identify risk factors and protective factors.

64

#### **Public Health Strategy**

Broaden the PH perspective to behavior change to reduce gun violence:

- Apply media, education and taxation strategies like for tobacco.
- Apply safety lessons from strategies to decrease unintentional poisoning.
- Apply motor vehicle safety lessons (inspection, passive and active protections, licensing and age requirements) to gun violence.
- Establish resources for school and community-based prevention (access to mental health services, programs to address bullying).
- Investment in gun safety technology.

### A Call to Action from Eight Health Professional Organizations and the Bar

#### Original Recommendations:

- Background checks for firearm purchases (dealers and private).
- Oppose physician gag law mandates.
- Improve access to mental health care and limit firearm access to those who
  might harm themselves or others.
- Restrict manufacture and sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
- Fund research to support strategies to reduce injuries and deaths.

#### Additional Recommendations:

- Focus on intimate partner violence
- Safe storage essentials

Source: Ann Intern Med 2015; 162:513-516. Doi:10.7326/M15-0337

#### Goals

- Focus on the nexus of Public Health, Primary Care and ACP positions and policies:
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  - Provide up to date information on the dual epidemics of ENDS use and EVALI.

67

#### Why Am I So Concerned About These Devices?

- Prevalence of use.
- Lack of perception of harm by youth.
- The power of flavors.
- The risk of nicotine addiction and lack of understanding by youth.
- Potential harms including chemicals, contaminants, metals.
- Ease of access for youth.
- Risk of co-addiction.
- Attractive price and lack of regulatory framework.

#### **Potential Harms Unrelated to Nicotine**

- Some known, many unknown
  - Vapors and aerosols "volatile organic compounds"
  - Propylene glycol, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde
- Less harmful than cigarette smoke doesn't mean harmless
- Flavors
- Contaminants
- Metals
- Ultra-fine particles and lung health
- Burns, explosive injuries, respiratory symptoms

#### What's in E-Cig Aerosol?

Propylene glycol	Chlorobenzene	Benzo(ghi)perylene	Cadmium
Glycerin	<ul> <li>Crotonaldehyde</li> </ul>	Acetone	Silicon
Flavorings (many)	<ul> <li>Propionaldehyde</li> </ul>	Acrolein	• Lithium
Nicotine	<ul> <li>Benzaldehyde</li> </ul>	Silver	• Lead
• NNN	Valeric acid	Nickel	Magnesium
• NNK	Hexanal	• Tin	Manganese
• NAB	Fluorine	Sodium	Potassium
• NAT	<ul> <li>Anthracene</li> </ul>	Strontium	Titanium
Ethylbenzene	• Pyrene	Barium	• Zinc
Benzene	<ul> <li>Acenaphthylene</li> </ul>	Aluminum	Zirconium
• Xylene	<ul> <li>Acenapthene</li> </ul>	Chromium	Calcium
• Toluene	<ul> <li>Fluoranthene</li> </ul>	Boron	• Iron
Acetaldehyde	Benz(a)anthracene	Copper	Sulfur
<ul> <li>Formaldehyde</li> </ul>	• Chrysene	Selenium	Vanadium
<ul> <li>Naphthalene</li> </ul>	Retene	Arsenic	Cobalt
• Styrene	<ul> <li>Benzo(a)pyrene</li> </ul>	Nitrosamines,	Rubidium
Benzo(b)fluoranthen     e	<ul> <li>Indeno(1,2,3- cd)pyrene</li> </ul>	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	

#### **Prevention in the IM Office**

- Screen specifically question vaping SBIRT
- Appropriate messaging about use of ENDS as tobacco dependence treatment product.
- 5A's: Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, Arrange Follow UP
- Quitline referrals

#### **Vermont 2019 Legislation**

- Extended 92% wholesale tax to products sold as tobacco substitute.
- Restricted internet sales (from licensed retailer only).
- Tobacco 21

#### **The Current Epidemic – Case Definition**

- Use of e-cigarette (vaping) in 90 days prior to symptoms.
- Symptoms = cough, dyspnea, chest pain, fatigue, G-I
- Pulmonary infiltrates on CXR, CT.
- Absence of infection on initial work up.
- No alternative plausible diagnosis.
- Currently: competing hypotheses
   is this one etiology, one disease or multiple pathways
   1500 cases, 33 fatalities, youth and THC predominance

#### The Future – a ban on flavors