

# Opioid Use and Justice Involvement:

## Challenges in Treatment, Engagement, and Continuity

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June 13, 2017

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# Overview:

- Persons who have not been in

# Overview, continued

- Concerns about arrest or DCF involvement can keep women from seeking care during pregnancy.
- A shift to heroin use, from opioids in pill form, has resulted in greater physical health risks in those with this form of addiction.

# Substance Use Disorders

- FACING ADDICTION IN AMERICA: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health
- <https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/surgeon-generals-report.pdf>

# Substance Use Disorders

- In 2015, 20.8 million people aged 12 or older met criteria for a substance use disorder
- Data from 2015 also indicated that an estimated
  - 214,000 pregnant women consumed alcohol
  - 109,000 used illicit drugs (SG, pg. 4-5; NSDUH data)

# Substance Use Disorders

- Most effective practice is to intervene early, before the condition can progress



# Substance Use Disorders

- NSDUH data found that only 1 in 10 'affected individuals' received any type of treatment in the year before they responded to the survey

# Why People Do Not Seek

# Overdose Deaths

- Dramatic rise in overdose deaths
- Up from just under 6000 in '99 to nearly 30,000 in 2014 in the US
- Particularly relevant to the justice-involved population -

# Substance Use Disorders

- Barriers to creating these connections and a continuum of care include
  - Lack of resources
  - Insufficient training
  - Workforce shortages

# Substance Use Disorders

- ‘Well supported’ evidence demonstrates that SUDs can be treated effectively with recurrence rates no higher than those associated with other chronic disorders such as asthma or hypertension
- ‘Well supported’ here – means evidence comes from multiple controlled trials or large scale population studies

# Substance Use Disorders

- “Well supported evidence” demonstrates that treatment for SUDs are cost-effective when compared with no treatment
- Behavior therapies are effective if implemented with fidelity – but -
  - SG report concludes that they are often implemented with limited fidelity and are ‘under-used’.

# Substance Use Disorders

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# Substance Use Disorders

- Treatment - generally - has three goals
  - Stop or reduce harmful substance misuse
  - Improve health and social functioning
  - Manage risk for relapse (SG report, pg. 4-3).

# Substance Use Disorders

- Ettner et al., 2006 found that:
  - Every dollar spent on SUD treatment saves
    - \$4 in health care costs
    - \$7 in criminal justice costs (SG report, pg. 4-3).





# Substance Use Disorders

- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - for opioid dependence
  - Must be provided over an extended period
  - Less than 90 days does not produce improved outcomes
  - Relapse risk reduction seen in those that continue in care

# Opioid Dependence

- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - controversies:
  - Abuse risk exists and some object to ‘substituting one substance for another’
  - However, “decades of research have shown that the benefits of MAT greatly outweigh the risks associated with diversion” (SG, pg. 4-22).



# Alternative Access

- Physician can obtain an “X” waiver (on their current DEA registration) that denotes he/she is waived to prescribe for 30, 100 or 275 patients.
- Must have taken an in-person or web-based course on prescribing buprenorphine to be waived.
- Must be ASAM-, ABPM-, or AOAAM-certified or practice in a "qualified practice setting" to prescribe to 275 patients. (

# Alternative Access

- Must adhere to patient prescribing limit, i.e., if waived for less than 1 year, may prescribe to 30 patients; if waived for more than 1 year, may prescribe to 100 patients and then 275 patients (if they have already notified CSAT of their intent to do so).  
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# Involvement in the CJ system

- Rich et al. (2015) found in their research that prisoners who received methadone before release were 7x more likely to present to a community clinic within 30 days of their release.

# Involvement in the Justice System

- The authors further conclude that to force persons in care to withdraw from treatment 'runs counter to a large and methodologically rigorous body of evidence showing the public health and safety benefits associated with methadone maintenance treatment in correctional settings' (pg. 358).

# Involvement in the Justice System

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# Involvement in the Justice System

- Administration of methadone in Florida jails
  - Varies across the State
  - Focus is largely on pregnant women

# Involvement in the Justice System

- Pregnant women are appearing in increasing numbers in OTP programs in Florida
- Many have contact with child  
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# Involvement in the Justice System

- Reunification rates are lower for those with opioid dependence than other forms of substance abuse (alcohol, cocaine)
- Hall et al., in JSAT (2016), found that additional months of involvement in MAT was associated with increased odds of retaining custody of their children

# Involvement in the Justice System

- History of felony convictions can also create challenges to recovery as it limits job seeking and ineligibility for housing programs