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# The Impact of the Opioids Crisis on Society & the Workforce

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# Presentation Outline

- Evidence-Based Treatment
- Societal Costs
- Impact on the Workforce



# Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative

- 1) Reduce the inappropriate use of prescription opioids while ensuring that patients with medical needs have access to pain control, and
- 2) Expand access to effective treatment for substance use disorders, including medication-assisted treatment.

# Selected Pew Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Publications

A brief from THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS



## Patient Review and Restriction Programs in Medicaid

Expert panel recommendations to help curb misuse of prescription drugs

### Overview

Opioid-use disorders pose a serious public health problem in the United States. Medicaid beneficiaries are especially at risk: Nationwide, people on Medicaid enter emergency departments for opioid-related overdoses much higher rates than patients with other types of insurance.<sup>1</sup>

Patient review and restriction (PRR) programs are one tool that Medicaid and other payers employ to protect patients from receiving harmful amounts and combinations of opioids and other controlled substances. PRR program staff consult data describing the use of prescription drugs and medical services to identify at-risk patients—such as those receiving prescription drugs from multiple health care providers or filling multiple controlled substance prescriptions—and typically assign these individuals to obtain future prescriptions only from a designated pharmacy, or a designated prescriber and pharmacy.

A March 2016 report by The Pew Charitable Trusts, *Curbing Prescription Drug Abuse With Patient Review and Restriction Programs: Learning From Medicaid Agencies*,<sup>2</sup> examined how Medicaid programs operate PRRs. The report is based on a survey Pew sent to 52 Medicaid programs in the United States, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico's 38 jurisdictions that operate a PRR program for their fee-for-service Medicaid program respondents.<sup>3</sup> Overall, the report found significant variability in the structure and features of these programs.

A report from THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS



## Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

Evidence-based practices to optimize prescriber use

A fact sheet from THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS



## Medication-Assisted Treatment Improves Outcomes for Patients With Opioid Use Disorder

Combination of behavioral health interventions and FDA-approved drugs can help reduce illicit opioid use

### Overview

Opioid overdoses cause one death every 20 minutes.<sup>1</sup> Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)—a combination of psychosocial therapy and U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medication—is the most effective intervention to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) and is more effective than either behavioral interventions or medication alone.<sup>2</sup> MAT significantly reduces illicit opioid use compared with nondrug approaches,<sup>3</sup> and increased access to these therapies can reduce overdose fatalities.<sup>4</sup> However, MAT is often unavailable to those in need of it because of inadequate funding for treatment programs and a lack of qualified providers who can deliver these therapies.<sup>5</sup>

A fact sheet from THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Feb 2017



## The Case for Medication-Assisted Treatment

MAT can help people with opioid use disorders, but few have access

### Overview

Every 16 minutes, a person in the United States dies from an opioid overdose.<sup>1</sup> Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a chronic brain disease caused by the recurrent use of opioids, including prescription drugs such as oxycodone or hydrocodone and illicit substances such as heroin. Over time, a person with OUD becomes dependent on these drugs in higher and higher doses. This can lead to an overdose or death.

Prescription opioid overdose, misuse, and dependence cost the U.S. over \$78 billion a year in health care, criminal justice, and lost productivity costs

Source: Curtis S. Florence et al., "The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse, and Dependence in the United States, 2017," *Medical Care* 54, no. 10 (2016): 9044. [http://journals.lww.com/evermedication/Abstract/2016/10005/The\\_Economic\\_Burden\\_of\\_Prescription\\_Opioid\\_2.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/evermedication/Abstract/2016/10005/The_Economic_Burden_of_Prescription_Opioid_2.aspx)

Like other chronic diseases such as diabetes or heart disease, OUD can be treated. The most effective therapy, called medication-assisted treatment (MAT), combines counseling or other behavioral therapy with medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The medications work to relieve the symptoms of opioid withdrawal or block the effects of opioids while behavioral therapies help patients improve coping skills and reduce the likelihood of relapse.<sup>2</sup>

# Pew's Technical Assistance to States

Assessment	Policy Options	Policy Change
<p>Identify gaps in a state's treatment system through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data Analysis</li><li>• System Assessment</li></ul>	<p>Develop a consensus package of state-specific, evidence-based policy solutions</p>	<p>Support policy changes through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulation</li><li>• Administrative Action</li><li>• Legislation</li><li>• State Budget Process</li></ul>

# Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

- Complex disease that results in chemical and physiologic changes to the brain
- Must be treated like any other chronic, relapsing medical condition

**NEARLY 21 MILLION PEOPLE SUFFER  
FROM A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.**

**ONLY 1/10  
RECEIVES TREATMENT.**

An infographic consisting of ten stylized human figures arranged in two rows of five. The top row has five teal figures. The bottom row has four teal figures and one yellow figure on the right, who is raising their right hand. This visual represents the statistic that only 1 out of 10 people receive treatment.

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2017). 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-DetTabs-2016/NSDUH-DetTabs-2016.htm#tab5-20A>

# Evidence-Based Treatment



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# Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is Effective

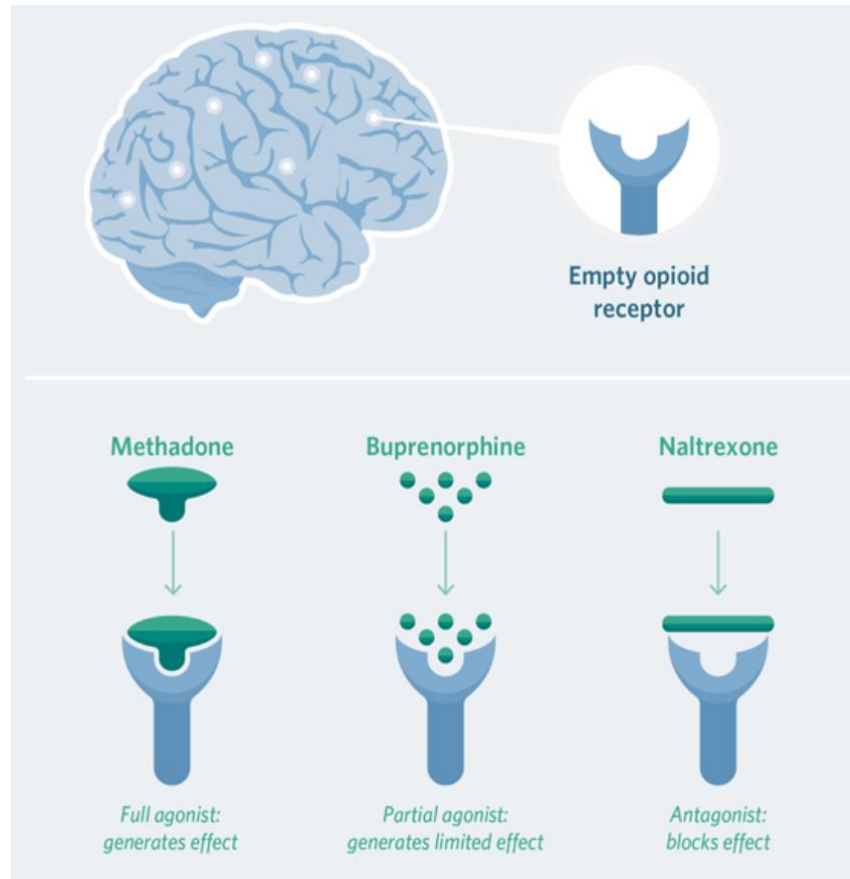
**FDA-approved drugs  
+  
Behavioral therapy**

Medication-assisted treatment increases adherence and reduces:

- Illicit opioid use
- Overdose risk and fatalities
- Health care utilization
- Criminal activity

Mattick RP et al., 2009, 3:CD002209; Comer SD et al. *JAMA Psych.* 2006, 63:210-8; Fudala PJ et al., *NEJM.* 2003, 10:949-58; Schwartz RP et al. *AJPH.* 2013, 103: 17-22;. Tsui JJ et al. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2014, 174:1974-81; Metzger DS et al., *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 1993, 6:1049-56.

# Medications for Opioid Use Disorder



The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2016. Medication-Assisted Treatment Improves Outcomes for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder. <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/factsheets/2016/11/medication-assisted-treatment-improves-outcomes-for-patients-with-opioid-use-disorder>

# Societal Costs

# Each year, prescription opioid overdose, misuse, and dependence account for:



**\$28.9 billion in health care costs<sup>1</sup>**

Patients with an OUD incur approximately \$18,000 in additional costs annually.<sup>2</sup>



**\$7.6 billion in criminal justice costs<sup>3</sup>**

96% of costs fall to state and local governments.<sup>4</sup>



**\$41.8 billion in lost productivity<sup>5</sup>**

7 in 10 employers experience issues associated with prescription drug misuse, such as employee absenteeism, decreased job performance, and injury.<sup>6</sup>

The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2017. The High Price of the Opioid Crisis, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/data-visualizations/2017/the-high-price-of-the-opioid-crisis>; Florence CS et al. *Medical Care*. 2016., 54:901-6.

# The Underestimated Cost of the Opioid Crisis

The Council of Economic Advisers

November 2017

- The Council of Economic Advisors estimates that in 2015, the economic cost of the opioid crisis was **\$504 billion**
  - 85% in fatality costs
  - 15% in nonfatal costs

The Council of Economic Advisers, 2017. The Underestimated Cost of the Opioid Crisis  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/The%20Underestimated%20Cost%20of%20the%20Opioid%20Crisis.pdf>

# Impact on the Workforce



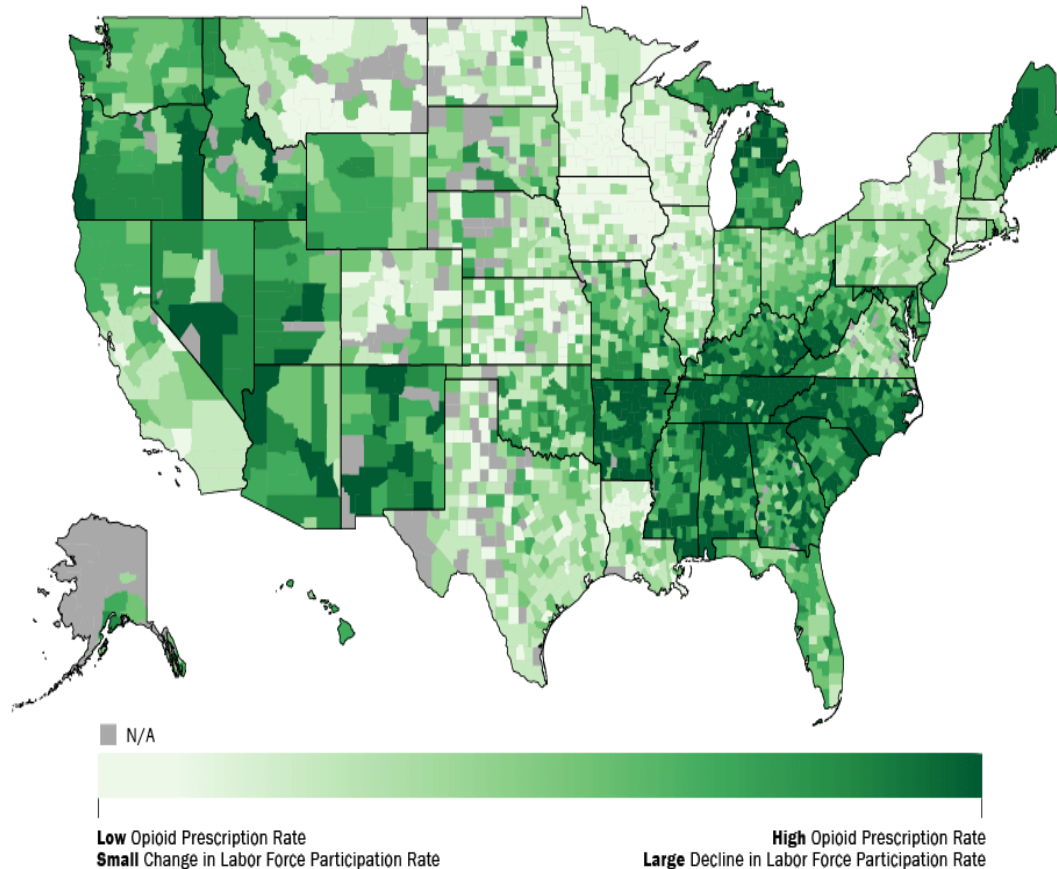
# Working Adults who Misuse Opioids

- 10.3% employed adults misuse opioids
- 2.7% workers report receiving any substance use disorder treatment

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2017). 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD.; Goplerud et al. *JOEM*, 2017, 59:1063-71.

# Relationship between Opioid Prescriptions and Labor Force, 1999 – 2015

Combined Effect of Opioid Prescription Rates and Change in Labor Force Participation Rate  
Prime Age Adults, Ages 25–54



Krueger A. 2017. *Brookings*. <https://www.brookings.edu/bpea-articles/where-have-all-the-workers-gone-an-inquiry-into-the-decline-of-the-u-s-labor-force-participation-rate/>



# Workplace Resources

- The National Safety Council: The proactive role employers can take: Opioids in the workplace
- SAMHSA: Drug-Free Workplace Toolkit

NSC 2017. The proactive role employers can take: Opioids in the workplace <http://www.nsc.org/RxDrugOverdoseDocuments/proactive-role-employers-can-take-opioids-in-the-workplace.pdf>; SAMHSA 2017. Drug-Free Workplace Toolkit <https://www.samhsa.gov/workplace/toolkit>;

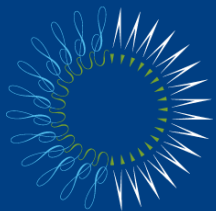
# Treatment is cost effective

- Workers in recovery cost \$369 less in healthcare costs than persons with an untreated substance use disorder
- Treatment for substance use disorder results in
  - Reduced absenteeism (9.5 days recovery vs. 14.8 days SUD)
  - Decreased turnover (21% recovery vs. 36% SUD)

Goplerud et al. *JOEM*, 2017, 59:1063-71.; NIDA 2016. Cost effectiveness of drug treatment <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/teaching-packets/understanding-drug-abuse-addiction/section-iv/6-cost-effectiveness-drug-treatment>

# Summary

- Opioid use disorder is a chronic disease
- Medication-assisted treatment is the effective treatment for opioid use disorder
- Treatment is cost effective



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