



NC Department of Health and Human
Services

NC Opioid and Prescription Drug Abuse Advisory Committee (OPDAAC)

January 22, 2021

Welcome to OPDAAC!

- We will start promptly at 10:00AM!
- For questions during the meeting:
 - Please put your questions in the chat box, which will be monitored for the duration of the meeting. **Note:** you need to send to all panelists and attendees to ensure your question is addressed in a timely manner.
 - If you would like to ask a question to a specific presenter, please be sure to include their name in your question.
- The meeting recording, agenda and PowerPoint slides will be added to our NC DHHS Opioids/OPDAAC page
 - <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/departments-initiatives/opioid-epidemic/nc-opioid-and-prescription-drug-abuse-advisory>
 - Please note, it can take up to 7 days for materials to be posted to the website. An email will be sent out to all attendees once materials have been posted.

Intersection: Promoting Equity in the Management of Substance Use Disorders

Dr. Shuchin Shukla

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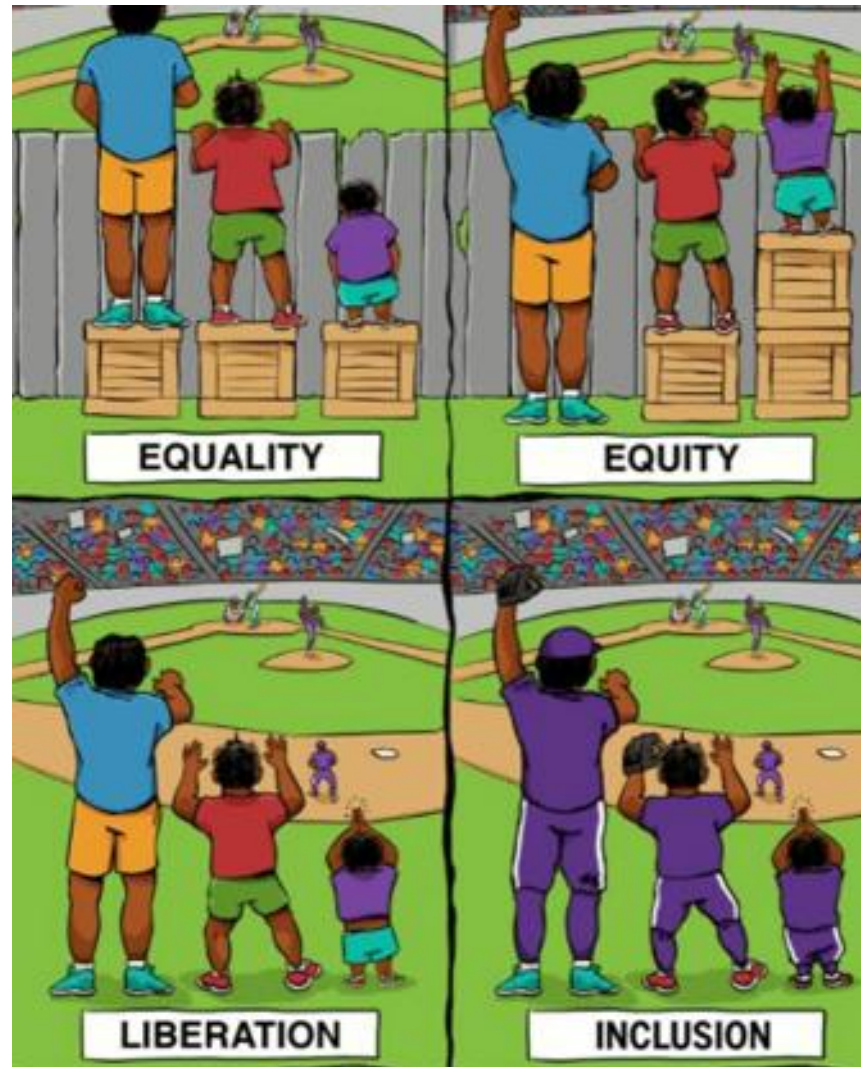
Agenda/Outline

- 1) Terminology & Theory
- 2) Historical Context of Health Disparities
- 3) Disparities in Substance Use Disorders
- 4) Inequities in Treatment Accessibility
- 5) Actionable Steps

Terminology & Theory

Health Equity Call to Action¹

The cause of inequity has been addressed by removing the systemic barrier →



Social Determinants of Health¹

Economic
Stability

Neighborhood
and Physical
Environment

Education

Food

Community and
Social Context

Health Care
System

Some Populations at Risk for Healthcare Disparities

Economically Disadvantaged

- Low SES
- Uninsured & Underinsured
- Unhoused
- Migrant laborers
- Immigrants & Undocumented

Carceral/ Justice-involved

Special Populations

- Disabled
- Pregnant
- Adolescents
- LGBTQIA+

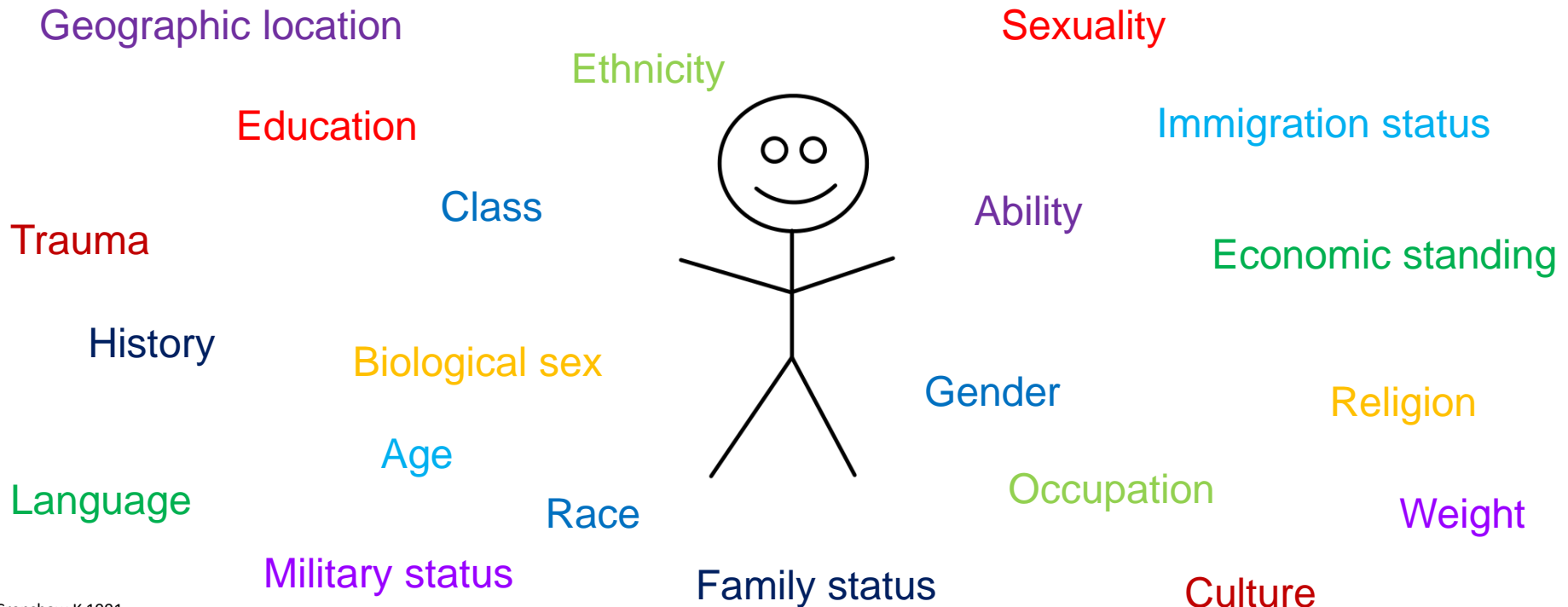
Stigmatized

- Mental Illness
- Substance Use

- Black/African American
- Latinx
- Native American
- Other underrepresented and misrepresented groups that are Non-White

Intersectionality

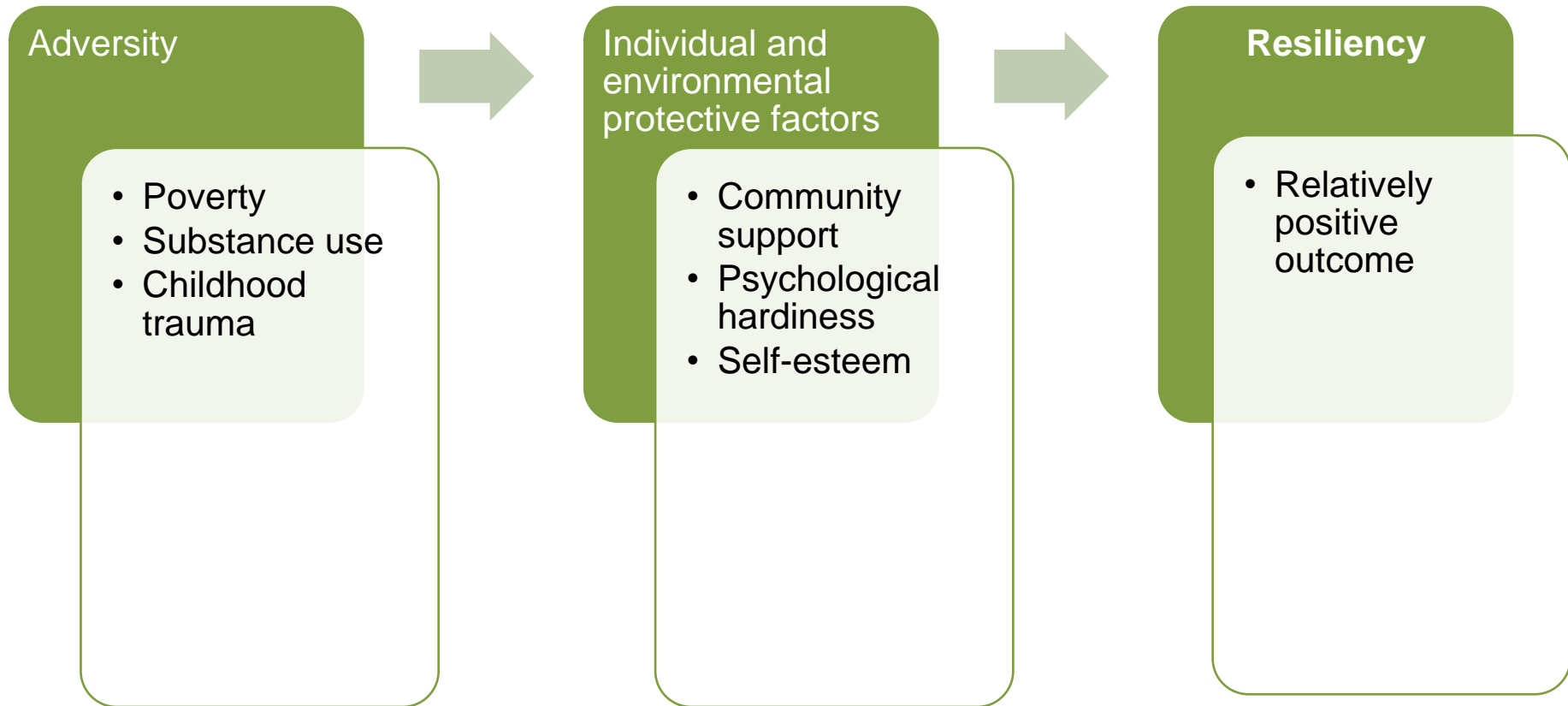
“The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.”¹



¹Crenshaw K 1991

Resiliency

“the combination of serious risk experiences and a relatively positive psychological outcome despite those experiences”²



Historical Context of Health Disparities

Disenfranchisement and the Medical System

Denying flu shots at detention centers

Inequities in birth control access

Lack of resources for rural populations

Exclusive use of male patients in trials

Tuskegee Syphilis Trials

Lack of funding during AIDS Crisis

Under-treatment of chronic pain in POC

Eugenics & Forced sterilization

Higher rates of discontinuation of opioids for black patients with positive UDS

Issues of informed consent
I.e., Henrietta Lacks

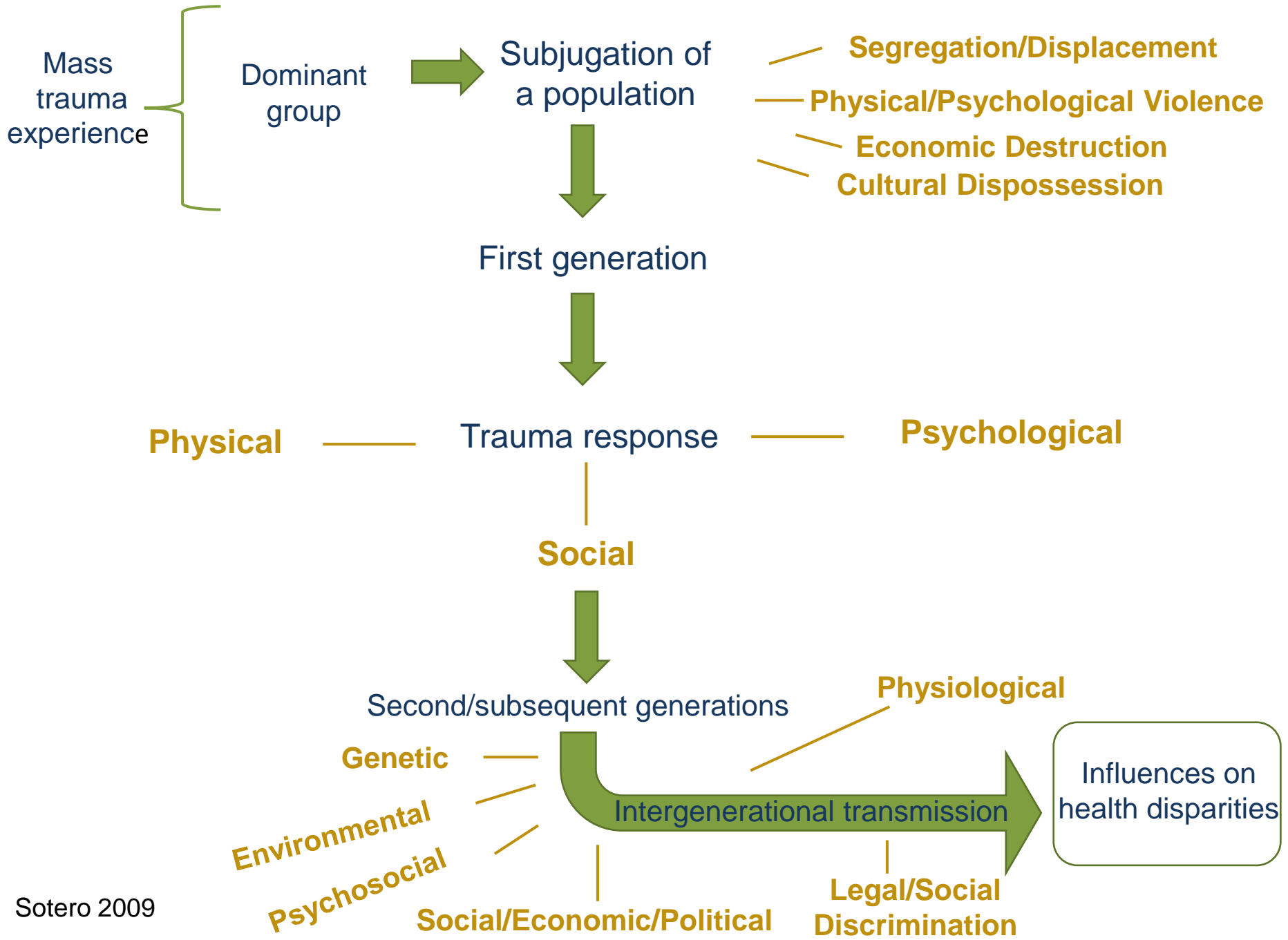
Under-treatment of chronic pain in women

Medical voyeurism of transgender and GNC patients

Birth control trials

Criminalization & Imprisonment of black women with substance use

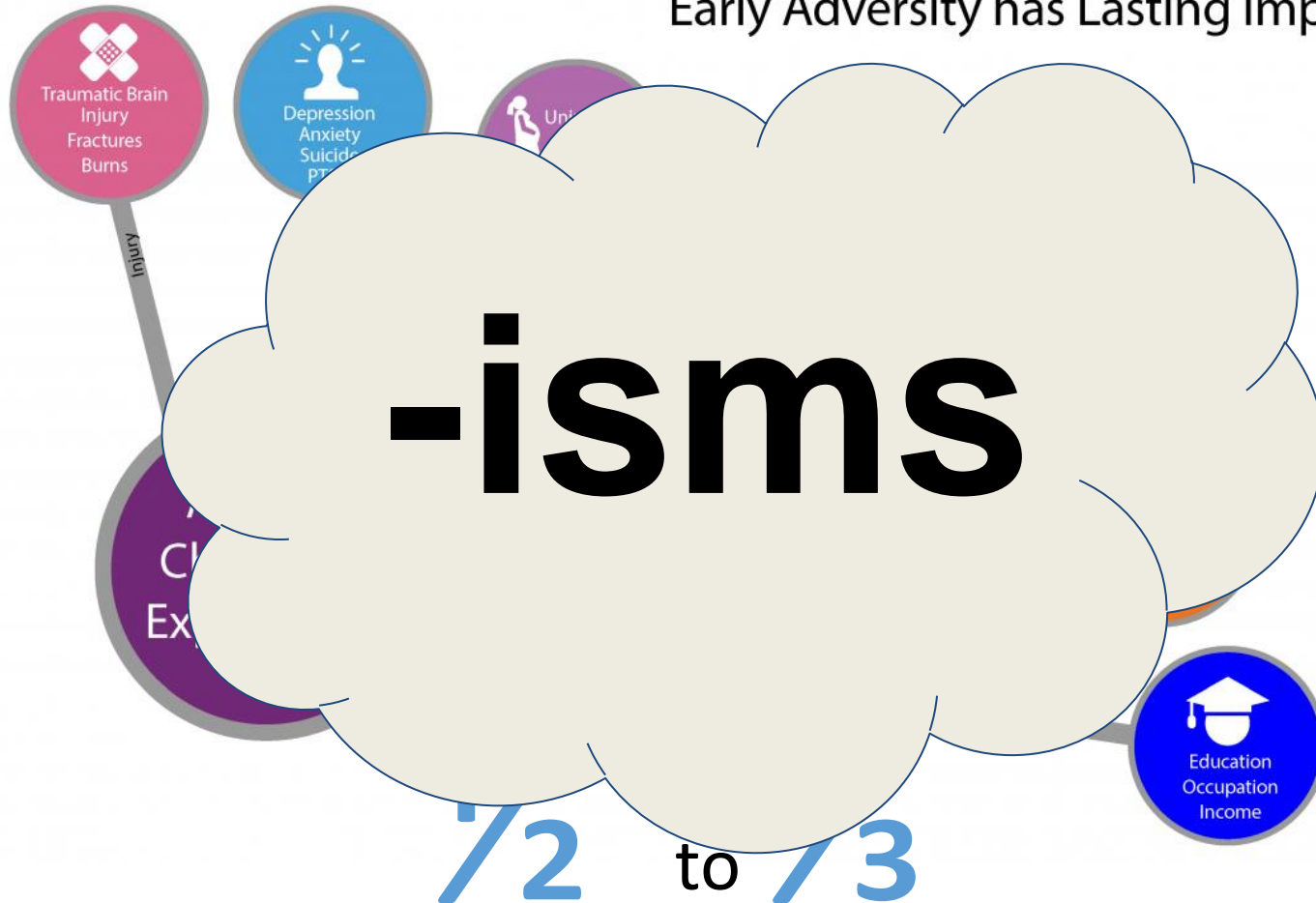
Forced assimilation of Native Americans through boarding schools



Sotero 2009

Trauma as a Gateway Drug¹

Early Adversity has Lasting Impacts²



of drug use problems could be traced back to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)³

¹Ozim D 2016

²CDC, 2019

³Dube S, Dong M, Chapman D, et al. 2003

Epigenetics & Equity

- The study of heritable changes in gene function that do not involve changes in DNA sequence¹
 - Methylation essentially determines how “open” or “closed” a section of DNA is, and thus determines if it can be “read” (expressed) or not
- Changes like these are **heritable** and have **transgenerational effects**²

Impacted by:

- Environment
- Stress
- Chemical exposure
- Diet
- Exercise

¹Merriam-Webster 2019

²Carey N 2013

Quiz!

Chat your Responses

Many healthcare professionals believe in a biological difference between races

- **True:** In a peer reviewed article in 2016, 25% of residents believe that the skin of black people is thicker than the skin of white people. 14% of second-year med students believed that Black patients' nerve endings are less sensitive than white patients'. 17% believed that black patients' blood coagulates more quickly than whites'.¹ There is no supporting evidence for a biological difference.

Nearly 1 in 20 Americans meet the criteria for a substance use disorder.

- **False:** 1 in 10 Americans meet the criteria for a substance use disorder⁴

White patients with pain are more likely to receive an opioid in an emergency department than patients of other races.

- **True:** 31% of white patients in pain received an opioid, compared to 23% of black patients, 24% of hispanic patients, or 28% of Asian patients and patients of other ethnicities.⁷

¹Hoffman K, Trawalter S, Axt J, et al. 2016

²Martin N, Montagne R 2017

³Kiessel 2017

⁴NIDA 2015

⁵NIDA 2017

⁶Baciu A, Negussie Y, Geller A, et al. 2017

⁷JAMA 2008

Disparities in Substance Use Disorders and Opioid Use Disorders

The U.S and the Impact of Opioids

- The U.S. experiences **the highest drug-related mortality worldwide** ¹
- Drug overdose is now the **leading cause of death in the U.S.** for those under 50.
 - Exceeds deaths related to firearms, car accidents, homicides ²

1 in 4

Drug-related deaths
worldwide occur in the U.S.²

¹United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2018

²CDC 2017

³CDC 2018

658

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) VISITS FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE: DECEMBER 2020

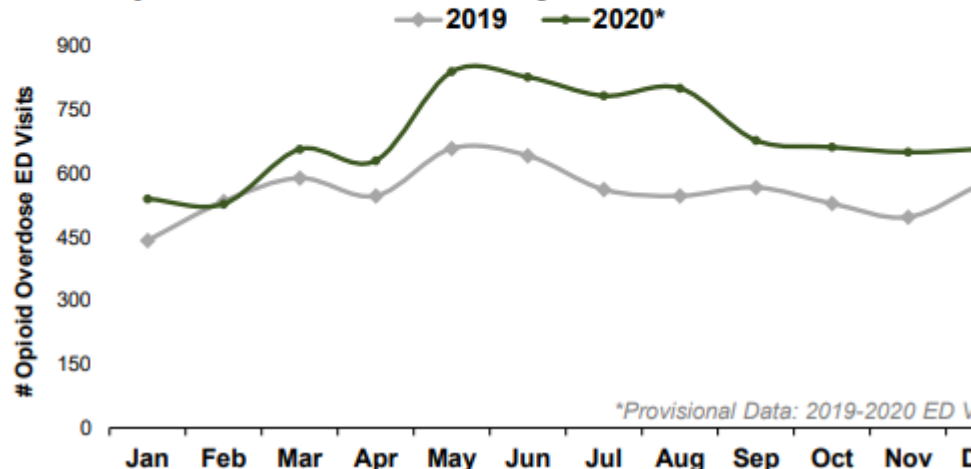
658 Opioid overdose ED visits December 2020*

Compared to **579** December 2019*

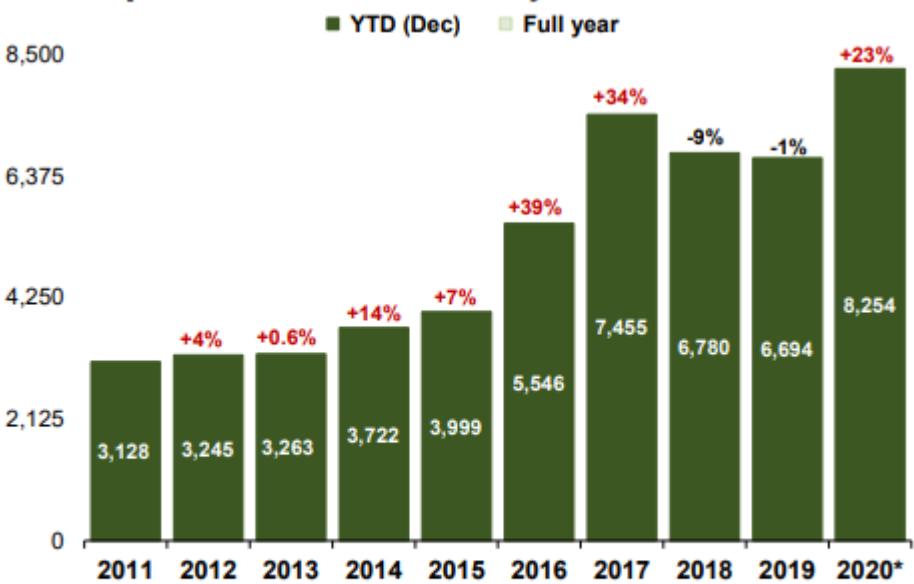
Data Source: NC DETECT: ED; Custom Event: Overdose:

Note: Counts based on ICD-10-CM diagnosis code of an opioid overdose: T40.0 (Opium), T40.1 (Heroin), T40.2 (Other Opioids), T40.3 (Methadone), T40.4 (Other Synthetic Narcotics), and T40.6 (Other and Unspecified Narcotics).

Opioid Overdose ED Visits by Month: 2019-2020*

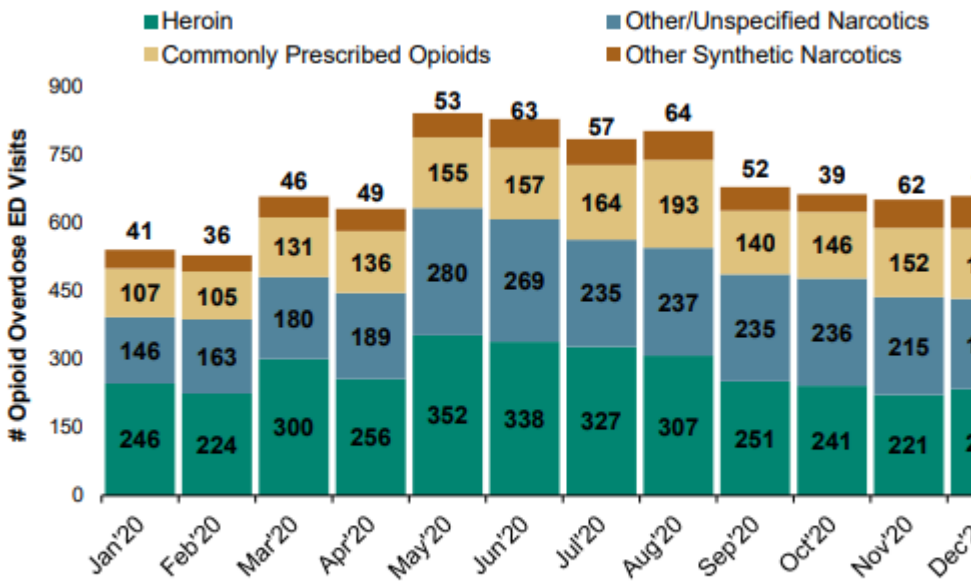


Opioid Overdose ED Visits by Year: 2011-2020*



Percent change: YTD total compared to YTD total of previous year; * Provisional Data: 2019-2020 ED Visits

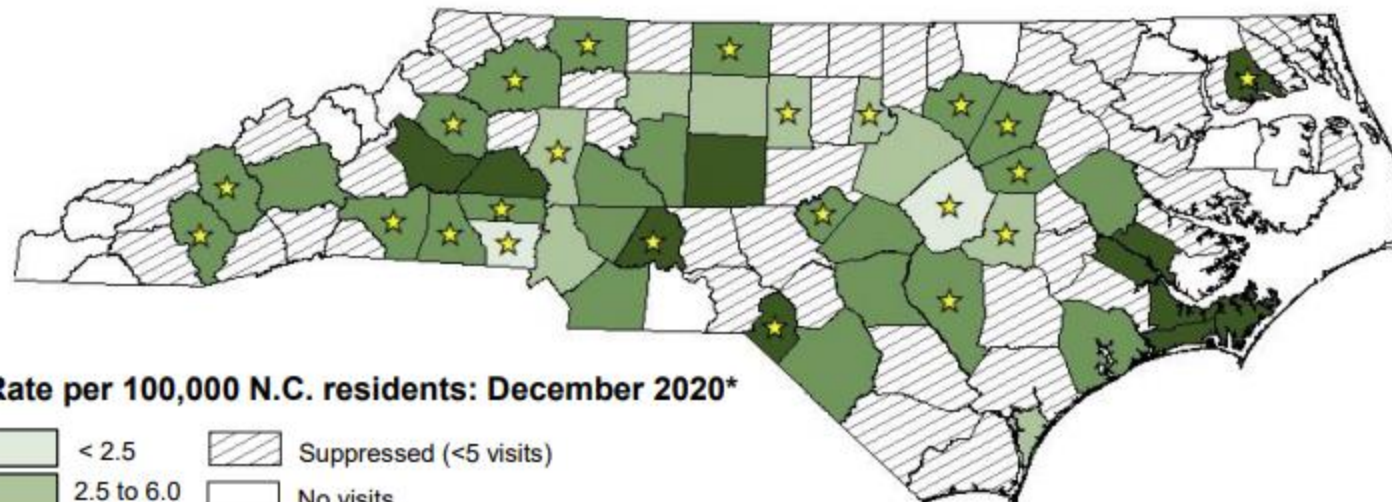
Last 12 Months of ED Visits by Opioid Class: 2019-2020



* Provisional Data: 2019-2020 ED Visits

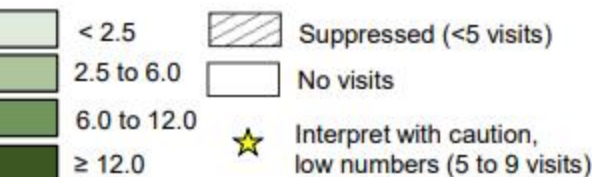
Monthly Opioid Overdose ED Visits Rate: December 2020*

Highest Monthly Rates of Opioid Overdose ED visits among Counties: December 2020*



County	Count	Rate [^]
Burke	21	23.2
Randolph	23	16.0
Carteret	11	15.8
Craven	16	15.7
Catawba	21	13.2
Buncombe	31	11.9
Pitt	17	9.4
Robeson	12	9.2
Davidson	15	8.9
Union	20	8.3
Statewide	658	6.4

Rate per 100,000 N.C. residents: December 2020*



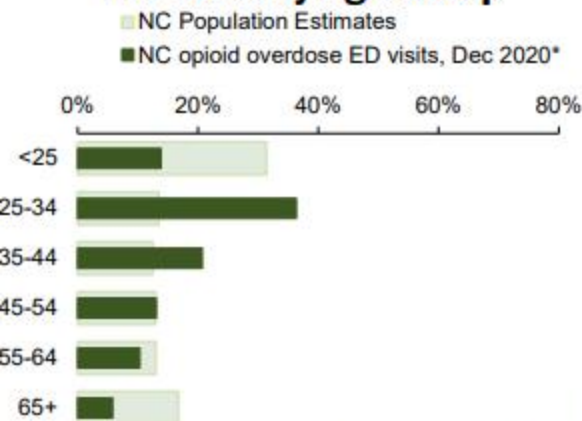
*Please note that rates are calculated using the current month of data. Counties listed in "Highest Monthly Rates of Opioid Overdose ED visits" table will likely change each month.

Therefore, the top 10 counties this month cannot be generalized as the top 10 counties for the year.

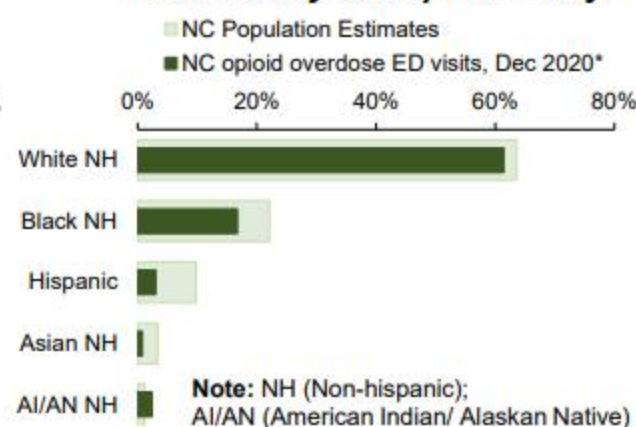
Provisional Data: 2020 ED Visits

Demographics of Opioid Overdose ED Visits Compared to Overall NC Population Estimates

ED Visits by Age Group

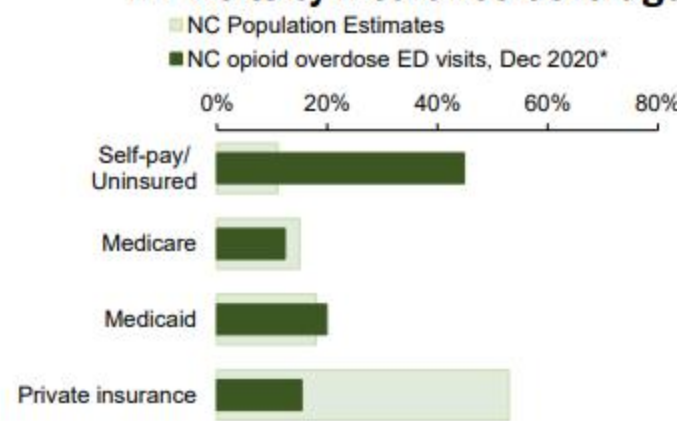


ED Visits by Race/Ethnicity



Note: NH (Non-hispanic); AI/AN (American Indian/ Alaskan Native)

ED Visits by Insurance Coverage

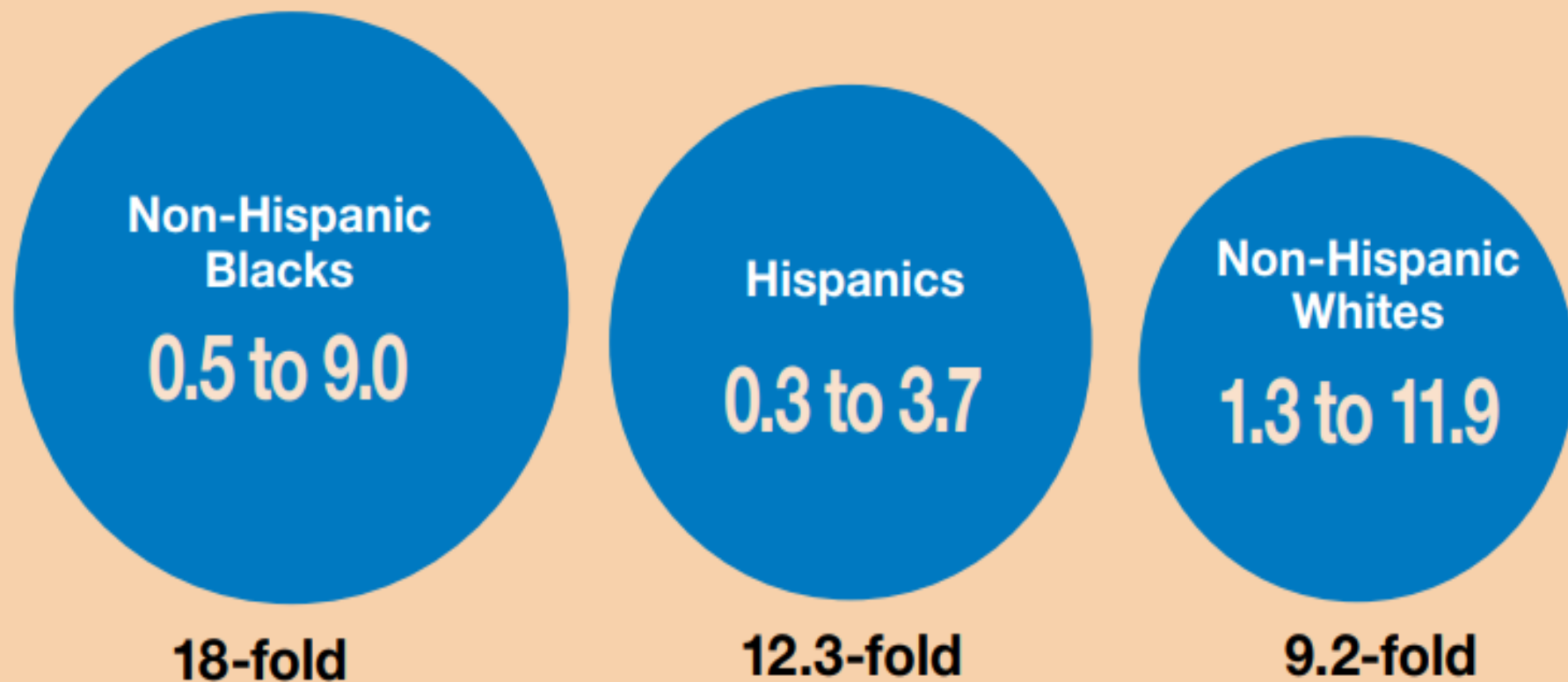


Data Sources: ED Data-NC DETECT is North Carolina's statewide syndromic surveillance system. ED visit data from NCDETECT are provisional and should not be considered final. For training on NCDETECT, contact Amy.Ising@ad.unc.edu; Population Data-U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov>; Insurance coverage Data-Kaiser Family Foundation estimates based on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 2008-2018, www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-population.

Note: Self-pay ED visits are compared to the uninsured overall population estimate category.

*Provisional Data: 2019-2020 ED V

Figure 2. Magnitude of increase in drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone per 100,000 population, by ethnicity, 2013-2017



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System – Mortality, 2013-2017.

Note: For this measure, lower rates are better.

Rates of Use vs. Rates of Incarceration

- More white people use illicit drugs, yet huge disparity in rates of incarceration
 - Nearly **80%** of people in **federal prison** and almost **60%** of people in **state prison** for drug offenses are **black or Latinx**²

Race/ethnicity	Illicit Drug Use in Lifetime among Persons Aged 12 or Older (2018) ¹ :	Percentage of US population ³
White	54.5%	60.4%
Black or African American	45.9%	13.4%
Hispanic or Latinx	37.7%	18.3%

¹ SAMHSA 2019

² Drug Policy Alliance 2019

³ US Census, 2019

Economic Impact of SUDs

- Treatment is less expensive than alternatives

Approximate average cost for 1 full year:

Buprenorphine treatment	Methadone treatment	Naltrexone treatment	Imprisonment
\$6,000 per patient ¹	\$6,500 per patient ¹	\$14,000 per patient ¹	\$36,000 per person ²

- Every \$1 invested in addiction treatment returns a yield of \$4 to \$7 in reducing drug related crimes, criminal justice and theft³
 - Not including healthcare costs

¹ASAM 2015

²Federal Register 2018

³NIDA 2016

Inequities in Treatment Accessibility

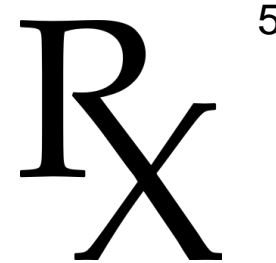
Disparities in Access to MAT

Economic



- Especially related to Medicaid coverage gaps
- Populations at greater risk for OUD are more likely to live in states that did not expand Medicaid or where state Medicaid programs do not cover evidence-based treatment^{1,2}

Marketing and Prescribing Patterns



- Documented trends of BUP being more often offered to white and insured patients
- Methadone more often offered to patients of color and poorer patients^{3,4}
- Capacity to provide methadone: higher in counties where African American and Latinx residents were unlikely to interact with white residents⁶
- Capacity to provide buprenorphine: higher in counties where white residents were unlikely to interact with African American or Latinx residents⁶

¹Abraham AJ, Andrews CM, Yingling ME, Shannon J 2018.

²Grogan H, Andrews C, Abraham A, et al. 2016

³Hansen H, Skinner ME 2012

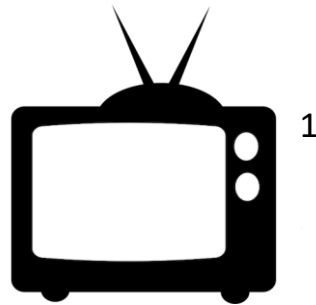
⁴Hayes V 2018

⁵Public Domain Vectors. Public Domain

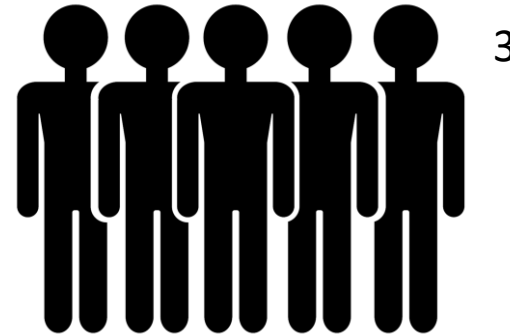
⁶Goedel, Shapiro, et al. 2020

Rural & Remote Populations

Targeted marketing strategies



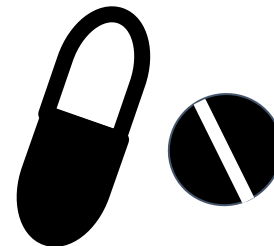
Fewer providers



Longer travel time for treatment



Difficulty accessing treatment

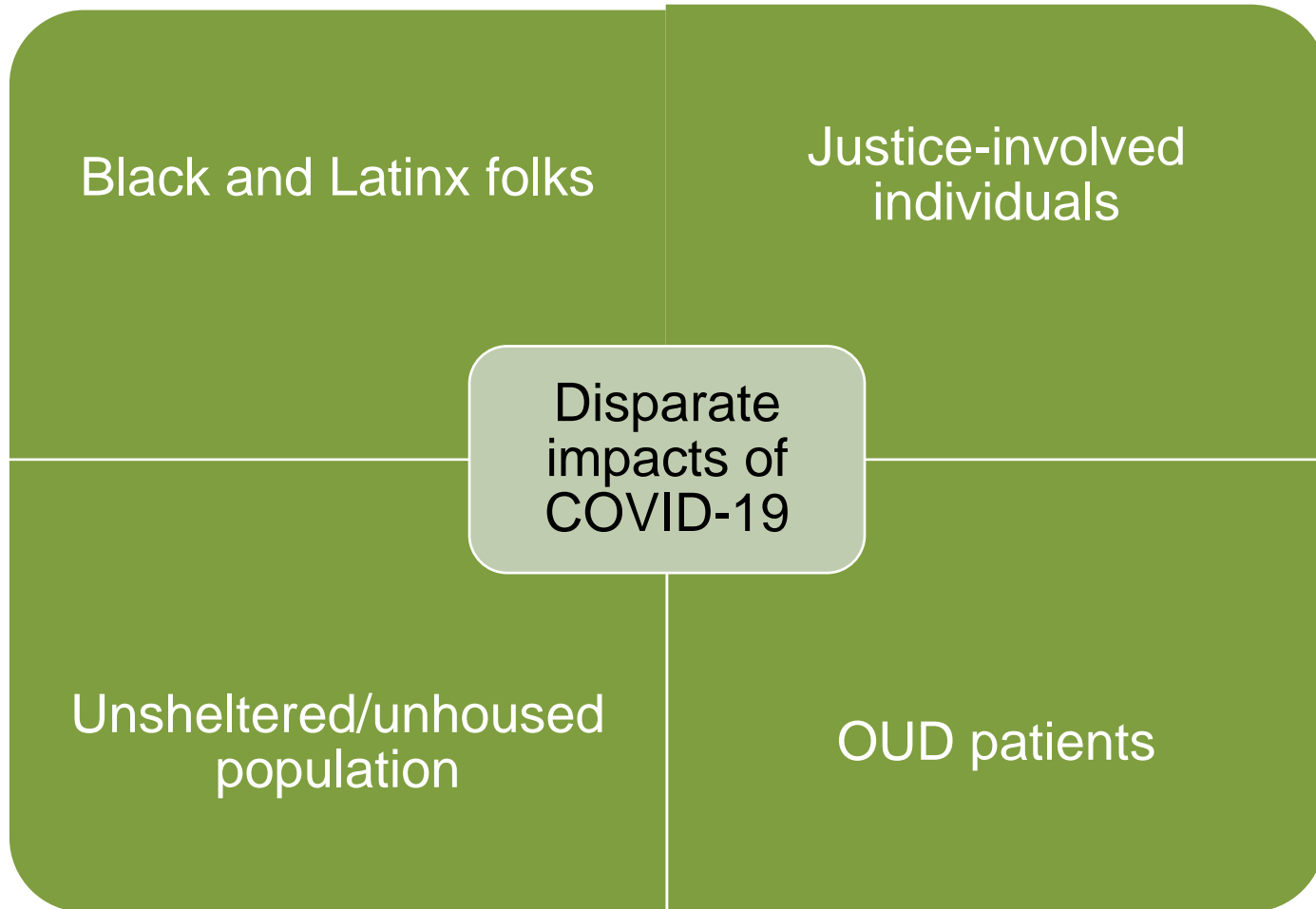


¹Public Domain Vectors. Public Domain

²Clip Art Mag. CC BY-NC 4.0

³ Vecteezy, 2020

COVID-19: Additional Disparities



Actionable Steps

Why is this Important?

- Shifting the onus **from** the individual for health-related choices and behavior **to** the lack of supportive environments that foster wellness but instead actively oppress and marginalize individuals from specific groups
- Attending to “institutional pathologies that lead to clinical pathologies.”¹⁻²
- A focus that is only on the disease is seen as reductionist as it “reduces the illness experience to a physiological locus.”
 - Only seeking to treat the biological aspects of illness often do not completely dissipate the experience of illness.³
- Building and maintaining relationships over time

¹Hansen H, Metz J 2016

²Hansen H, Metz J 2014

³Wiley A, Allen J 2017

Implicit vs Explicit Bias¹

Implicit Bias

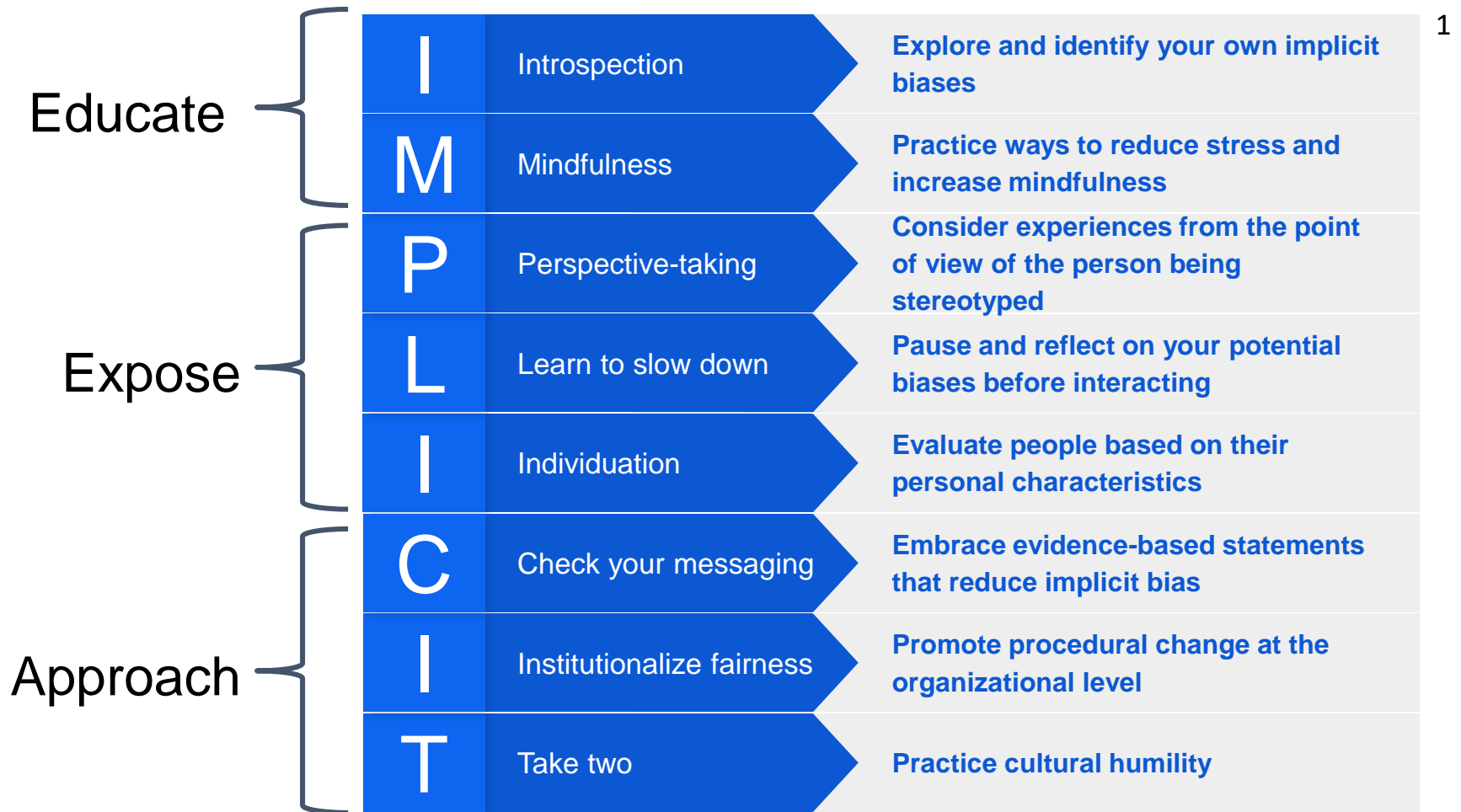
- Unconscious biases
- Based off of stereotypes regarding certain groups of individuals
- Outside of a person's own awareness

Explicit Bias

- Conscious beliefs and stereotypes that one identifies to belong to a social group

¹Office of Diversity and Outreach, University of California, San Francisco 2019

Strategies to Combat our Implicit Biases



¹Edgoose J, Quiogue M, Sidhar K 2019

THE OPIOID CRISIS AND THE BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION: **AN URGENT ISSUE**



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

**UNC HEALTH
SCIENCES at
MAHEC**

Macro Intervention Examples

1) Holistic approach

- Comprehensive services- housing, food security, criminal justice reform, education, living wage jobs

2) Community buy-in and leadership

- Diverse stakeholder collaboration- faith communities, non-profits, criminal justice system, lived experience
- The degree of progress is directly related to the degree of trust

3) Culturally relevant messaging and engagement strategies

- Relationship building
- Acknowledge intersectionality

4) Diverse workforce

- Including leadership!

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice

Jasmine McGhee and Steve Mange



Background Formation of the Task Force

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Investigations

The death of George Floyd: What video and other records show about his final minutes




A screenshot of a video player showing a police car with 'POLICE' written on it. To the right is a black and white portrait of George Floyd. The video player interface includes a play button and a timestamp of 20:57:01.

Vox

The police shooting death of Breonna Taylor, explained

The 26-year-old EMT was killed by police in her home in March. Calls for justice only continue to grow.



A color photograph of Breonna Taylor, a young Black woman with dark hair, wearing a blue denim jacket, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing outdoors near a white car.

CNN US

Ahmaud Arbery was killed doing what he loved, and a south Georgia community demands justice



A screenshot of a CNN news broadcast. The main headline reads 'Ahmaud Arbery was killed doing what he loved, and a south Georgia community demands justice'. Below the headline is a photo of Ahmaud Arbery with his family. To the right is a COVID-19 statistics table. At the bottom, there is a 'NEW DEVELOPMENTS' banner for 'FRIENDS & FAMILY REMEMBER JOGGER GUNNED DOWN IN GEORGIA' and a weather forecast for various cities.

CORONAVIRUS ARBERY FAMILY	
GLOBALLY	
TOTAL CASES	3,769,150
DEATHS	264,111
IN THE UNITED STATES	
TOTAL CASES	1,228,609
DEATHS	73,431

NEW DEVELOPMENTS
FRIENDS & FAMILY REMEMBER JOGGER GUNNED DOWN IN GEORGIA

LIVE
CNN
4:38 AM PT

TODAY ALBUQUERQUE WIND 89° LAS VEGAS 96° SAN DIEGO 81°
NEW DAY



Background Formation of the Task Force

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

What can a black person do to keep from getting killed by police in this country?



The News&Observer



LOCAL

Fifth day of peaceful protests in Raleigh for George Floyd

The Charlotte Observer

Charlotte Black women call for inclusion, justice in rally over death of Breonna Taylor

BY LAUREL DEPPEN
JUNE 18, 2020 10:21 PM, UPDATED JUNE 19, 2020 11:14 AM



Background

Formation of the Task Force

Governor Cooper established the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC) through Executive Order 145 in June 2020.



Background Membership

Comprised of a diverse cross-section of leaders from across North Carolina:

- Advocates
- Elected officials
- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Public defenders
- Law enforcement



Gov. Cooper's new Racial Equity Task Force promises to turn words into action against systemic racism

11 abc By Jonah Kaplan
Friday, July 10, 2020



Structures

Listening Sessions & Public Comment Session

- Six listening sessions to hear from community leaders
- Three two-hour public comment sessions



Recommendations Related to Substance Use Disorder

Reimagining Public Safety

Reimagining Public Safety and Reinvest in Communities

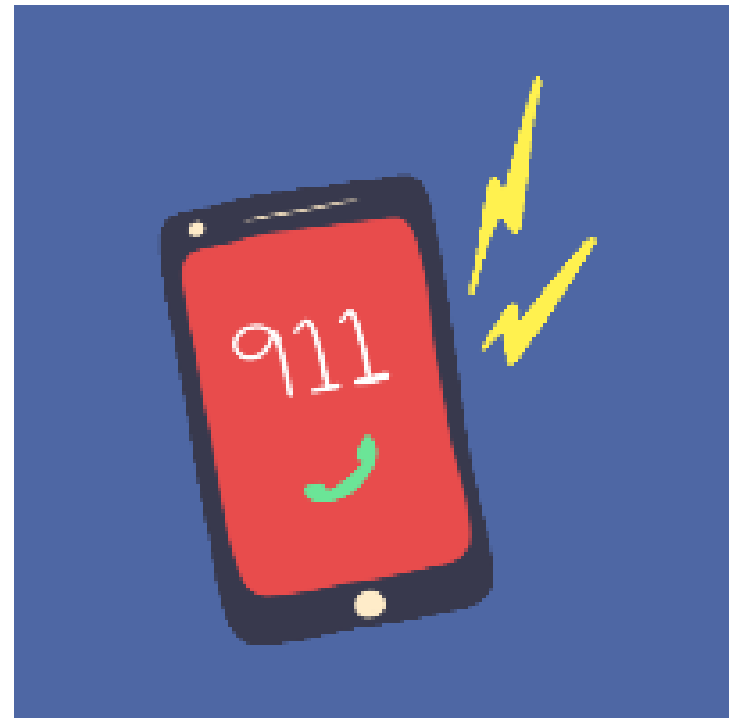
Respond more appropriately to calls for emergency service.



Reimagining Public Safety

Reimagining Public Safety and Reinvest in Communities

Add crisis intervention training.



Reimagining Public Safety

Reimagining Public Safety and Reinvest in Communities

Fund grassroots organizations.



Reimagining Public Safety

Reimagining Public Safety and Reinvest in Communities

Form Community Safety and Wellness Task Forces.



Improving Policing Practices Promote Diversion and Other Alternatives to Arrest

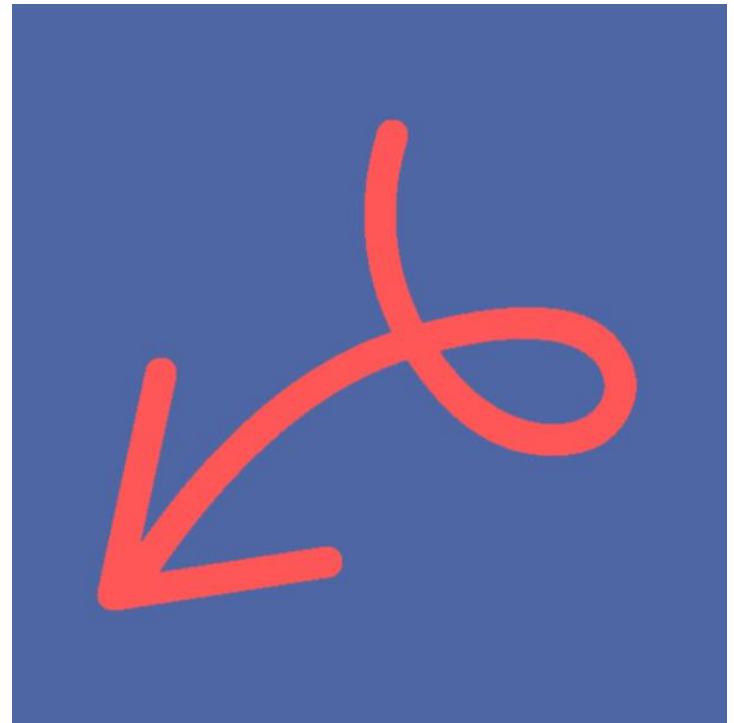
Treat addiction as public health
crisis.



Improving Policing Practices Promote Diversion and Other Alternatives to Arrest

Establish and expand access to diversion programs.

Encourage citations and summons in lieu of arrest whenever possible.



Improving Policing Practices Revise the role of School Resource Officers

Hire behavioral health professionals in schools/train all school personnel to meet student behavioral needs.



Enhancing Accountability Improve Law Enforcement Accountability and Culture

Study the effects of officers' physical and mental health on job performance.



Eliminating Racial Disparities in the Courts Decriminalize Marijuana Possession

Deprioritize marijuana-related arrests and possession.

Decriminalize the possession of up to 1.5 ounces of marijuana.



Eliminating Racial Disparities in the Courts **Decriminalize Marijuana Possession**

Convene a task force of stakeholders to study marijuana legislation.

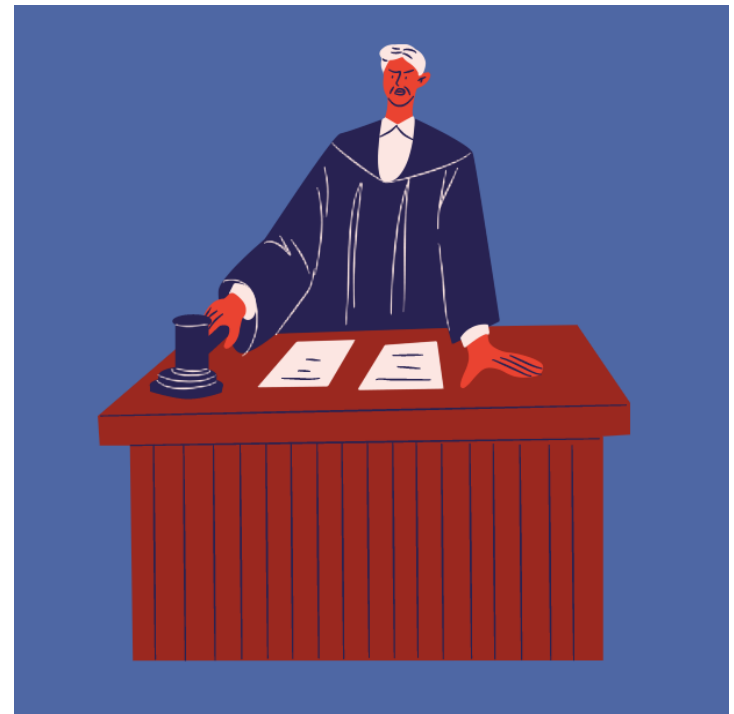


Eliminating Racial Disparities in the Courts **Improve Pretrial Release and Accountability Practices**

Eliminate cash bail for Class I, II, and III misdemeanors unless risk to public safety

Require first appearance within 48 hours or next day in which District Court is in session

Encourage the use of independent pretrial services whenever possible at no cost to defendant.



Promoting Racial Equity Post-Conviction **Amend Incarceration Facilities' Practices and Programming and Address Prison Discipline**

Increase funding for behavioral health services and programs in prison.



Key Process Issues

Task Force Next Steps

Final report was submitted to the Governor on Dec. 14

Task Force is now focusing on implementation of solutions and partnerships with other policymakers



Questions?

- [NCDOJ.GOV/TREC](https://ncdoj.gov/trec)



Wrap up and THANK YOU!

Alan Dellapenna, Branch Head, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, Division of Public Health

The meeting recording, agenda and PowerPoint slides will be added to our NC DHHS Opioids/OPDAAC page

- <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/departments/initiatives/opioid-epidemic/nc-opioid-and-prescription-drug-abuse-advisory>
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Next Virtual OPDAAC Meeting: March 2021 – stay tuned for more information.

Save the Date: Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit
May 4-6, 2021, Virtual