THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Sue Bailey, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point
THE PROBLEM

Hathaway Heroin Distribution Network

Maine Drug Enforcement Agency
Case No. DE.2015-5567

Case charged with
Concerned Applicant
Trafficing in
Inmate for collectively
Transporting and distributing
500,000 kilogram
units of
heroin to Ogdensburg and
County.

Between January 2016 and
April 2019.

Doctor's Office,

© Alamy

Family finds syringe at playground

ROBERT P MILLER PARK IN DELRAY BEACH

NEWS

A mother and her children find a syringe left behind at a playground in Delray Beach, Florida.
SIGNS OF AN EPIDEMIC?

• Heroin epidemic kills at least 23 Ohioans each week - CBS News (2016)
• Drug 8x more powerful than morphine found in Wisconsin Rapids – WSAW TV (2017)
• Md. gov declares state of emergency for heroin epidemic – WBAL TV (2017)
EPIDEMIC IS U.S. PHENOMENON

![Graph showing standard daily doses of opioids per million inhabitants across different countries, with the United States at the highest level.]
Past-year heroin users, heroin dependence and heroin initiates among persons 12 and older

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health
DATA BEHIND THE HEADLINES

National Overdose Deaths
Number of Deaths from Heroin

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, CDC Wonder
NEW RECORD?

Drugs now kill more people than cars, guns
Number of deaths from drug poisonings vs. other causes, 1999–2014

- Drug overdoses
- Car accidents
- Shootings

Source: CDC
# PEOPLE BEHIND THE EPIDEMIC

Heroin Use Has INCREASED Among Most Demographic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2002-2004*</th>
<th>2011-2013*</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEX</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGE, YEARS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-17</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-25</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>109%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 or older</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RACE/ETHNICITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic white</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>114%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$49,999</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 or more</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private or other</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heroin Addiction and Overdose Deaths are Climbing

PEOPLE BEHIND THE EPIDEMIC

DRAMATIC INCREASES IN MATERNAL OPIOID USE AND NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

The use of opioids during pregnancy can result in a drug withdrawal syndrome in newborns called Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), which causes lengthly and costly hospital stays. According to a new study, an estimated 21,732 babies were born with this syndrome in the United States in 2012, a 5-fold increase since 2000.

Every 25 minutes, a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal.

Average length or cost of hospital stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>With NAS</th>
<th>W/O NAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newborns</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAS and Maternal Opioid Use on the Rise

BABIES IN OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

“Babies need to do baby things like pee, poop, eat and sleep. Babies in withdrawal can do none of these things normally.”

Neonatologist, 2017
28% of children taken into custody in 2015 had parents using opioids.

Children are remaining in care longer due to the time it takes an addict to recover, thus reducing the number of available foster homes.

Foster care costs increased 20%, by $55 million, due to more children in care and their intense needs—which is sending agencies into significant deficit.

Successfully reunifying children of parents with opioid addiction requires much more intensive casework. Some local agencies report that more children are being placed in permanent custody than returning to parents.

Children in custody up 16%.

Ohio is 50th in the nation for state investment in children services—over 4x lower than the national average.

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We need to put our kids first, not last.

Ohio must invest in children services!
THE PROBLEM IN WISCONSIN

Rate of Opioid Use Disorder Has **More Than Doubled** since 2005.

**Wisconsin, 2005-2014**

- **n=5,828**
- **n=14,103**

Source: Wisconsin Division of Public Health: Office of Addiction and Mental Health
THE PROBLEM IN WISCONSIN

Opioid-Related Hospitalizations Are Driven by Prescription Opioids.

Wisconsin, 2006-2015

Note: Drug overdose death numbers may include more than one type of drug.
Source: Wisconsin Division of Public Health: Office of
THE PROBLEM IN WISCONSIN

As Opioid Use Identified at the Time of Delivery increased among mothers, the Rate of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome also increased.

Wisconsin, 2009-2014

Rate per 1,000 delivery hospitalizations

Maternal Opioid Use
n=1,041

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
n=508

Note: Different methods may be used to identify NAS.

Source: "Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Maternal Substance Use in Wisconsin" report
THE PROBLEM IN WISCONSIN
REASONS: CHEAP

DEA Intelligence Brief, April 2015
REASONS: PURE

DEA Intelligence Brief, April 2015
REASONS: GATEWAY DRUGS

Figure 1: Distribution of selected opioids to US pharmacies (in milligrams per 100 persons). Based on data from the Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System, 2000–2010.
OPIOIDS

- **Opiates** – Plant-derived (opium)
- **Opioids** – Plant-derived and synthetic
  - **Oxycodone** – semisynthetic; combined with non-narcotic analgesics (OxyContin, Percocet)
  - **Hydrocodone** – semisynthetic from codeine (Vicodin)
  - **Hydromorphone** – semisynthetic from morphine (Dilaudid)
  - **Fentanyl** – potent, fast-acting fully synthetic (X100)
    - **Carfentanyl** (X10,000)
OXYCONTIN: MAGIC PILL

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er78Dj5hyel

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-flXl8CkY0
FENTANYL: INCREASING THE RISKS

Lethal dose of heroin compared to lethal dose of fentanyl
FENTANYL IN WISCONSIN

SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS IN WISCONSIN
Most deaths involved fentanyl

Data: WI Department of Health and Human Services
REASONS: GATEWAY DRUGS

Some states have more opioid prescriptions per person than others.

Number of opioid prescriptions per 100 people:
- 52-71
- 72-82.1
- 82.2-95
- 96-143

SOURCE: IMS, National Prescription Audit (NPA™), 2012.
CRIMINAL OR SICK?
OPPORTUNITY: STEPWISE PAIN MANAGEMENT

Step up – Step Down Adaptation Ladder

New adaptation of the analgesic ladder

STEP 1
- Nonopioid analgesics
- NSAIDs

STEP 2
- Weak opioids
- Oral administration
- Transdermal patch

STEP 3
- Strong opioids
- Methadone
- Nerve blocks
- Epidurals
- PCA pumps
- Neurolytic block therapy
- Spinal stimulators

STEP 4
- Nerve block
- Epidurals
- PCA pump
- Neurolytic block therapy
- Spinal stimulators

Neurosurgical procedures

Acute pain
- Chronic pain without control
- Acute crises of chronic pain

Chronic pain
- Non-malignant pain
- Cancer pain

OPPORTUNITY: NALOXONE

KEEPCALM
AND
CARRY
NALOXONE
OPPORTUNITY: DRUG COURTS

• Offender screening and assessment of risks, needs, and responsivity.
• Judicial interaction.
• Monitoring (e.g., drug testing) and supervision.
• Graduated sanctions and incentives.
• Treatment and rehabilitation services.
DO DRUG COURTS WORK?

• Lower recidivism – Dropped from 40% to 12% in one study
• Lower cost - $6744 per participant savings
• Factors for success
  • Proper assessment and treatment
  • Relationship between the offender and judge
OPPORTUNITY: RISK REDUCTION

• Prevention of drug-related “harm”
  • Individual, community, societal
  • Health, social, economic
• Syringe exchange
• Safe injection sites
• Methadone and other maintenance approaches
PERCENT SPENT ON TREATMENT/ PREVENTION VS LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE US (2016)
LEAVE YOU WITH 2 QUESTIONS

1. Why is the problem so much bigger in the US compared to other developed countries?

2. Do we need to change the way we view drug abuse and abusers?