The Case for a National Harm Reduction Strategy

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3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths

- **Wave 1**: Rise in Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths
- **Wave 2**: Rise in Heroin Overdose Deaths
- **Wave 3**: Rise in Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths

**Other Synthetic Opioids**
e.g., Tramadol and Fentanyl, prescribed or illicitly manufactured

**Commonly Prescribed Opioids**
Natural & Semi-Synthetic Opioids and Methadone

**Heroin**

The gains we made in reducing HIV incidence among PWID are quickly eroding...

**Number of HIV Infections Diagnosed among Adults and Adolescents, by Transmission Category, 2005–2014 – United States and 6 Dependent Areas**

- Male-to-male sexual contact: 30,000 diagnoses (with a 63% decline over 10 years; 6% of all HIV infections in 2014)
- Heterosexual contact: 25,000 diagnoses
- Injection drug use: 15,000 diagnoses (6,408 in 2005, 2,364 in 2014)

**CDC:**
- HCV Leading Cause of Death in 2015
- Nonsterile injection is leading cause of new HCV infections
- HIV Incidence Up Among PWID in 2016
- 9% of all HIV dx
- 13% of all AIDS dx
Second man found dead in Democratic donor Ed Buck's apartment also OD'd on meth

Timothy Dean, 55, was found dead in Buck's apartment after Gemmel Moore, 26, died there in July 2017.
72,000 Lives...
The new narrative?
The United States is the largest consumer of narcotics in the world. About 1 in 12 Americans needed some form of substance use treatment, but only about 11% of these people actually receive treatment.

Not so fast...

2017 Opioid Overdose Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Where rate for Black, Non-Hispanic individuals exceeds rate for White individuals
“Across the nation, there are no communities that have not been affected by the crisis.”

--Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States: A Roadmap for Federal Action
Racialized drug policies hurt all people. Regardless of race.
Solutions

Integrated addiction & infectious disease prevention, treatment, & care

Syringe service programs in all 50 states

Anti-racist framework
Integrating Addiction and Infectious Disease Care

“As we see it, the medical community is also in early recovery—moving past implicit biases, stigma, and fear to connect with our patients and respond to a defining crisis of our time.”

-Alison B. Rapoport, MD and Christopher F. Rowley, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston

Retrieved May 16, 2019
Anti-racist framework

“As substance use treatment counselors are socialized within institutions of systemic racism, it is important to examine their positioning on racism and how it ...influences their ability to provide culturally competent care.”

-Sara Matsuzaka, PhD
Margaret Knapp, MSW
Fordham University, New York City

The U.S. Opioid Crisis

National Harm Reduction Strategy:

1. Scale up SSPs in all 50 states
2. Provide unfettered access to naloxone
3. Expand MAT
4. Address structural violence
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Getting to 50

1. Optimal policies
2. Robust implementation
3. Sustainable financing
4. Supportive communities
THIS IS 1985!!!
Thank You

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