Overdose, Infectious Disease, and Harm Reduction in Southern Illinois

Southern Illinois Drug Awareness Conference

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BACKGROUND

• Rural communities experience high rates of drug use and overdose

• In response to Scott County HIV outbreak, CDC analysis in 2016 identified 220 counties as vulnerable to HIV/HCV outbreaks, 65% of these were rural¹

• Driven by rural social determinants of health which pose barriers to access
  • >60% housing insecurity, 30% without phones, 50% without transportation²

• Harm reduction services (HRS) play a vital role in risk reduction and health promotion among rural people who use drugs

• Compared to urban counterparts, rural HRS is face significant limits to funding, marginalization, and vulnerabilities exacerbated by COVID-19³

OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL OPIOID INITIATIVE (ROI)

• The UG3/UH3 grants: Biphasic awards (Go – No Go)
  • UG3: Exploratory-Developmental phase to assess community needs and strengths – first 2 years
  • UH3: Propose, implement and test evidence-based practices to address opioid use and related comorbidities – 3 years

• UH3 interventions to reflect local concerns and needs
  • 7 UG3 sites proceeded to UH3 phase

• NIDA administers; CDC, SAMHSA, & Appalachian Regional Commission co-fund oversight
ILLINOIS ROI SITE: ETHIC STUDY


• Goal to identify risk of HIV / HCV outbreak related in injection drug use in rural jurisdictions
• Used findings to inform the community response project


• Expand harm reduction services through direct study referral
• Expand treatment capacity for HCV, MOUD treatment through ECHO Model
STUDY TEAM

University of Chicago & Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
  • Study leadership
  • Study administration
  • Data collection, analysis and dissemination

The Community Action Place, LLC (tCAP)
  • Community collaborator lead
  • Community Advisory Board
  • Study participant referral, screening and referral to services

Illinois Department of Public Health
  • Public health dataset analysis, data dissemination
RECRUITMENT AND DATA COLLECTION

• Recruitment: TCAP referral, community events, incentivized peer referral

• Eligibility
  • >= 15 yo, injected any drug or used opioids per any route in past 30 days, English speaking, residing in study area

• Baseline survey: Drug use, risk behavior, HIV/HCV/STI, criminal legal, mental health, healthcare, stigma, social network inventory

• POC screening HIV, HCV, syphilis; urine GC/CT, confirmatory testing

• Qualitative interviews of PWUD and community stakeholders
## UH3 Enrollment: Demographics, N=305

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>197 (64.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>107 (35.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender/Gender-NC</td>
<td>1 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean, SD</td>
<td>42.1 (SD 11.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median [IQR]</td>
<td>41 [16.5]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sexual Orientation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight or Heterosexual</td>
<td>263 (86.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian or Gay</td>
<td>8 (2.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual/Pansexual/Other</td>
<td>30 (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/not sure</td>
<td>4 (1.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### UH3 Enrollment: Demographics, N=305

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# UH3 Drug Characteristics, N=305

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>N (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drug of Choice (self-report), in the last 30 days</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>209 (68.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine/Crack</td>
<td>71 (23.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>58 (19.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid Painkillers</td>
<td>42 (13.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Fentanyl</td>
<td>40 (13.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>38 (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription Anxiety Drugs</td>
<td>34 (11.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buprenorphine</td>
<td>16 (5.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabapentin</td>
<td>12 (4.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonidine</td>
<td>7 (2.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone</td>
<td>7 (2.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthetics</td>
<td>2 (0.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UH3 INJECTION DATA

Past 30-day reported behavior
- Injected alone = 81%
- Injected with others = 85%
- Multiple single-sitting = 72%
- Shared equipment = 66%

Drugs injected
- Meth = 90%
- Fentanyl/carfentanil = 56%
- Heroin = 53%
- Drug combination = 52%
FINDINGS: OVERDOSE

- 41% of participants have ever overdosed.
- On average, participants experienced 4 overdoses in their lifetime.
- On average, participants knew 4 people who have died from an overdose in the last 6 months.
- 70% of people have witnessed an overdose.
FINDINGS: NALOXONE

Naloxone aka Narcan©

Narcan Possession and Use (Last 6 months)

- Received an overdose reversal kit or prescription for naloxone or Narcan: 38.00%
- Used naloxone or Narcan on someone to reverse an overdose: 32.00%

43% of participants have Naloxone or Narcan at home.
## FINDINGS: RACIAL DISPARITIES IN OVERDOSE AND NALOXONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Race (n=302)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have ever used harm reduction services</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever overdosed</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever seen someone overdose?</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever gotten an overdose reversal kit</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever used Narcan to reverse an overdose</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have Narcan at your house now</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

STI Self Report and Test Results

- Self Report
- Positive Rapid STI Test Results
- Positive Confirmatory Test Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Self Report</th>
<th>Positive Rapid STI Test Results</th>
<th>Positive Confirmatory Test Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea/Chlamydia (Oral)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea/Chlamydia (Urine)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total Responses: 291
FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Sexual Behavior (in the last 30 Days)

- Of those participants:
  - 60% had vaginal or anal sex without a condom\(^b\)
  - 58% engaged in vaginal or anal sex without a condom with someone who injects drugs\(^c\)

- \(^b\) Total responses: 296
- \(^c\) Total Responses: 171
FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

HIV Care Continuum

49%
Have heard of medicine people can take to prevent HIV (PrEP) \(d\)

3%
Have ever been offered medicine to prevent HIV

\(d\) Total Responses: 303
FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

HCV Cascade of Care by Self Report

Only 25% of participants who reported having tested positive for Hepatitis C in the past were treated.

- All Participants: 100%
- Ever Tested: 77%
- Received Results: 74%
- Positive Test: 25%
- Antiviral Therapy: 6%
- Cleared / Cured*: 10%

*Total responses: 306
“And as far as the Narcan and whatnot, I don't know -- I know you can get a prescription for it, but like me, I can't get a prescription because I'm not an opioid user. So for me to get -- I wouldn't know where I would get Narcan. But like I told you, a year and a half ago, roughly, if it wasn't for you guys [tCAP], I wouldn't have had the Narcan that literally saved my fiancé's life, literally.”
FINDINGS: HARM REDUCTION ACCESS

Over the course of the study tCAP experienced a 5-fold expansion in their participant base and a 3.5-fold expansion in their zip-codes served.

48% of those surveyed who were not previously receiving harm reduction services became newly engaged in tCAP services after their study participation.
FINDINGS: THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLACE

In the past 6 months, 31% of participants received services from tCAP.
FINDINGS: THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLACE – PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

“I would still have hepatitis B [sic] if it weren't for you guys the staff helped me really well. They took me to all my appointments and everything. Not many people would be willing to do that.”

“He cares about the community, cares about people being healthy and feeling a place for us, you know? Worthy. And he'll take the time to visit and make sure everybody’s doing well. It’s not just needles, you know, it’s about making a connection.”

“When [Participants partner] overdosed and we didn't have Narcan, I was scared to death. I had no idea. I had never been there during the overdose…I didn't know what to do. First thing I did was pick up the phone and called [tCAP Staff] and he was there to talk to me and kind of like, just kind of tell me what to expect and what to watch for and it -- he was a lifesaver for me”
Thank you to all of our study participants!

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Sarah Patrick

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Cy Chamberlain, Alex Socorro
Hopewell Baptist Church
NAACP, Carbondale Chapter

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