

In 2017 drug overdoses became the leading cause of death for Americans younger than 50 years old.

The opioid epidemic cost \$1 trillion from 2001-2017 and continues to climb



# THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN THE US

Research on comprehensive substance use prevention and treatment  
April 2018



# WHAT IS THE COST OF THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES?



- > **\$1 Trillion** from 2001-2017 and climbing.
- > **\$115 Billion** annually.
- > **500 Million** in additional cost projected by 2020.
- > **8 Billion** in criminal justice-related expenses.



- In 2017 Drug Overdoses** became the leading cause of death for Americans younger than 50 years old.
- > **42,000 deaths** from opioid-related incidents in the US annually.
  - > **11,000 deaths** from opioid overdoses registered in Illinois since 2008.
  - > **115 deaths** every day in Illinois.



- > **\$215 billion** in healthcare costs from 2001 to 2017, mostly from emergency room visits, ambulance and *Naloxone* use – primarily falling on Medicaid, and therefore states.
- > **\$92,400** is the average cost per patient for opioid-related intensive care.
- > **\$800,000** is the estimated productivity loss from an overdose death.



- 4 out of every 5 heroin users** started their addiction by abusing prescription opioids before transitioning to illegal substances.
- 93% of opioid overdoses** can be reversed by *Naloxone*

## What are opioids?



Opioids include drugs such as morphine, heroin, fentanyl and oxycodone. The term “opioid” comes from the word “opium.” It’s a chemical that comes from poppies. For thousands of years, opium has been used to treat pain. Through the years, people also have used and abused these drugs, resulting in addiction

### Opioids include:

- Heroin
- Hydrocodone
- OxyContin
- Oxycodone
- Vicodin
- Fentanyl
- Morphine
- Methadone
- Codeine
- Meperidine

**SOLUTIONS MUST ADDRESS:  
PREVENTION EDUCATION  
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO TREATMENT  
AND UNDERSTANDING THE RECOVERY PROCESS**

# SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

To address the crisis, it is important to consider a combination of three elements:



The challenge of implementing these key strategies involves a range of actors, including:



Roughly

**88%**

of Illinois residents (248,000) with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) go without treatment in our state.

For more than 45 years, Rincon Family Services has treated individuals with medication-assisted treatment and therapeutic support to overcome drug use.

During this time, we have had many success stories, such as those of Jaime Rodriguez, Nicole Brown and Jannette Carvallo, who after completing their treatment, have joined our team as a Peer Support Specialists, having the opportunity to share their own experiences in the road to recovery.



For more than 45 years Duane Dean Behavioral Services provides comprehensive services through integrated programs, including prevention and educational resources for substance use and the disease of addiction.

Our "Opioid Maintenance Therapy" (OMT) program provides, under medical supervision, a methadone treatment - combined with counseling - as an alternative program for persons addicted to opiates



# MAT (MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT)

MAT combines:



## Behavioral Health Therapies

Addressing mental health issues for those struggling with addiction, increasing tools for coping with depression and anxiety.

+



## Medication Treatment

The use of medications such as methadone and buprenorphine, to safely wean users off of dangerous opioids.

= - LESS DISCOMFORT FROM WITHDRAWAL  
- INCREASED CHANCES FOR SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY

Because of its multi-faceted approach, the MAT has been proven to be the most effective form of treatment for opioid addiction. As the pharmaceuticals remove the physical dependency of opioids, the behavioral therapy addresses underlying mental health issues related to addiction. As a result, MAT has been shown to markedly reduce the illegal use of opioids.

## THE MAIN BARRIER TO MAT ACCESS IS LIMITED COVERAGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGH:



### EHB

Essential Health Benefits



### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

These programs do not entirely ensure access to receiving medication-assisted therapy, as the EHBs do not mandate coverage of all treatment options. As a result, significant obstacles may be present when seeking effective treatment methods. Services may not be covered by insurance, making it potentially unaffordable for some.

Additional barriers to accessing MAT are the many health insurance plans throughout the United States:



Require prior authorization



Limit treatment duration



Require proof of failure using other treatment methods for coverage

**MORE THAN 30 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE IN A COUNTY WITHOUT A PHYSICIAN ELIGIBLE TO ADMINISTER MAT**