

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION and INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL: Opportunities for Collaboration

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE?

- **2 million** Americans have a substance use disorder involving prescription drugs.¹
- An estimated **10%-20%** of people who misuse prescription opioids eventually shift to **intravenous drug use (IDU)**.²

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION TO OPIOID MISUSE PREVENTION?

- Opioid misuse puts people at risk for **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), hepatitis A, B, and C,** and other infections.
- **10% of AIDS** cases and **6% of HIV** cases were due to IDU in 2015.³
- The rate of **hepatitis C virus (HCV)** infection **doubled** between 2001 and 2015;⁴ currently, about **50%** of IV drug users are infected with **HCV**.⁵

WHAT ARE THE SHARED RISK FACTORS?

- Homelessness
- Poly-substance use
- Poverty
- Stigma
- Mental health issues
- History of incarceration

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Improve collaboration between public health agencies, harm reduction organizations, and treatment providers.



Increase routine screening, encourage testing, and improve referral processes.



Promote partner notification policies and procedures at testing sites.



Improve naloxone distribution among high-risk populations.



Co-locate services to the extent possible.



Encourage communities to utilize **peer coaches and advocates** to help navigate health systems.



For more information about opioid misuse and overdose, email us at pttc6@ou.edu.

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