

Lobby Question

What are you hoping to learn from this webinar?





Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9)

PTTC

Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

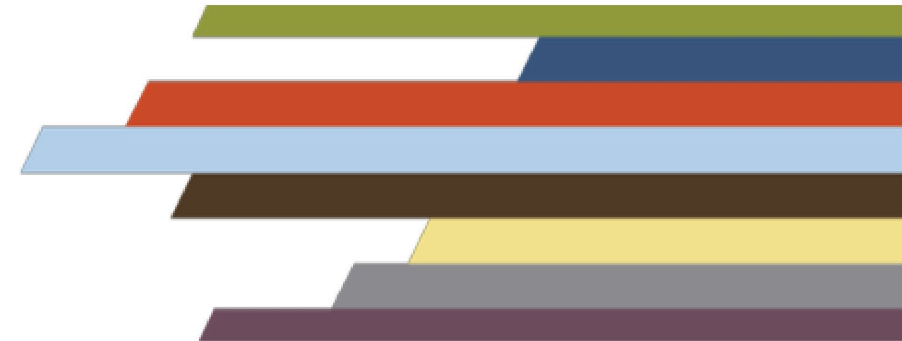


Opioids and Xylazine

What are they and what do prevention professionals need to know and do to prevent misuse?

September 9, 2025

Nicole Rodin, PharmD, MBA





Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9)

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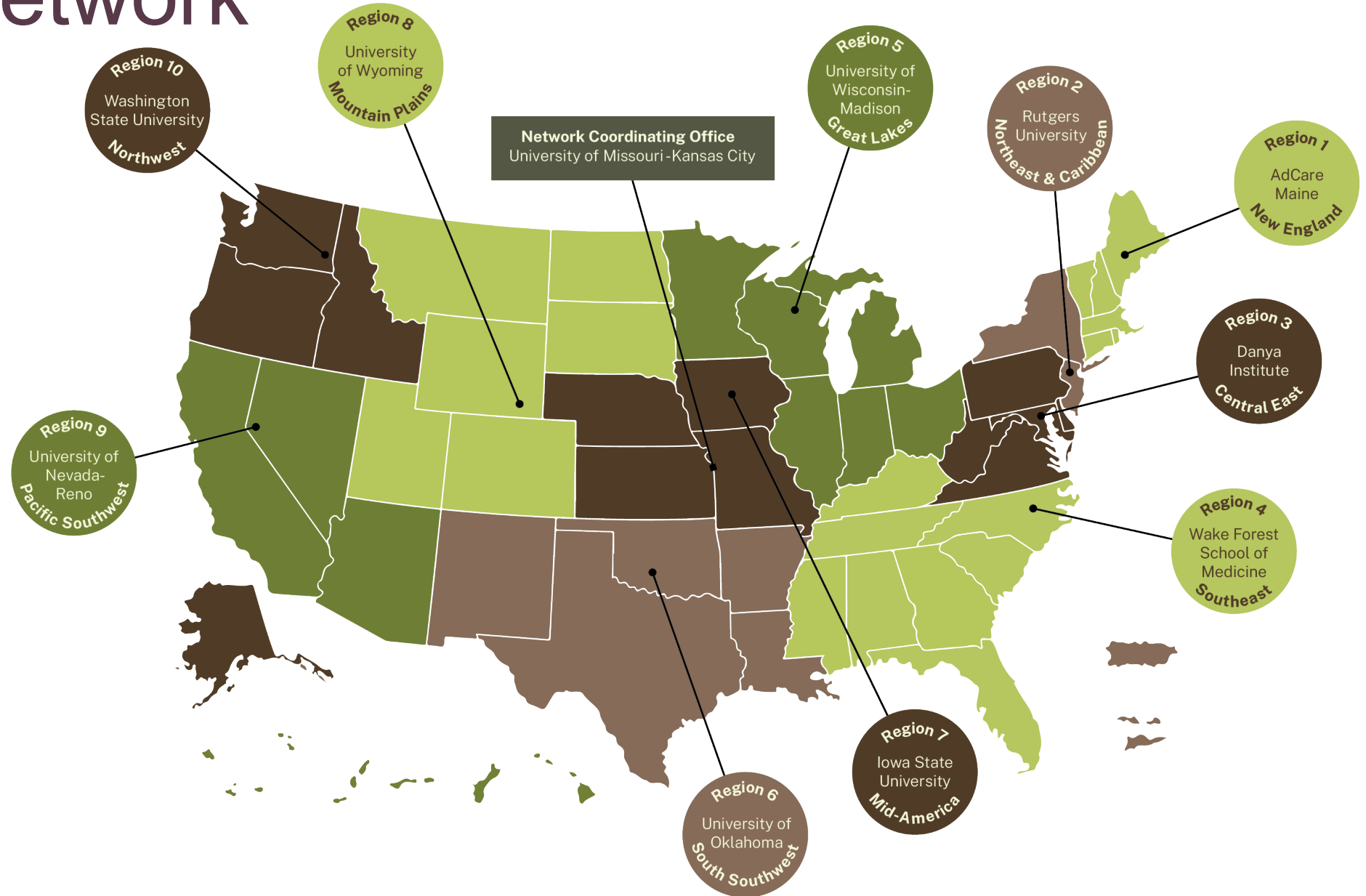
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PTTC Network



Purpose of the TTCs

1

Develop and strengthen the **workforces** that provide substance use disorder and mental health disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

2

Help people and organizations incorporate **effective practices** into substance use and mental health disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services.



PTTC Network Approach

The PTTCs...

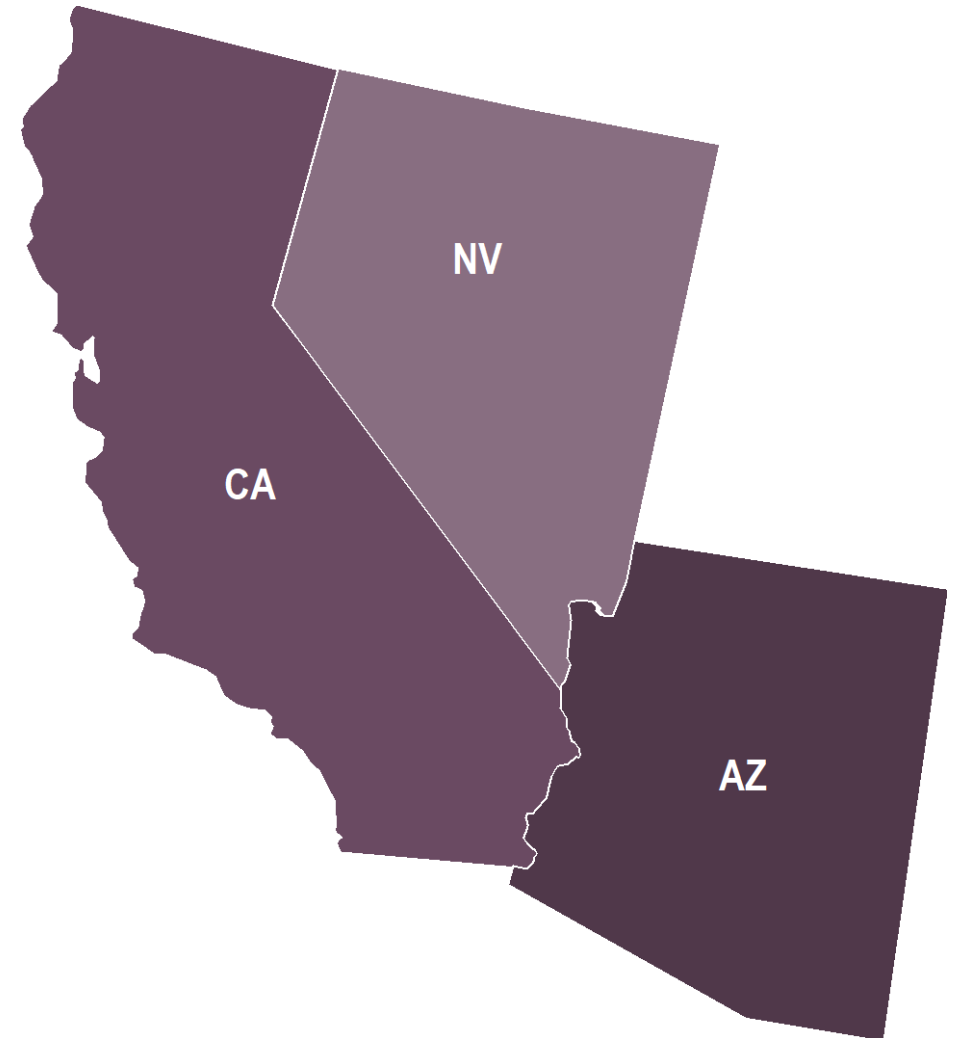
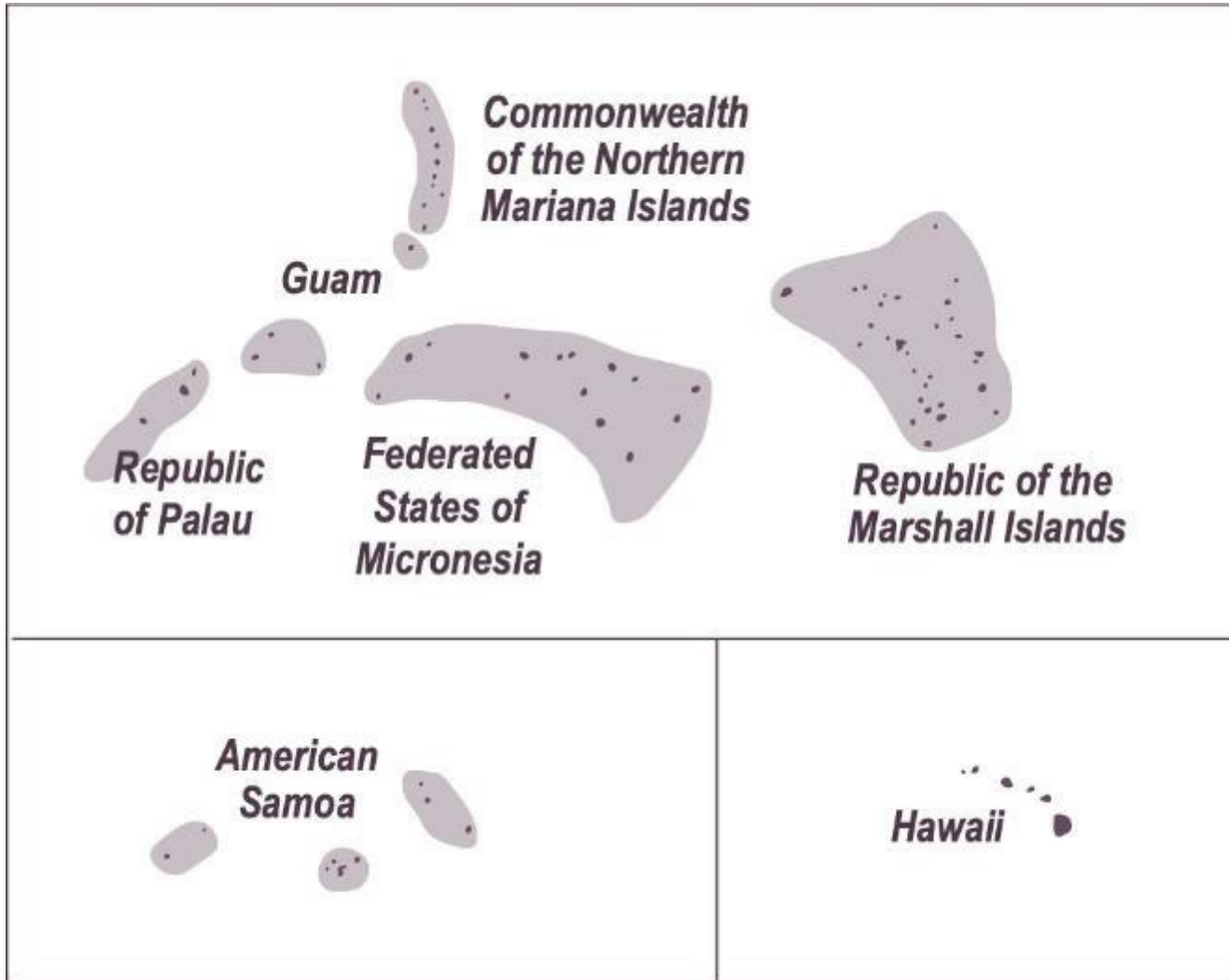
Develop and disseminate tools and strategies needed to improve the quality of substance abuse prevention efforts

Provide training and resources to prevention professionals to improve their understanding of

- prevention science,
- how to use epidemiological data to guide prevention planning, and
- selection and implementation of evidence-based and promising prevention practices.

Develop tools and resources to engage the next generation of prevention professionals

Pacific Southwest



Housekeeping

- Chat feature
- Q&A feature
- Webinar recording and materials
- Certificates of attendance



Learning Objectives

- Explain what illicitly manufactured fentanyl is and how it compares to other opioids
- Describe what Xylazine is and how it is used in illicit substances
- Recognize current drug use trends
- Describe current guidance on occupational fentanyl exposure, naloxone safety, and evidence-based prevention to prevent opioid and xylazine misuse



Opioids and Xylazine



Substance Use in Nevada

Nationally, overdoses went down in 2024. However, Nevada was one of two states to see rates increase in 2024.

3 Overdose deaths involved xylazine in 2023

Xylazine was identified in methamphetamine and heroine products

Substance Use in California

From Jan-June in 2026 there were ~463-576 deaths per month due to synthetic opioids

Santa Clara county confirmed Xylazine in the drug supply in Feb 2025

4 overdose deaths involving xylazine were reported in 2023

Substance Use in Arizona

In 2023, AZ saw
1928 opioid
overdose deaths

More than 5 deaths
per day from
opioids (plus 11
nonfatal overdoses
per day)

No data found for
xylazine

Substance Use in Hawaii

Approximately
70% of drug
overdose deaths
involve an opioid

Slight increase in
overdose deaths
from 2023-2024

No confirmed
cases of xylazine

Substance Use in Pacific Islands

Pacific Behavioral Health
Collaborating Council's
Epidemiological Workgroup does
not currently have data related to
opioids or xylazine

How is accessing drugs different?



| Oxycodone

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| Xanax® **| Percocet®** **| Adderall®**

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The Oxycodone section features a row of ten icons: a flame, a chick, a smartphone, a chocolate bar, a football, a house, a document, a car, and a shopping cart. Below this is a second row of five icons: a cardboard box, a snowflake, a zzz symbol, the number 100, and a gas pump. The Xanax section shows a red and white capsule, a white tablet with a red mark, and a yellow school bus. The Percocet section shows a red and white capsule, a blue pill, and a blue circle with a white 'P'. The Adderall section shows a red and white capsule, the letters 'A-', and a train icon.



Most Common Prescription Opioids

Hydrocodone (Vicodin)

Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet)

Oxymorphone (Opana)

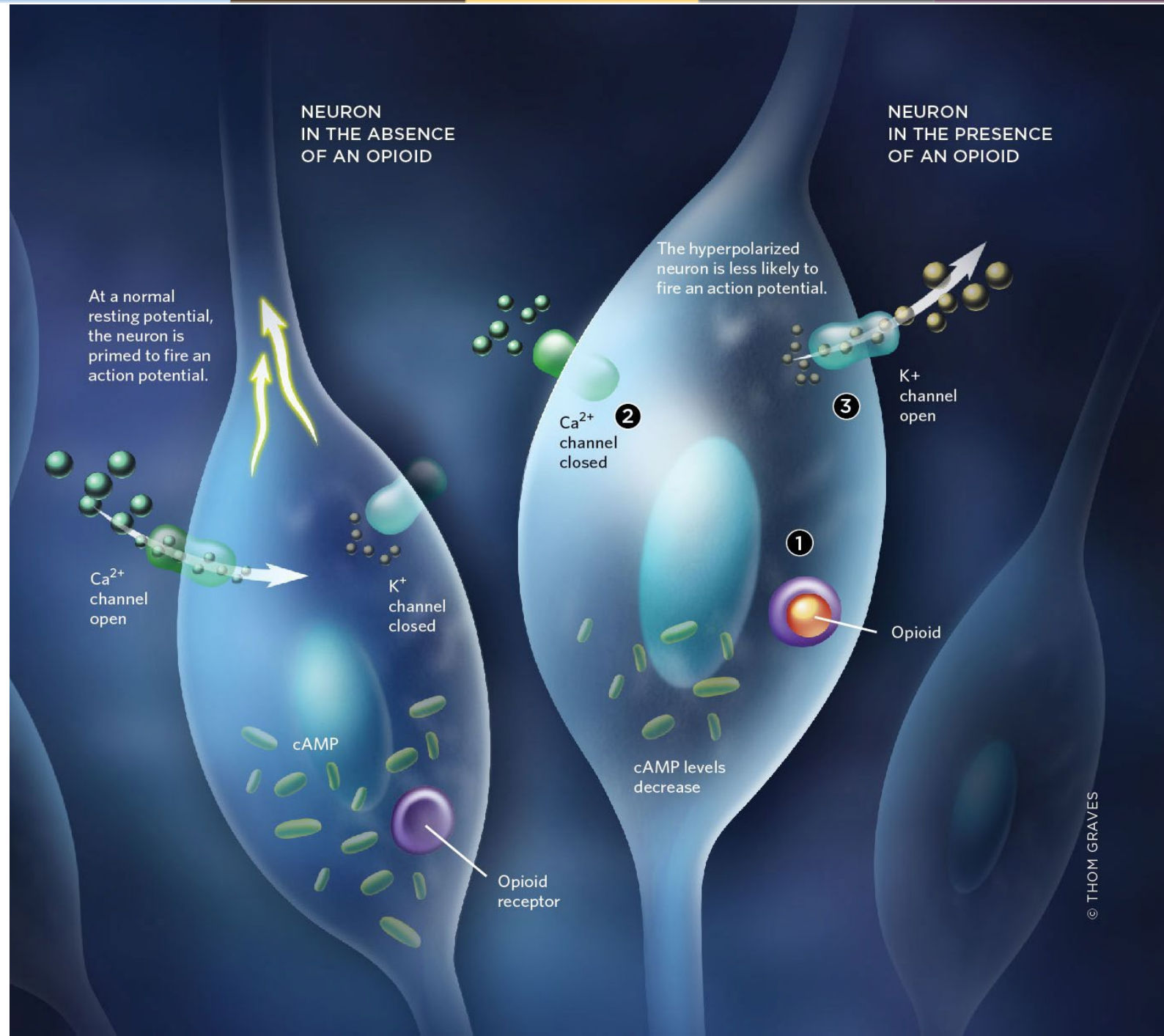
Morphine (Kadian, Avinza)

Codeine

Mu Opioid Receptors are all over our bodies

Play a role in systems such as:

- Pain
- Thirst
- Mood
- Hunger
- Etc.



Two forms of dependance

Physical

- The body's reaction to sustained exposure to a drug
- Physical and observable withdrawal symptoms
- This process can be painful and consuming

Psychological

- Sustained mental need for the drug or substance
- Can occur with essentially any substance
- Hardwiring of the brain- we develop attachments or a need for the substance
- May last longer than a physical dependance



Fentanyl - What is it?



Prescription Fentanyl



Prescription Fentanyl in the Body

Forms	Potency	Onset	Duration	Route of Administration
Lozenge	50 times more potent than heroin	IV – immediately	IV- 0.5- 1 hour	Injected
Patch		SL/ buccal- 5 min	SL/buccal- varies	
sublingual (SL) or buccal preparations	100 times more potent than morphine	Patch- 6 hr	Patch- 72-96 hr	Orally through the mucus membranes in the mouth
Solution (IV, subQ, etc.)				Skin



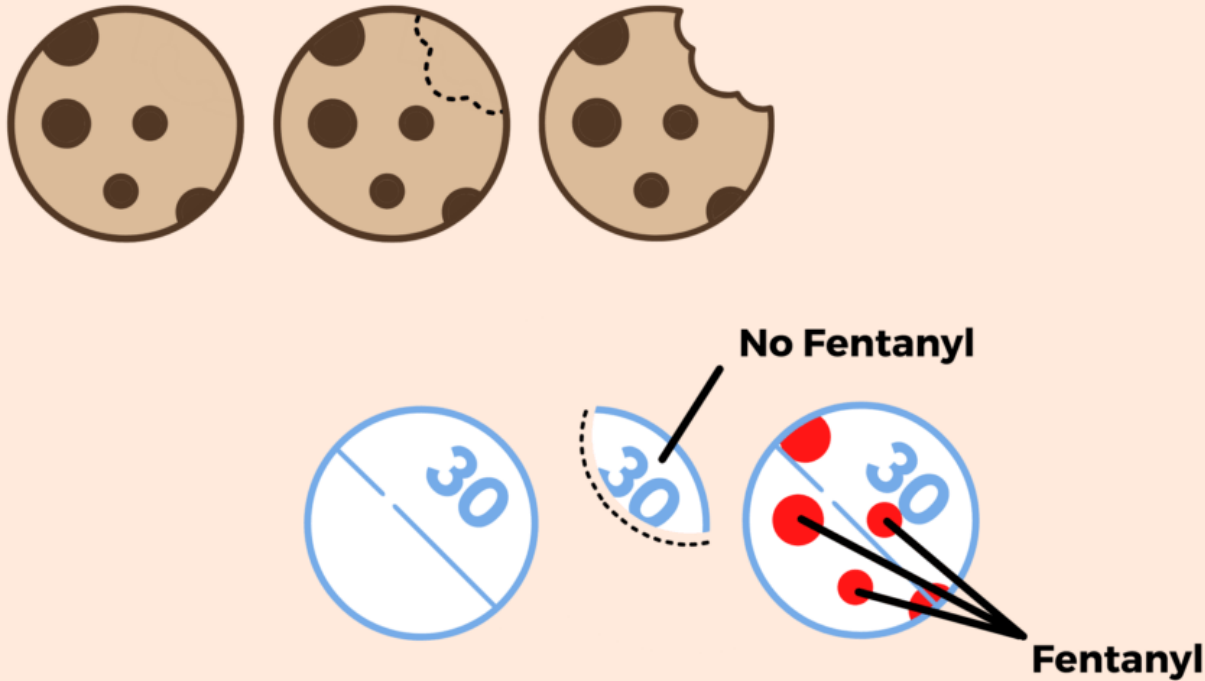
Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl (IMF)

IMF Laboratory



Why is that important?

The Chocolate Chip Cookie Effect

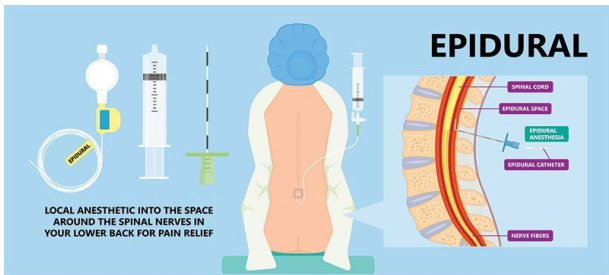


What was sold?



Sold as: Xanax

Rx fentanyl
used
medically is
safe and
appropriate



Article by John Naranja MD, JD.



Xylazine



What is Xylazine?

- Alpha-2 agonist – NOT an opioid
- Veterinary anesthetic not approved in humans
- Other names: tranq, sleep cut
- Effects
 - Sedation
 - Pain relief
 - Muscle relaxation
 - Trouble breathing
 - +/- euphoria
- Withdrawal
 - Limited information





Xylazine Overview

- First overdose in 1979
- Philadelphia in 2006- xylazine in the heroin supply
- Hiatus 2007-2018
- Reappeared in 2019
- Declared an emerging threat in July 2023
- Xylazine related wounds
 - Chronic
 - Difficult to heal on your own
 - Painful
 - Not designated to injection site

Xylazine as an Additive



Heroin



Fentanyl



Cocaine

Emerging Threat

High opioid overdose death rate

Both opioids (heroin, oxycodone, fake fentanyl) and xylazine slow the breathing

One study showed xylazine was in less than 1% of drug overdose deaths in 2015, in 2020, this increased to 7%

Another study showed that xylazine was found in 80% of drug samples that contained opioids in Maryland

Can look like an opioid overdose

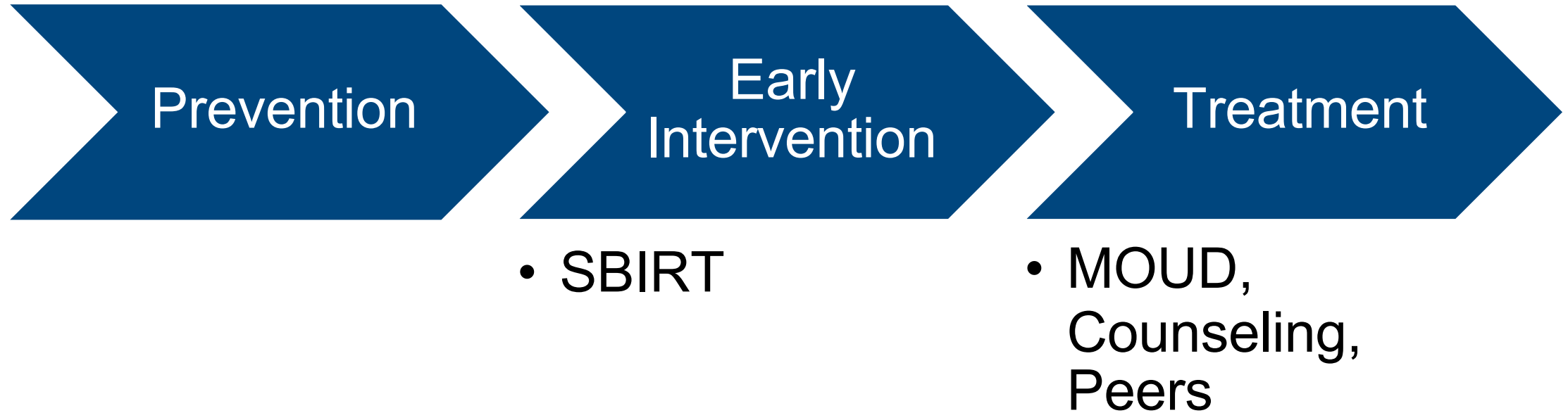
Naloxone does not reverse xylazine overdose



Prevention & Life Saving Overdose Prevention Strategies

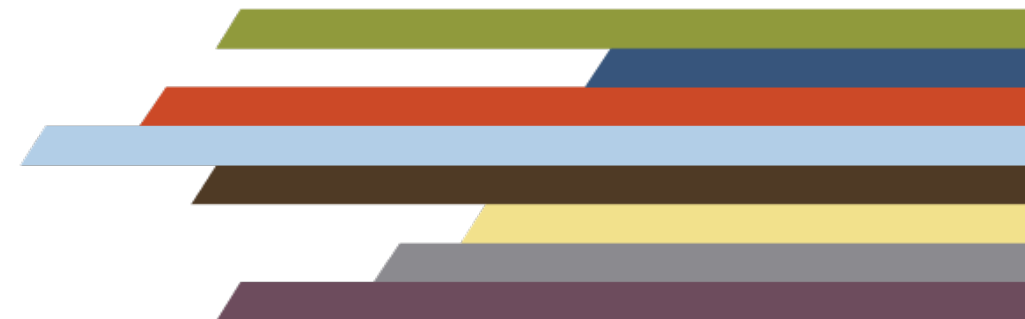


General Prevention Tools





Prevention



Evidence Based Prevention Strategies

Primary Prevention

- Family Based Programs
- School programs rooted in social learning theory

Secondary Prevention

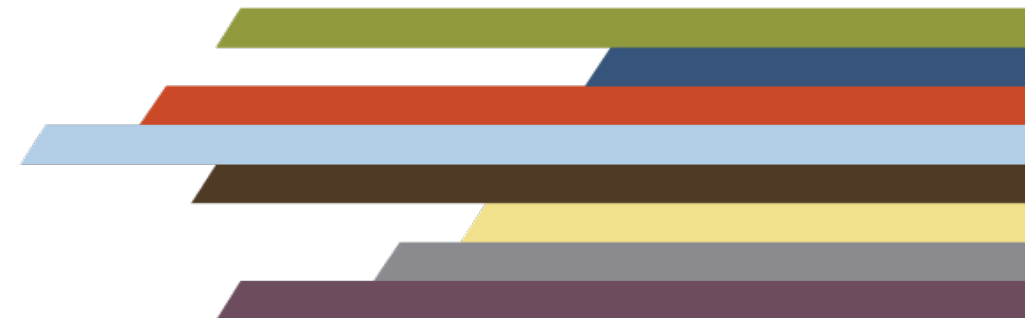
- Early Intervention
- Treatment when necessary (even for adolescents)

Evidence Based Prevention Tools

- [“Talk. They Hear You.”[®] – Parent Resources](#)
- [“Talk. They Hear You.”[®] – Community Partner Resources](#)
- [Program Profile: Strengthening Families Program: For Parents and Youth 10-14](#)



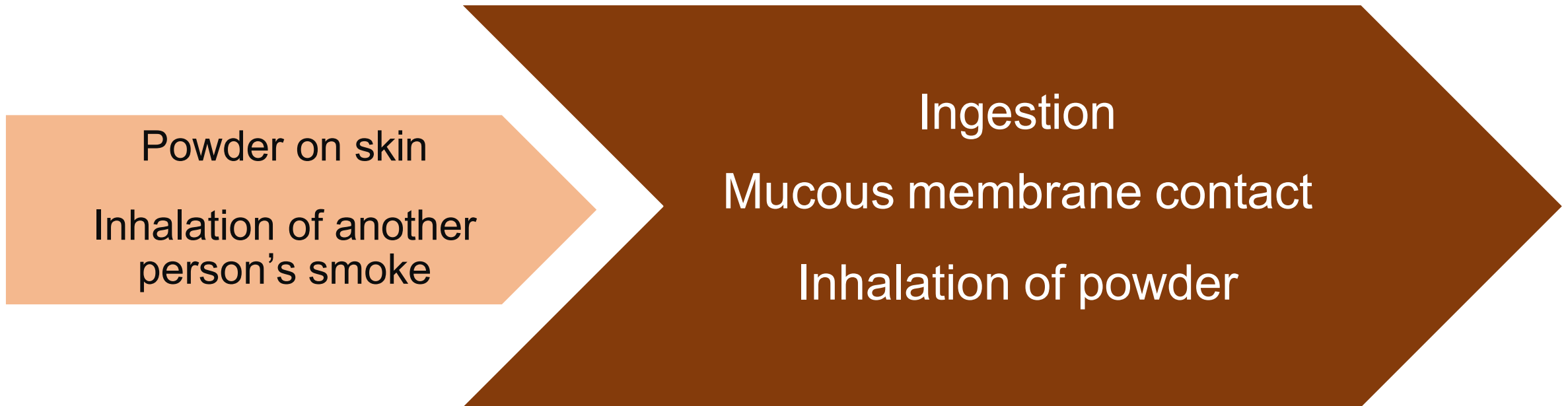
Life Saving Overdose Prevention



Fentanyl Exposure and Clean Up



All exposures are not the same



Basically, if it is a way to get high, it is more dangerous occupationally too

Skin Contact

From DEA – Safety Recommendations for First Responders:

“Incidental skin contact may occur during daily activities but is not expected to lead to detrimental effects if the contaminated skin is promptly washed off with water. “

Secondary Smoke Inhalation

From Stopoverdose.org:

“There have been no clinically confirmed overdoses (breathing slowed or stopped) from people who breathed in secondhand fentanyl smoke. “Secondhand fentanyl smoke” is smoke coming off a burning pill or powder or breathed out by someone who smoked fentanyl.”

Strategies for keeping yourself safe

1. Know your agency rules and follow them.
2. Wear PPE (gloves, mask) when coming into potential contact with fentanyl.
3. If you get any suspected drugs on your hands, stop what you are doing and wash them with soap and water. Do not touch your eyes or mouth.
4. Avoid performing tasks or operations that may cause illicit drugs to enter the air. Only trained emergency responders wearing proper PPE should conduct activities that could cause illicit drugs to enter the air.
5. Carry naloxone (Narcan). Call 911 if you use it.

Naloxone



Naloxone is a very safe medication

- You cannot overdose on Naloxone
- Only works on opioids
 - *Will not reverse xylazine reactions*
 - Will not make other emergencies worse
- Naloxone (Narcan) is safer than many over the counter medications including Tylenol and Ibuprofen

From the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology:

“A clinically significant [allergy] to naloxone has never been convincingly demonstrated”

- Can and do experience very uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms

Naloxone Training Video Multi-Product



Video Host: Allyson Eichner, PharmD
Pharmacist with Kelley-Ross Pharmacy Group

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A SUSPECTED OPIOID EMERGENCY



LAY

- Check for slowed breathing or unresponsiveness.
- Lay the person on their back and tilt the head up.



SPRAY

- Insert device into either nostril and press plunger firmly.



STAY

- Call 911 immediately and continue to administer doses as needed.

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



Use as directed. Refer to Full Drug Facts label. Treatment should be repeated if needed. Do not give if you are unsure. © 2023 Emergent Medicines Inc. All rights reserved. NARCAN is a registered trademark of Emergent Medicines. NARCAN is a subsidiary of Emergent Medicines Inc. NARCAN is a registered trademark of Emergent Medicines Inc. NARCAN is a registered trademark of Emergent Medicines Inc. NARCAN is a registered trademark of Emergent Medicines Inc.

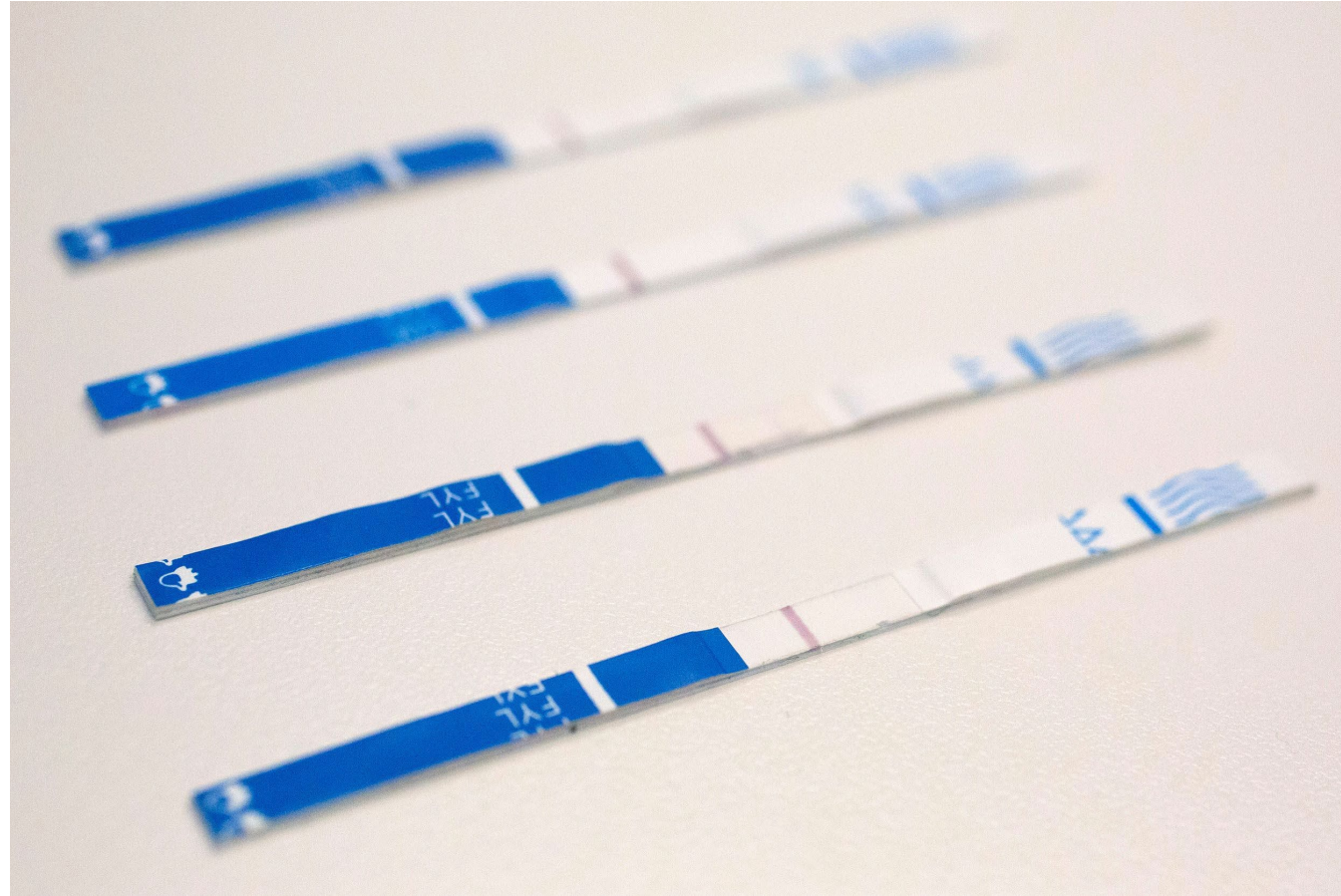
Good Samaritan Laws

State	Good Samaritan Protection Highlights
Arizona	Emergency aid, overdose calls, AED users all protected (unless gross negligence), Drug Overdose Immunity
Hawaii	Emergency care (scene and hospital), AED use, first-aid publishing, overdose calls protected, drug overdose immunity
California	Emergency (scene) aid, field care, volunteer rescue, protected sans gross negligence
Nevada	Emergency aid, rescue personnel, CPR/AED users, AED host entities, protected unless gross negligence

<https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-248>

<https://recreation-law.com/2014/05/28/good-samaritan-laws-by-state>

Fentanyl and Xylazine Testing Strips

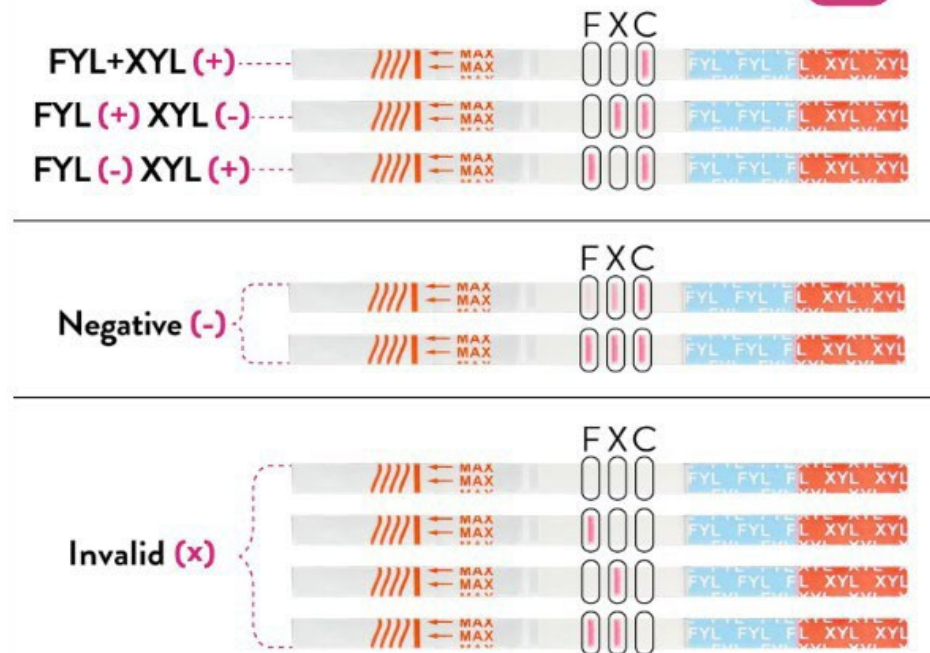


Using Drug Testing Strips

Follow manufacturer instructions

- Take a small amount of the drug and mix with water (enough to cover the hair on Lincoln's head on a penny)
- Dip stick in for 5 seconds
- Wait ~5 min
- Read results

SIMPLE RESULTS



No control line means the result is invalid - with or without test line

Life Saving Overdose Prevention Options

- Educate about safer sources
- Promote pharmacy verification resources
- Distribute naloxone widely and provide training
- Distribute test strips
- Know and disseminate information on Good Samaritan Laws where you live

Warm Handoff from Prevention Specialists

- Discuss screening results with patient

Confirm
Screening



- Clear, concise
- Frame as a resource

Explain
Next Steps



- Institution dependent

Consent to
Share



- Know who is in the area
- Know how they take referrals

Contact
Provider



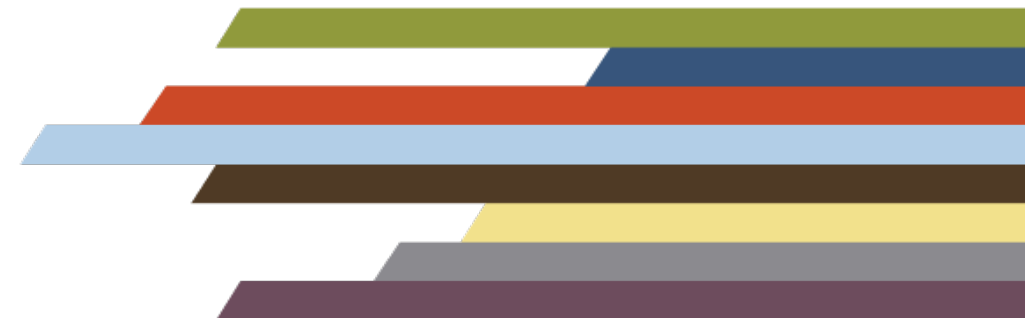
- Confirm transportation
- Provide written details
- Follow up

Other
details





Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

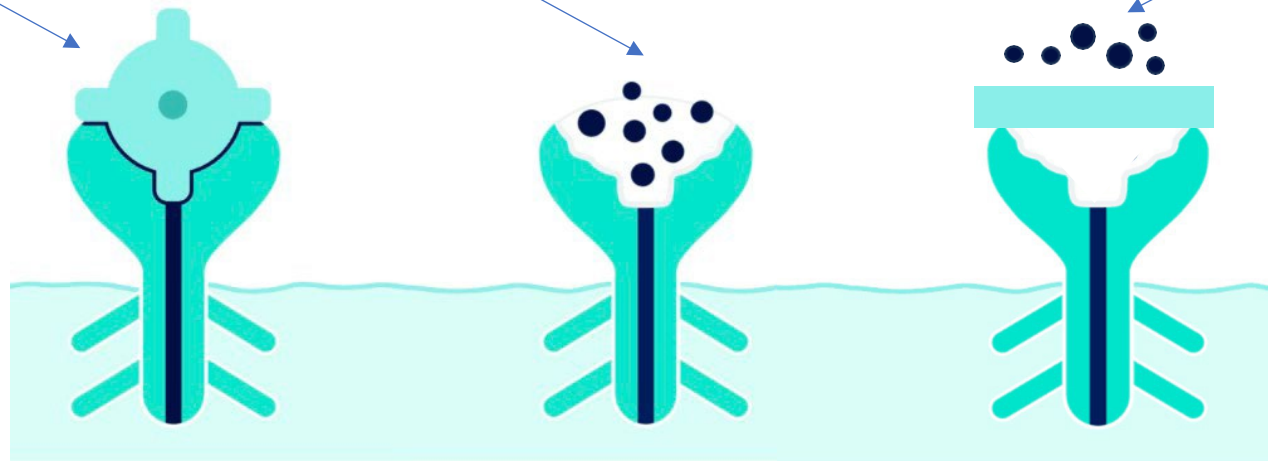


Buprenorphine and naltrexone work differently

Full effect- high
and side effects

Minimal to no high, minimal to
no effects on breathing

Blocks high



FULL OPIOID

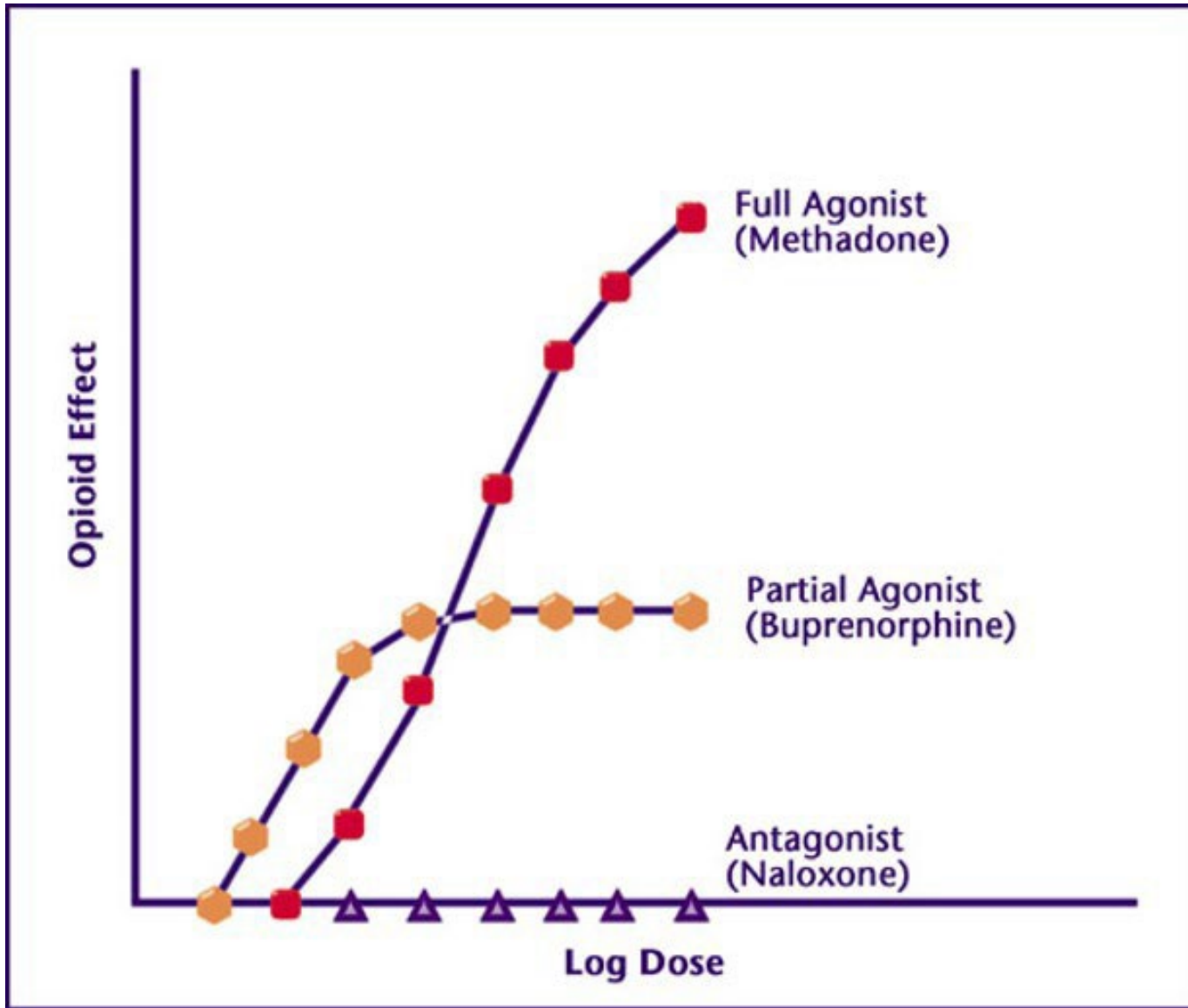
PARTIAL OPIOID

OPIOID BLOCKER






Morphine,
Fentanyl,
Carfentanil,
Heroin


Buprenorphine
(Suboxone,
Sublocade)

Naltrexone
(Vivitrol)

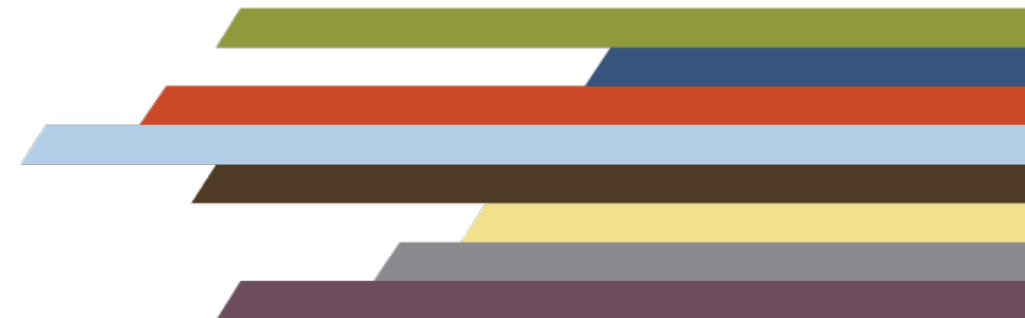


Approved Pharmacologic Treatment

Buprenorphine/ naloxone (Suboxone)	Methadone (Dolipine)	ER Naltrexone (Vivitrol, ReVia)	Buprenorphine (Subutex, Butrans)	Buprenorphine ER (Sublocade, Brixadi)
Partial agonist paired with an antagonist 	Full Agonist 	Full antagonist 	Partial agonist 	Partial agonist 
Half life of 24-42 hours	Half life of 22-48 hours	Time to peak: 2 hours (first peak) and 2-3 days (second peak) Duration of 4 weeks Decreases Tolerance Quickly	Half life of 24-48 hours	Half life: 43-60 days
Dosage forms include buccal film, sublingual tablet, and sublingual film	Dosage forms include dissolving tablets or oral solution	Dosage forms include intramuscular injection and tablet	Dosage forms include sublingual tablets	Dosage form: Extended- Release Subcutaneous Injection
FDA indication: Opioid dependence	FDA indication: detox and maintenance of opioid addiction	FDA indication: opioid dependence	FDA indication: opioid dependence	FDA indication: opioid dependence



Buprenorphine and naltrexone can be used to prevent unintended overdoses.



Summary – Why does this all matter for a prevention audience?

1. May encounter any or all of these situations in context of daily work
2. Life saving overdose prevention is still prevention
3. Facilitating treatment access in all age groups (including adolescents) IS preventing adult morbidity and mortality



Post-Webinar Feedback

Please click on the link in the chat to complete a very brief online feedback form!

Thank you!



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Prevention Domains:

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- Professional Growth and Responsibility
- Hours toward Drug Education

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Thank You!



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