# The National Drug Control Strategy CEPOP Update Call

February 24, 2020

Cecelia Spitznas, Ph.D.
Senior Science Policy Advisor
National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group
Office of National Drug Control Policy



### **ONDCP Authorities and Responsibilities**

- Director of National Drug Control Policy is the President's Principal Advisor on Drug Policy
- Establish and Lead National Drug Control Policy
  - Publish the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) along with associated plans and documents
    - Performance Reporting System Report
    - Budget and Performance Summary
    - National Treatment Plan
    - Data Supplement
    - Border Strategies for the Northern Border and Southwestern Border
- Director's Budget Authority
  - Ensures Federal Drug Control budgets requested by Federal Drug Control Agencies are consistent with the President's Drug Control Priorities
- Advance the Administration's drug control policy, and guide and synchronize drug control efforts at the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal levels



### **Update on America's Opioid Crisis**

- From 2017 to 2018 Prescription opioid fills declined 19% as measured in Milligrams Morphine Equivalent (MME)
- From 2017 to 2018, drug poisoning deaths
  - Declined overall for the first time since 1999
  - Natural and Semisynthetic (e.g., prescription) opioid deaths declined
  - Heroin deaths without synthetic opioids declined
  - Synthetic opioid deaths not involving methadone increased
  - Stimulant-involved (cocaine and methamphetamine) deaths both increased
- The proportion of stimulant-involved deaths also involving opioids increased for both cocaine and methamphetamine.
  - 51% of methamphetamine deaths involving an opioid in 2018
  - 74% of cocaine deaths involving an opioid in 2018



## **Our Top Priority: Saving American Lives**

- Three Lines of Effort as expressed in the National Drug Control Strategy
  - Preventing drug use before it starts
    - Development of evidence-based prevention programs
    - Safe and responsible prescribing
    - Proper disposal of unused and unneeded medications
    - Expanding the use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) across the country
  - Providing treatment leading to long-term recovery
    - Improving the response to and monitoring of overdose
    - Enhancing evidence-based addiction treatment
    - Eliminating barriers to treatment availability
    - Reducing stigma and making recovery possible
  - Reducing the availability of illicit drugs in America's communities
    - Working with international partners
    - Stopping the flow of drugs across our borders



# Saving Lives: Reduce the number of drug overdose deaths by 15% within 5 years

- From 2017 to 2018, drug overdose fatalities dropped 4.1%
- Key actions over the past two years:
  - "The Crisis Next Door" national media campaign
  - The Five Point Plan to address the opioid crisis by the Department of Health and Human Services
  - Support for the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain
  - Surgeon General's Advisory on Naloxone
  - White House Convening with higher education stakeholders on overdose response in colleges and universities hosted by ONDCP, HHS, and the Department of Education
  - Community Response to Drug Overdose (CReDO) Project to create voluntary standards for responding overdose clusters in communities



## Safe Prescribing: Decrease Opioid Fills by 33% in 5 years

- From 2017 to 2018 Prescription opioid fills declined 19% as measured in Milligrams Morphine Equivalent (MME)
- Key actions over the past two years:
  - Support for alternatives to opioids; CMS unbundled an alternative for separate payment in certain surgical settings
  - Pain Management Task Force support for alternatives
  - FDA Labeling Authority to reduce excess supply
  - FDA REMS program for prescription opioids including immediate release products and new training roadmap
  - CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain Guideline
    - States adopting MME levels
    - Clarification and Commentary
  - FDA warnings for gabapentanoid use with opioids
  - CMS review of prescribing policies



# Effective Treatment: Increase the percentage of providers with buprenorphine waivers and community treatment programs offering medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorder

- Federally-funded treatment has more than doubled since 2012
- Key actions over the past two years:
  - Launch of <u>findtreatment.gov</u> which improves patient and family ability to locate a program that takes your form of payment
  - The 2018 SUPPORT Act included a path to payment for Medication Assisted Treatment in Medicare, allowing for methadone under Part D, and Opioid Treatment Programs offering methadone under Part B

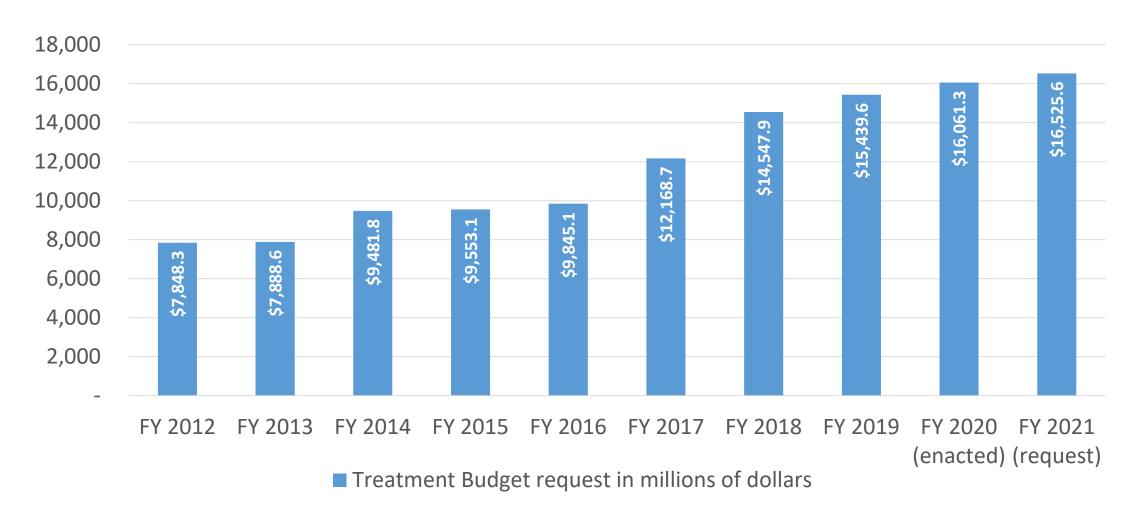


#### MAT Providers and Facilities: Progress But...

- DEA records show 1,583 "Narcotic Treatment Programs" which could use methadone to treat opioid addiction in January 2018 increasing to 1,786 in January 2020, a 12.8 % increase
- DEA records shows the US total qualifying buprenorphine practitioners in all categories ( which includes physician and midlevel practitioners regardless of patient cap) was 44,971 in January 2018, and increased to 76,316 in January 2020, a 69.7% increase
- Progress is good, but there remains more than 1.3 million physician-level practitioner registrants who can prescribe controlled substances and who could be prescribing buprenorphine

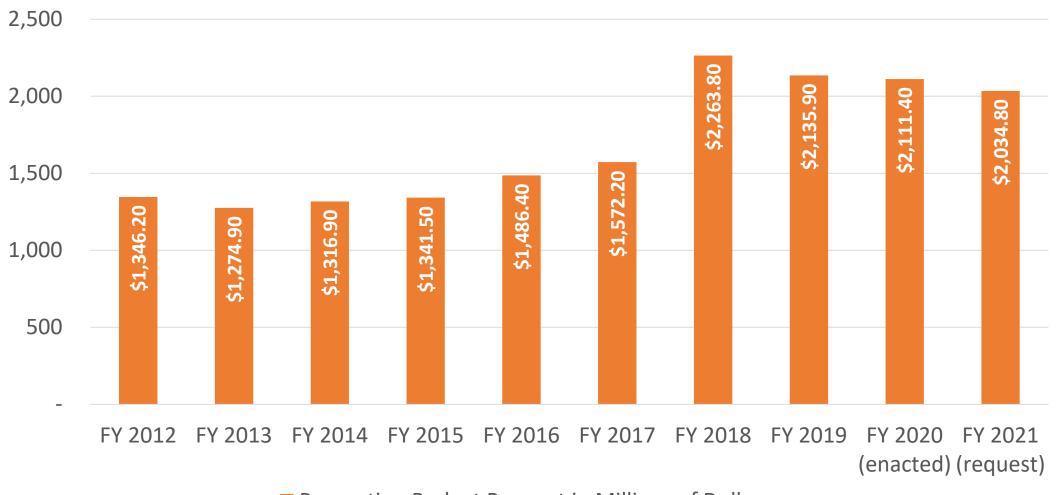


#### **Annual Growth in Federal Treatment Spending**





#### **Annual Growth in Federal Prevention Spending**



■ Prevention Budget Request in Millions of Dollars



## **National Drug Control Budget Treatment Funding**

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY20 - FY21 Change	
	Final	Enacted	Request	Dollars	Percent
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	\$34.4	\$29.8	\$36.4	+ 6.5	+21.8%
Department of Agriculture	16.0		6.2	+ 6.2	n/a
Office of Rural Development	16.0		6.2	+ 6.2	n/a
Department of Defense	75.4	99.8	89.7	- 10.0	-10.0%
Defense Health Program	75.4	99.8	89.7	- 10.0	-10.0%
Department of Health and Human Services	13,331.4	13,816.4	14,224.5	+408.1	+3.0%
Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services	8,160.0	8,550.0	9,020.0	+ 470.0	+5.5%
Health Resources and Services Administration	550.5	545.5	545.5		
Indian Health Service	92.3	92.7	92.8	+ 0.1	+0.1%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholis	6.4	6.6	6.0	- 0.6	-9.0%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	982.3	1,064.1	1,045.2	- 18.9	-1.8%
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Adn	3,540.0	3,557.4	3,515.0	- 42.4	-1.2%
Department of Housing and Urban Development	545.0	575.4	576.8	+1.4	+0.2%
Department of Justice	452.2	515.6	515.5	- 0.1	-0.0%
Bureau of Prisons	117.9	155.0	194.7	+ 39.7	+25.6%
Drug Enforcement Administration			3.9	+ 3.9	n/a
Office of Justice Programs	334.3	360.6	316.8	- 43.7	-12.1%
Department of Transportation	0.5	0.5	0.5		
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	0.5	0.5	0.5		
Department of Veterans Affairs	818.3	850.6	903.0	+ 52.4	+6.2%
Federal Judiciary	157.5	163.8	170.3	+ 6.5	+4.0%
Office of National Drug Control Policy	8.9	9.4	2.8	- 6.6	-70.3%
Total, Treatment	\$15,439.6	\$16,061.3	\$16,525.6	+ \$464.3	+2.9%

Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.



## **National Drug Control Budget Prevention Funding**

	FY 2019 FY 2020 FY 2021 FY20 - FY21			l Change	
	Final	Enacted	Request	Dollars	Percent
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	\$19.0	\$19.5	\$19.9	+ 0.4	+2.0%
Department of Defense	121.9	124.9	123.7	- 1.2	-1.0%
Drug Interdiction and Counterdrug Activities	121.9	124.9	123.7	- 1.2	-1.0%
Department of Education	57.5	58.8	100.0	+ 41.2	+70.2%
Department of Health and Human Services	1,732.7	1,688.7	1,693.7	+ 5.0	+0.3%
Administration for Children and Families	40.0	30.0	60.0	+ 30.0	+100.0%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	475.6	475.6	575.6	+ 100.0	+21.0%
Health Resources and Services Administration	114.5	109.5	109.5		
Indian Health Service	25.1	25.8	25.2	- 0.6	-2.3%
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholis	51.2	53.3	48.5	- 4.8	-9.0%
National Institute on Drug Abuse	425.9	393.6	386.6	- 7.0	-1.8%
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Adn	600.3	600.9	488.3	- 112.6	-18.7%
Department of Justice	32.3	35.6	21.6	- 14.0	-39.3%
Drug Enforcement Administration	7.8	8.1	11.2	+ 3.1	+37.6%
Office of Justice Programs	24.5	27.5	10.4	- 17.1	-62.1%
Department of Labor	13.8	33.8	33.8		
<b>Employment and Training Administration</b>	6.0	26.0	26.0		
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs	7.8	7.8	7.8		
Department of the Interior	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Department of Transportation	33.4	23.7	26.0	+ 2.3	+9.7%
Federal Aviation Administration	15.0	17.5	19.8	+ 2.3	+13.1%
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	18.4	6.2	6.2		
Office of National Drug Control Policy	124.4	125.5	15.2	- 110.3	-87.9%
Total, Prevention	\$2,135.9	\$2,111.4	\$2,034.8	- \$76.6	-3.6%

Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.



# Potential Challenges to Effective Treatment (one of two)

#### • Stigma

- CMS spending may be constrained by a dearth of providers who take Medicare and Medicaid to treat patients with addiction, and inadequate networks
- Infrastructure is historically underfunded and inadequate, especially in non-urban areas
- Anecdotal evidence of hospital administrators not willing to offer MAT care
- Emergency providers only required to stabilize patients and not offer care
- Emergency providers who could screen and or induce but lack waived practitioners to receive patients: "Hubs without Spokes"
- Provider currency with new CMS MAT regulations

#### • Fear of Diversion:

Some providers and stakeholders are reluctant to change the patient caps for buprenorphine providers because
of concerns about increasing buprenorphine diversion



# Potential Challenges to Effective Treatment (two of two)

- Fraud
- Effective treatment not being scaled
  - Stimulant use disorder treatments are behavioral and not widespread, currently no FDA medicines for stimulants
- Evolving nature of the crisis-from opioid users to polysubstance users
  - Uncertain relationship between drug user morbidity trends, along with active user and patient behavior and motivation
  - Do states and localities have the correct recipe of providers for their patient mix?
  - Is the infrastructure we're building capable of treating co-dependencies?



#### How does drug death data inform health systems who see living drug users?

- From overdose mortality data alone we don't know...
  - How frequently stimulant users are accidentally using synthetic opioids because of contaminated cocaine or methamphetamine vs intentionally seeking opioids
  - If stimulant users are combining drugs or using sequentially and why
  - How frequently opioid users are intentionally seeking stimulants and why
- We do know that people in treatment for opioid use disorder often seek other avenues for drug use
- Our response should differ for occasional users vs those who are dually dependent
- Health system responses should reflect local community user characteristics
  - Provide Naloxone and overdose awareness to all stimulant users
  - Scale up evidence-based behavioral treatment for cocaine and methamphetamine
  - Expand medication access for opioids through buprenorphine waivered providers, methadone clinics, hub and spoke, or emergency provider induction and referral
  - Specialty addiction treatment clinics offering MAT and dual MAT and behavioral treatment programs
  - Syringe services



# What about other data? Cicero et al; 2020 Key Informant Treatment Participant Study

- 15,000+ treatment seekers from 2011 to 2018
- Prescription opioid users overall only decreased 10%
- Three groups of patients
  - Heroin/fentanyl users (169% increase)
  - Mixed prescribed and heroin/fentanyl users (41% increase)
  - Prescription opioid users (46% decrease)
- Methamphetamine use grew over time by 85% but mostly grew for the mixed group
- Other drug use categories did not grow

Source: Cicero TJ, Ellis MS, Kasper ZA Polysubstance Use: A Broader Understanding of Substance Use During the Opioid Crisis. Am J Public Health. 2020 Feb;110(2):244-250. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2019.305412. Epub 2019 Dec 19. Available at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6951387/pdf/AJPH.2019.305412.pdf



## **Thank You!**

For more information reach out to Cece Spitznas at <a href="mailto:cspitznas@ondcp.eop.gov">cspitznas@ondcp.eop.gov</a>





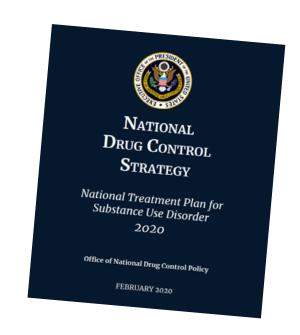
# OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

# National Treatment Plan Overview

# NATIONAL TREATMENT PLAN FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

#### **Three Pillars:**

- 1) Infrastructure
- 2) Delivery systems, provider networks, reaching populations in need, and
- 3) Quality of treatment





# PILLAR 1: Improve Infrastructure, Expand Intervention, Treatment, Recovery Support Services

- Enhance addiction workforce, including rural;
- Improve services for pregnant and post-partum women, and infants with NAS;
- Improve access to low-threshold services, plus provided at syringe services programs (SSPs);
- Address barriers to treatment, housing and employment, recovery;
- Encourage medically managed withdrawal services that include initiation of medication to prevent relapse, and appropriate post-stabilization service as part of a treatment program with continuing care.

# PILLAR 2: Improve Systems, Services and target Special Populations

- Ensure addiction services are provided at parity similar to medical-surgical services; (payers, providers, health systems, States, and others)
- Improve access to specialty addiction treatment services and care where lacking;
- Better integrate specialty addiction treatment services into mainstream health by:
  - reduce barriers to treatment
  - promote screening/brief interventions/referral/linking to treatment/to increase diagnosis; & MAT as needed;
  - increase ADM *specialty consultation services* in primary care/hospitals/mainstream/general medical /healthcare settings; increase initiation of MAT/ evidence-based addiction treatment in general health settings;
- Explore opioid treatment programs to treat stimulant use disorder (comprehensive services);



# PILLAR 3: Improve Treatment Quality:

- Conduct environmental scan of existing standards for treatment;
- Develop / promote adoption of model state specialty SUD treatment licensing laws;
- Work to eliminate fraud and abuse, reduce related patient harm; and,
- Develop protocols, to promote/educate on medically managed withdrawal services, optimally as part of a treatment program/w linkages to treatment, particularly among criminal justice, rural and Native American populations.

## Six Factors Contributing to the Treatment Gap

- 1: Individuals with <u>SUD don't seek treatment</u> (don't know they have a disorder)
- 2: Individuals with SUD don't know how to access/can't afford treatment (DK processes)
- 3: Individuals with SUD seek treatment / face provider shortages (no providers in region)
- 4: Individuals with SUD <u>receive clinically inappropriate/poor quality/ fraudulent TX</u>

  (ie. not offered MAT if Opioid Use Disorder; boot camp vs. medical care)
- 5: A treatment episode is <u>inappropriately shortened or cut</u> (insurers reduce or cut stay)
- 6: Individuals <u>don't receive treatment that addresses unique social/cultural needs</u>
  (Women in Tx Prgs with Men; NA Tx excluding cultural practices-sweat lodges)





# National Treatment Plan The End