

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (SUD) AND ADDICTIONS AMONG OLDER ADULTS IN HEALTH CENTERS

Learning Collaborative (LC) #2: SUD Diagnosis



NATIONAL CENTER
FOR EQUITABLE CARE FOR ELDER



NATIONAL CENTER FOR EQUITABLE CARE FOR ELDERS (NCECE)

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Who We Are- Established in 2017, the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE) is a training and technical assistance Center that provides innovative and culturally competent models of care, inter-professional training and educational resources to health care professionals providing care to older adults

Our Mission is to build strong, innovative and competent health care models by partnering with CHCs, PCAs and FQHCs to provide quality, and inclusive care for older adults



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HEALTH CENTER RESOURCES CLEARINGHOUSE

- This comprehensive website provides easy access to a broad framework of resources, tools, and information developed by the National Cooperative Agreement (NCA) organizations, and additional partners soon! Check it out at www.healthcenterinfo.org.



SESSION LEADER



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DIAGNOSING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (SUD) IN OLDER ADULTS

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Office-Based Addiction Treatment

Boston Medical Center



DISCLOSURES

- We have no disclosures or commercial interests to report.
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GOALS

- Review opioid epidemic in context of older adults.
- Recognize challenges to identifying SUD in older adults.
- Appreciate the role older adults can play in overdose prevention.
- Reflect on how stigma affects identification and treatment of SUD in older adults.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN THE US

20.1 million Americans meet the criteria for a substance use disorder...
that's one in every 11.

Approximately 11.8 million persons misused opioids in 2016 - close to one million of those individuals reported using heroin/illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

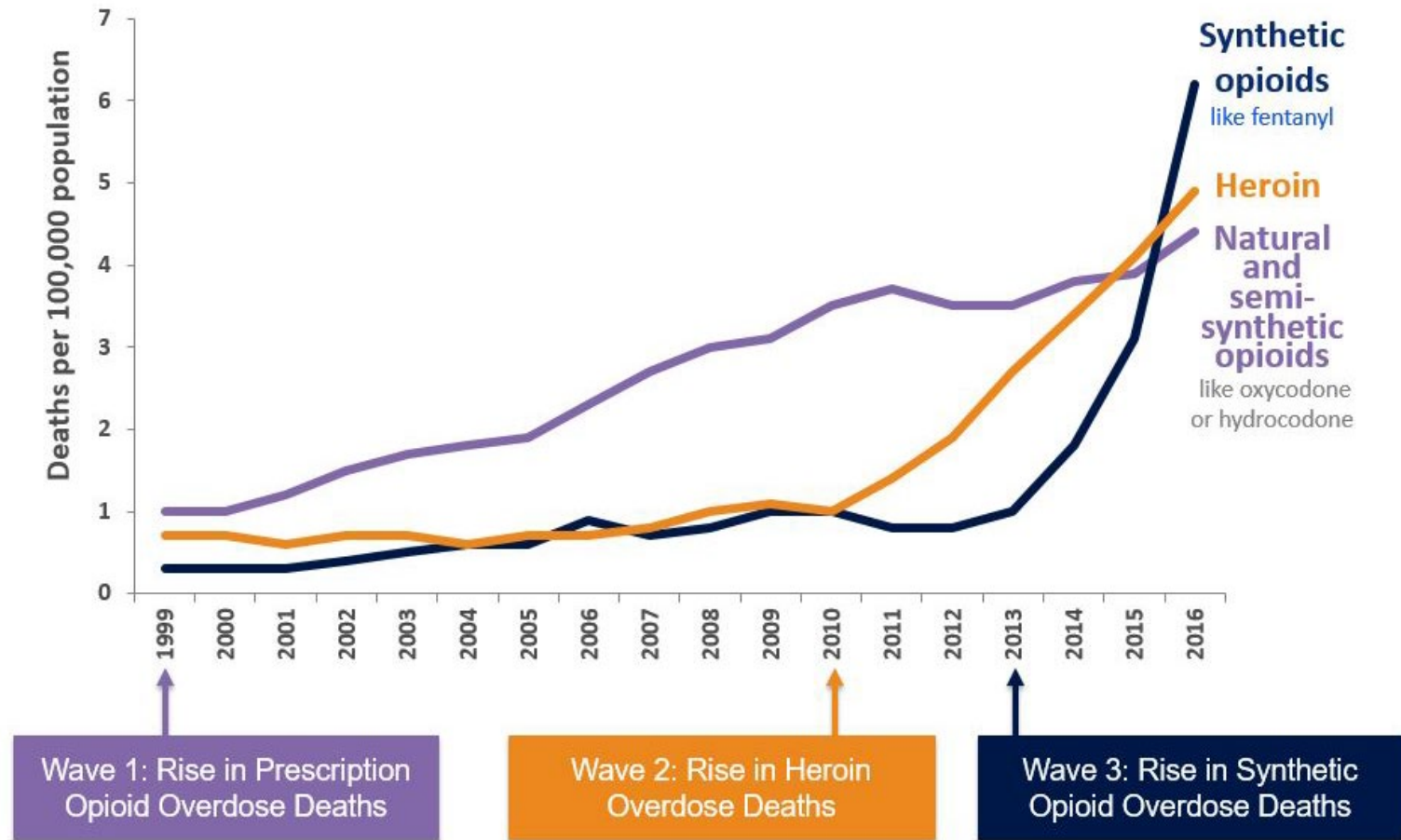
560,000 overdose fatalities between 1999 and 2015

Only 1 in 10 people who need treatment for a substance use disorder is actually receiving it.

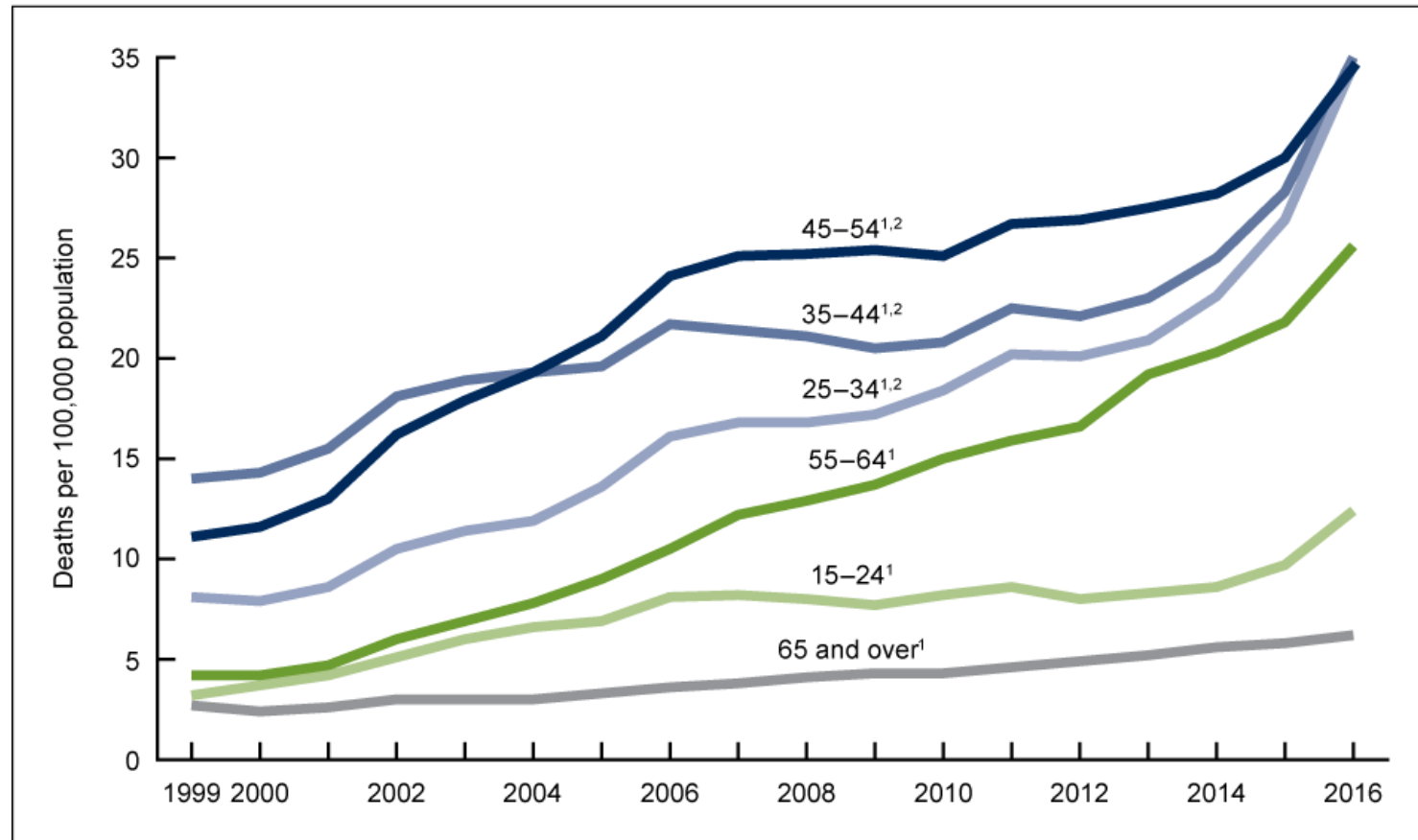


THE RISE IN OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATH

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



OVERDOSE DEATHS BY AGE GROUP



Source: CDC

DSM-5: 11 DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR SUD



**MILD
ADDICTION:
2 OR 3
SYMPTOMS**



**MODERATE
ADDICTION:
4 OR 5
SYMPTOMS**



**SEVERE
ADDICTION:
6 OR MORE
SYMPTOMS**

Diagnostic Criteria for Substance Use Disorders
Using in larger amounts or for longer than intended
Wanting to cut down or stop using, but not managing to
Spending a lot of time to get, use, or recover from use
Craving
Inability to manage commitments due to use
Continuing to use, even when it causes problems in relationships
Giving up important activities because of use
Continuing to use, even when it puts you in danger
Continuing to use, even when physical or psychological problems may be made worse by use
Increasing tolerance
Withdrawal symptoms



RECOGNIZING SUD IN OLDER ADULTS

- Presentation of substance use may differ from young persons and include:
 - Falls
 - Cognitive impairment
 - Not taking medication as prescribed
 - Injuries
 - Family stress
 - Sleep disturbance

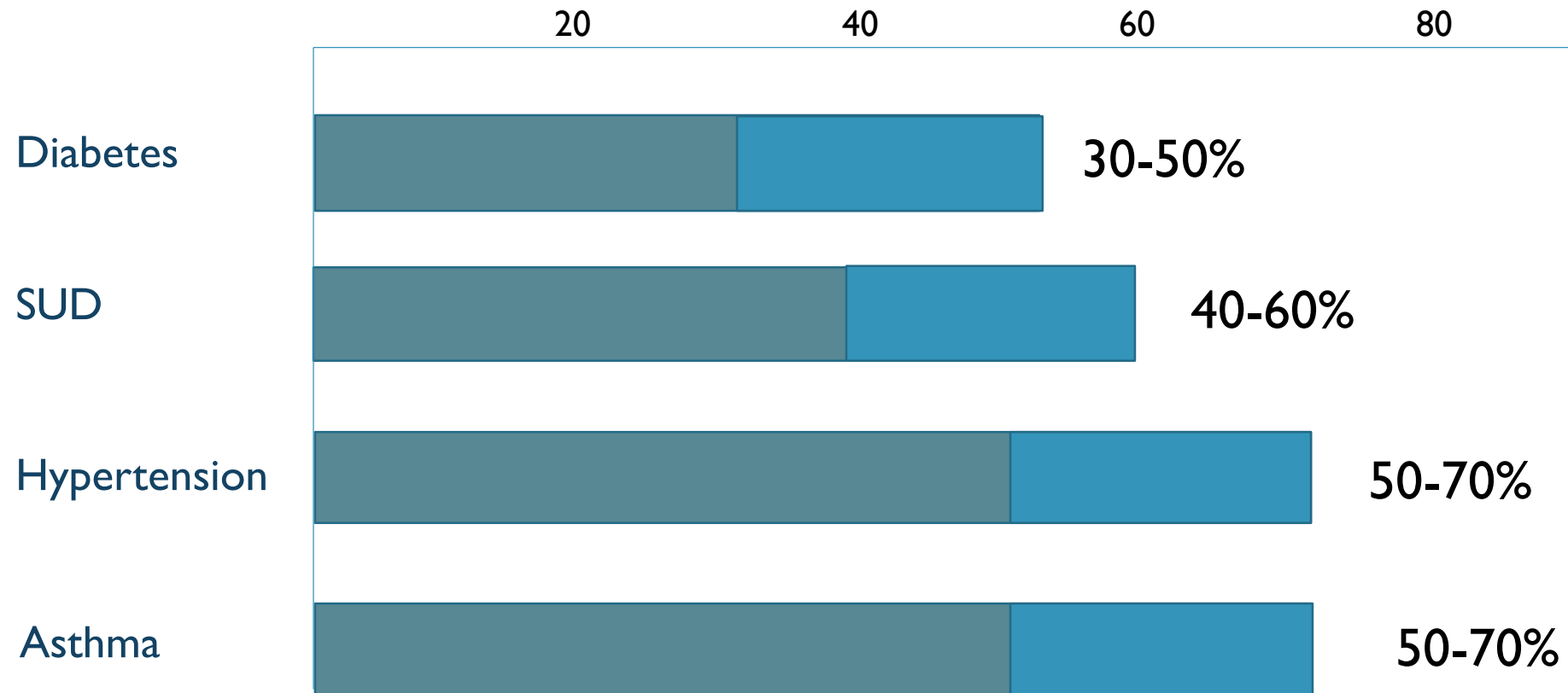
CHALLENGES IN RECOGNIZING SUD

- Older adults are likely underdiagnosed with substance use disorder.
- Reasons:
 - Co-morbidities may present similarly
 - Screening tools not validated for older adults
 - Stigma
 - Provider bias

PREVENTING OVERDOSE

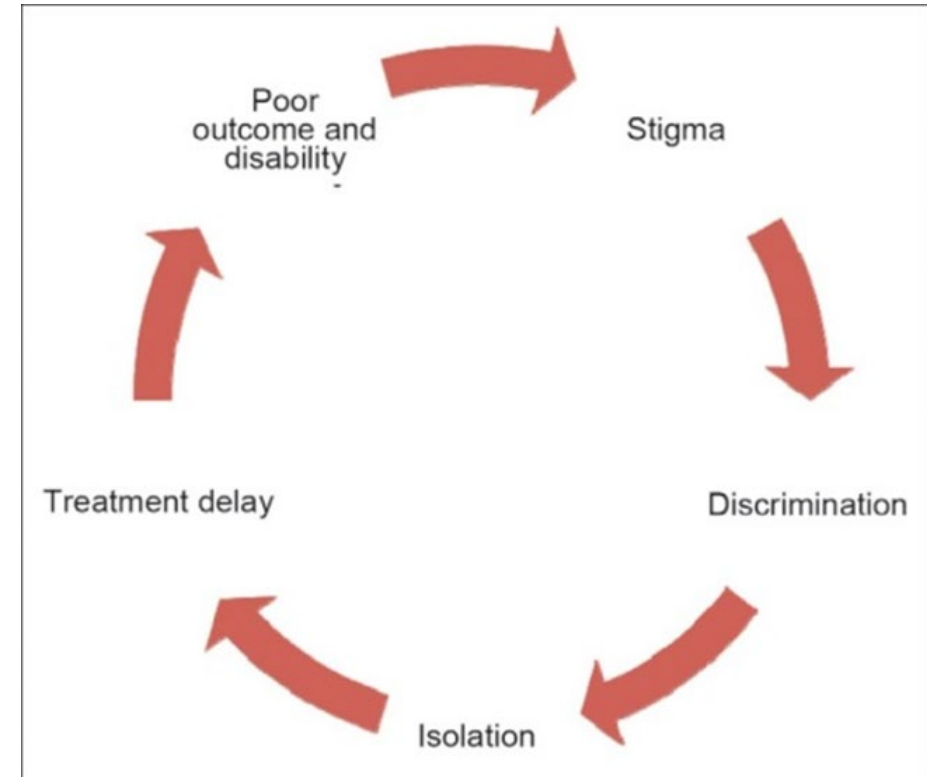
- Older adults have an important role to play in reducing overdose deaths.
- Prescribe naloxone and provide education to all older adults who are prescribed opioids for chronic pain.
- Ask older adults if they are living with people who are using opioids and prescribe naloxone if yes.
- Identify remote histories of SUD and continue to address at follow up visits.

RECURRENCE RATES



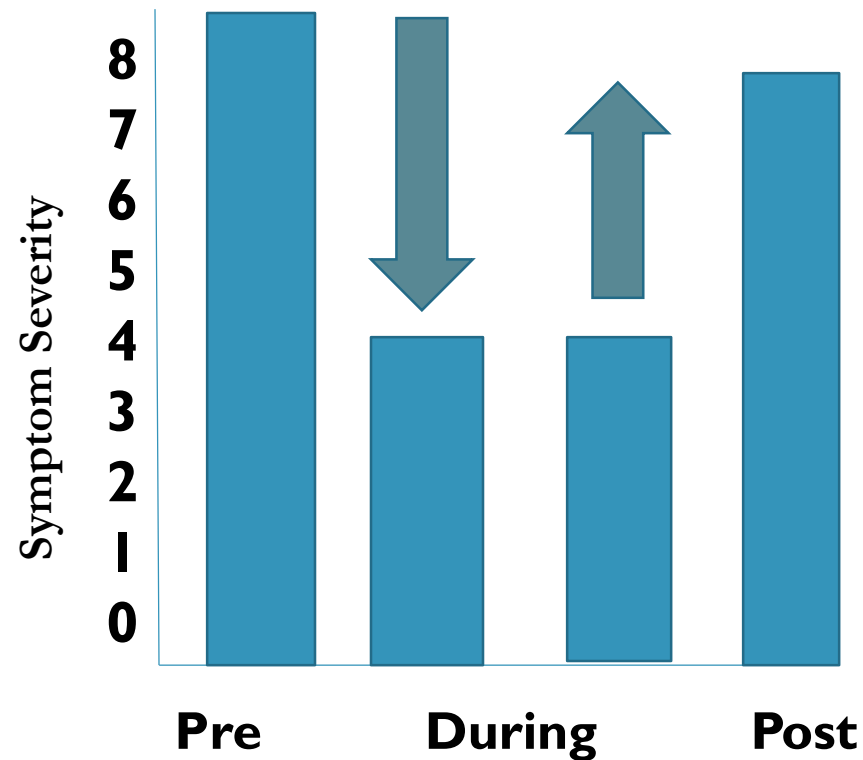
STIGMA CAN...

- Isolate individuals and families
- Encourage people to deny a fatal illness and ignore its symptoms
- Keep desperately ill people from seeking help
- Increase risk of overdose or relapse
- Persuade society to choose far more expensive and ineffective alternatives to treatment: \$80,000 vs \$6500

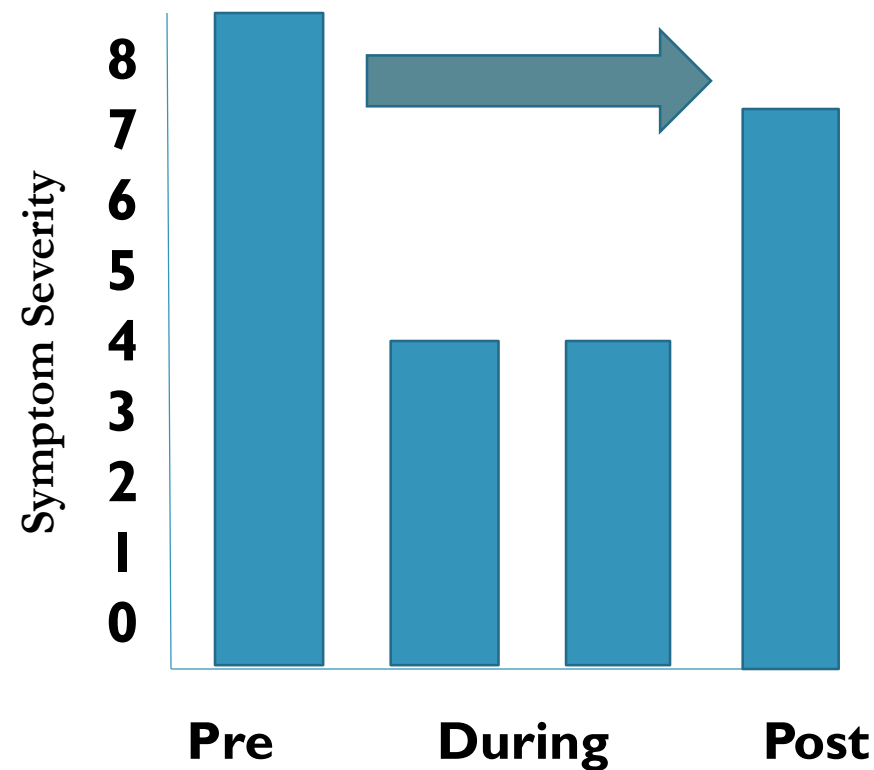


CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Hypertension Treatment



Substance Use Disorder Treatment



Why is Treatment for Substance Use Disorders Evaluated Differently?
Both Require Ongoing Care.



THANK YOU