



Partnership for a  
Drug-Free New Jersey

in Cooperation with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism  
and Drug Abuse and the NJ Dept. of Human Services



OPIOID  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
OF AMERICA



**NJCARES.gov**  
New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies

# The Collateral Impact of Opioid Misuse

## April 27, 2023

**\*\*\*We have no disclosures for faculty or planners for this learning activity.\*\*\***



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### **Other HCPs**

Other members of the care team will receive a certificate of participation.

# Featured Presenters



**Amesika Nyaku, MD, MS**  
**Assistant Professor**

**Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine,**  
**Rutgers NJMS**  
**Co-Director Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment**  
**Center of Excellence**

Dr. Amesika Nyaku is an assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and a physician-scientist. Dr. Nyaku provides clinical care for people living with HIV and other infectious diseases. Her research interests lie at the intersection of HIV and substance use disorders. Her focus is on increasing the inclusion and participation of racial/ethnic minorities in clinical trials research, evaluating long-acting therapeutics for HIV and opioid use disorder and the implementation of integrated care models for HIV and substance use disorders to improve health outcomes. Dr. Nyaku is also co-director of the Northern New Jersey Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence that is tasked with assisting the state in expanding access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder through education, novel service delivery and community collaboration.



**Bob Gaydosh**  
**Deputy Director**

**New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety**

Bob Gaydosh has been with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for 25 years, joining the agency in September 1997. In his current role, he manages all of the work of the division including programmatic and fiscal activities. Bob coordinates the creation of New Jersey's annual Highway Safety Plan, which identifies key traffic safety issues in the state and lays out a plan to address these issues in the upcoming year. Prior to that, Bob was a Regional Program Supervisor for the division, responsible for the agencies grant funded programs in the Northern Region of the state: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties. Bob has a degree in journalism from Syracuse University and a Master's Degree in Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University.



**Adrienne Simpkins, MA**  
**Director of Outreach and Capacity Building**  
**New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic**  
**Violence**

Adrienne Simpkins is the Director of Outreach and Capacity Building at the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence (NJCEDV), where she works to improve access to, expand options for, and strengthen system and program responses to domestic violence survivors. In her work, she focuses on equity and inclusion for communities that are marginalized. Adrienne is co-Chair of NJCEDV's Women of Color Task Force and sits on NJ's Women's Reentry Commission. She received her undergraduate degree from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, and holds a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Rider University.



**Amesika Nyaku, MD, MS**

**Assistant Professor**

**Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Rutgers NJMS**

**Co-Director Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence**

# The Intersections Of Infectious Diseases and the Opioid Crisis

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Amesika Nyaku, MD, MS

Assistant Professor

Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Rutgers NJMS

Co-Director Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence

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MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT  
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

# Disclosures

- No relevant financial disclosures



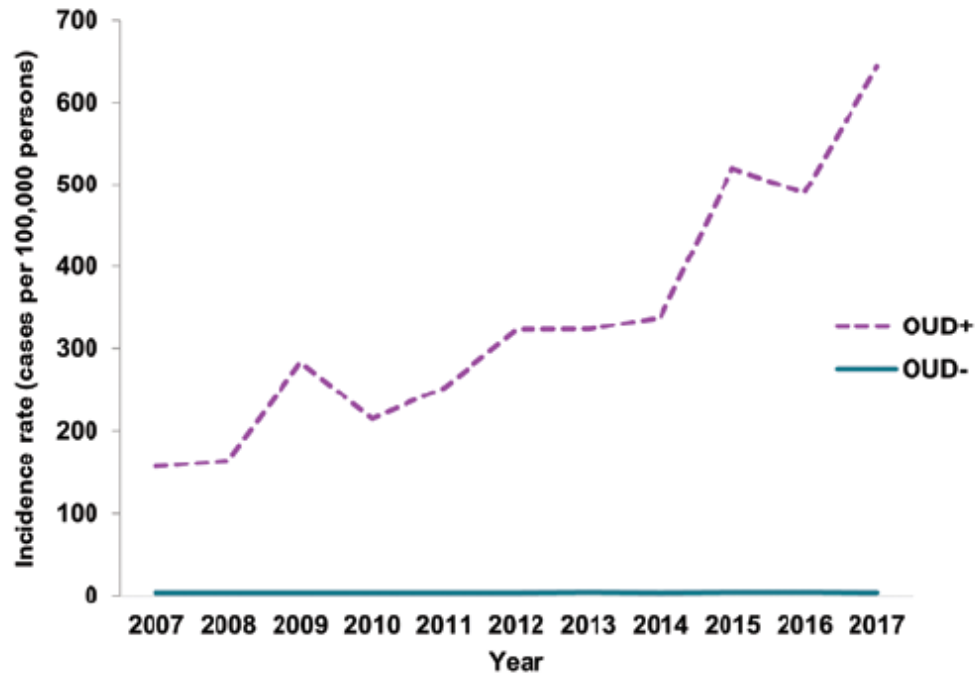
# What is the Impact of the Opioid Crisis on Infectious Diseases?



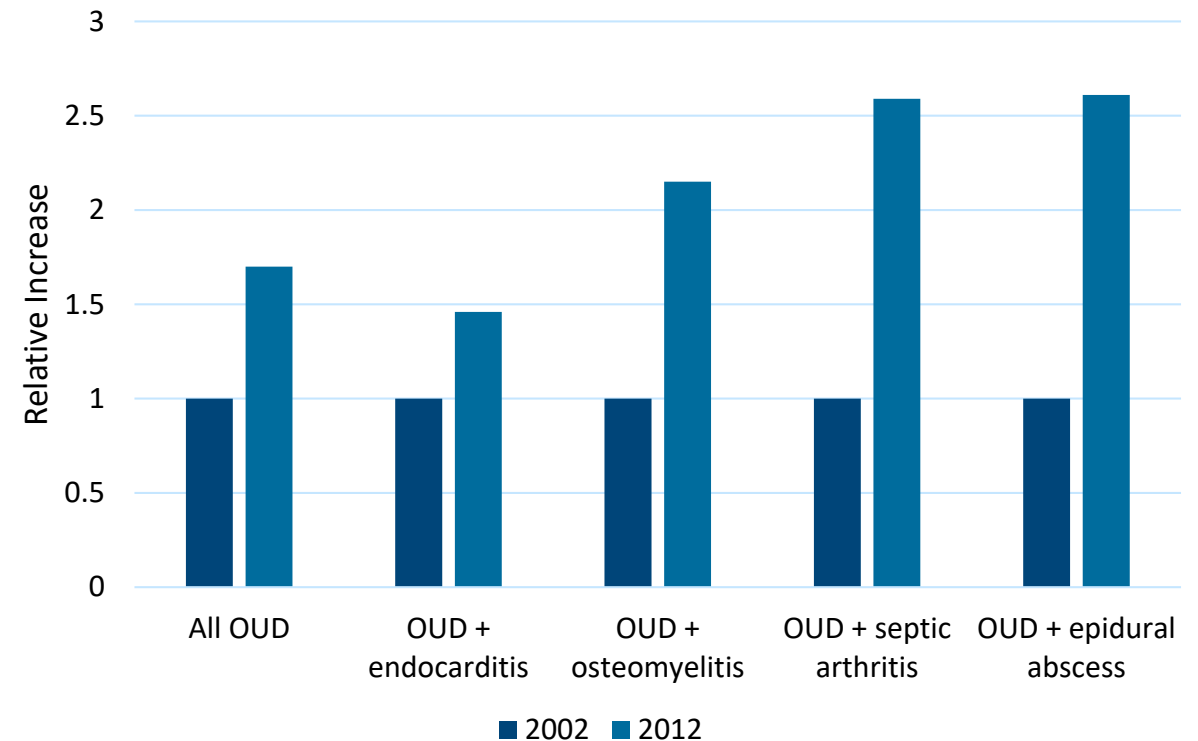
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# Increased Serious Bacterial Infections

Incidence rate of infective endocarditis among commercially insured persons 18-29



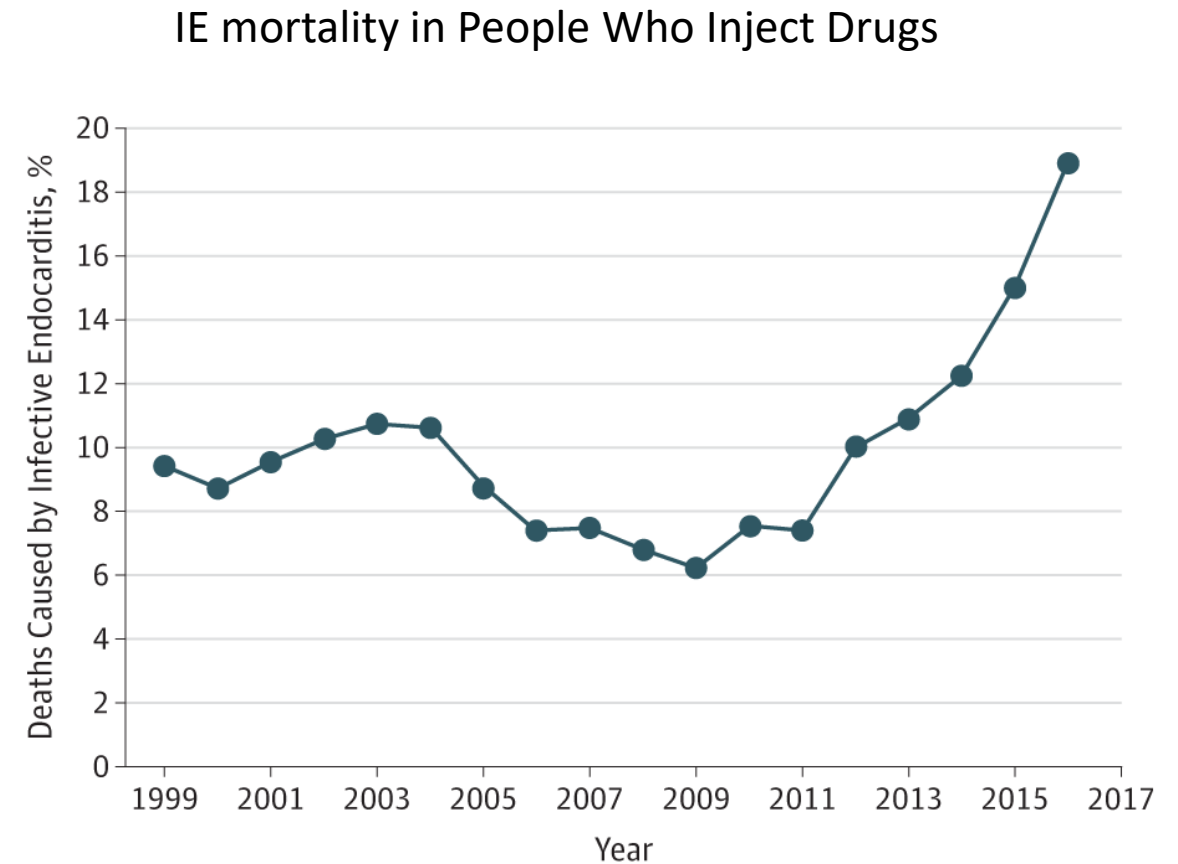
Changes in Healthcare Utilization for opioid use disorder related bacterial infections, 2002 vs 2012





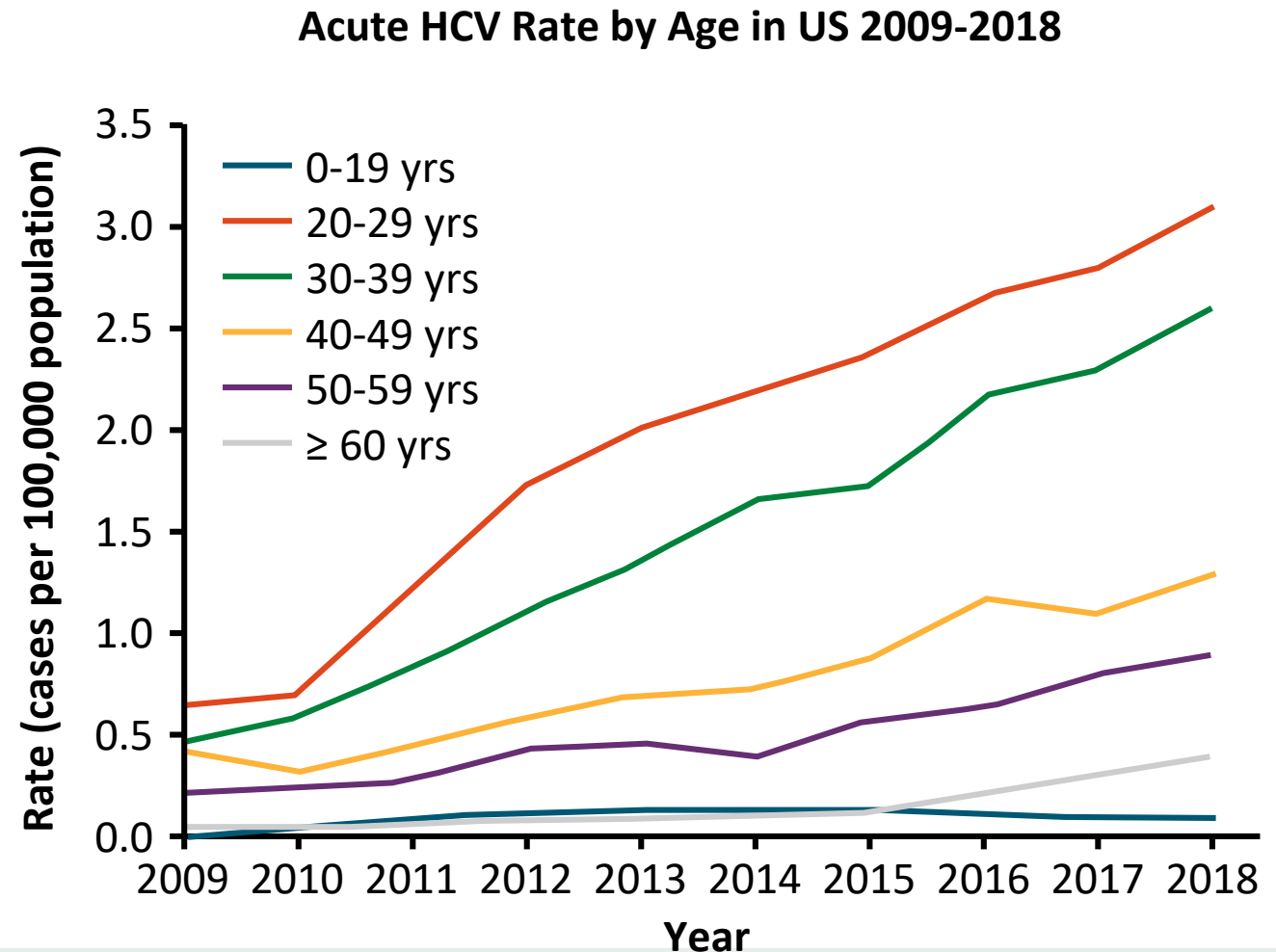
# Rising Mortality Associated with Infective Endocarditis in People Who Inject Drugs

	Opioid-related Infective Endocarditis	Nonopioid related Infective Endocarditis
Average age	37.6	60.9
Percentage male	53.7%	58.8%
Percentage female	46.3%	40.2%



# Rising Acute HCV Infections in the US 2009-2018

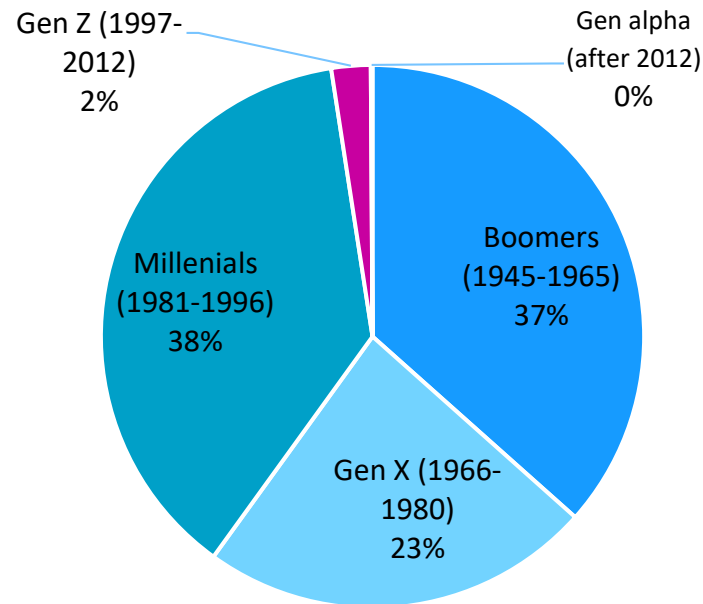
- New acute HCV infections in 2018
  - Reported cases (n=3621)
  - Estimated (n=50,300, adjusted for under-ascertainment and under-reporting)
- 3-fold increase in new cases since 2009
  - Reflects new infections associated with rising rates of injection-drug use
- Highest rate of newly acquired acute HCV infections occurred among people aged 20-39



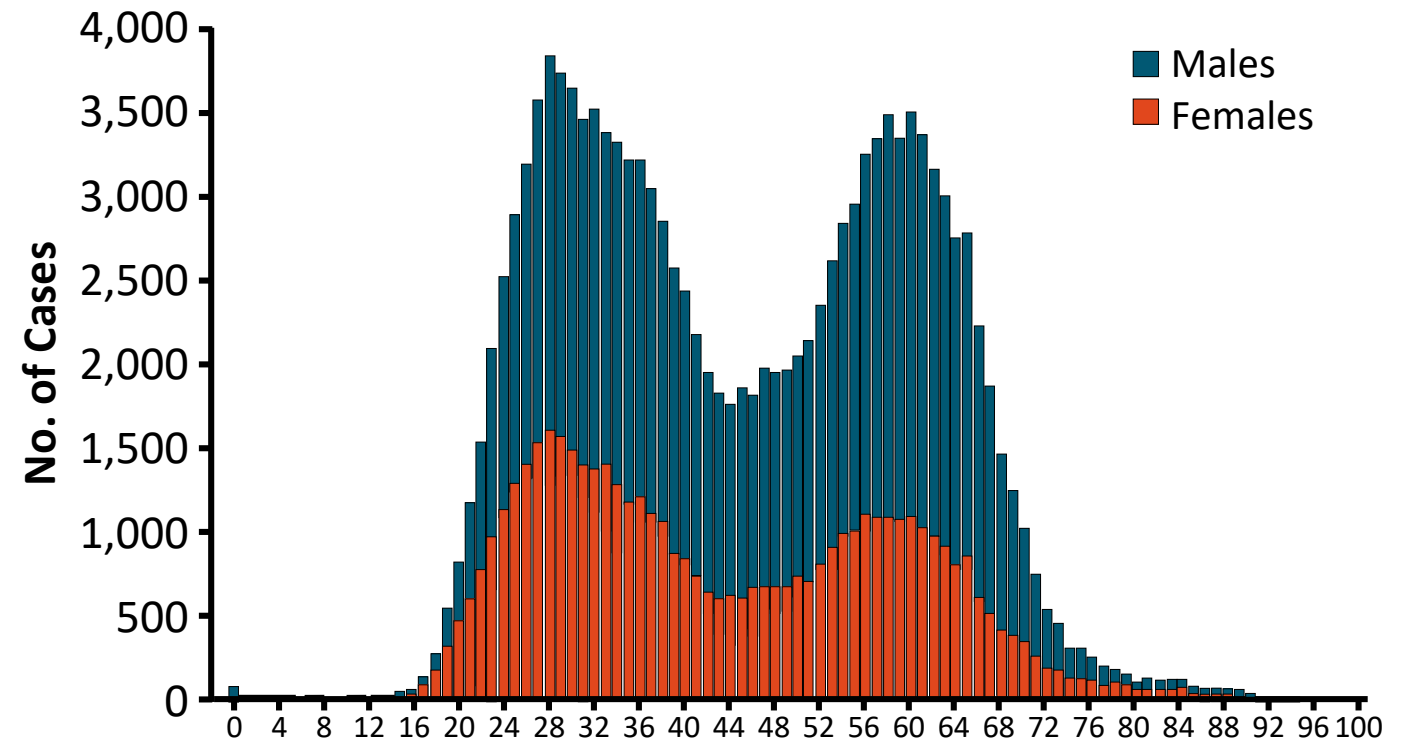
# New Bimodal Distribution of Chronic HCV in US in 2018

National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System confirmed chronic HCV cases in 2018: 137,713

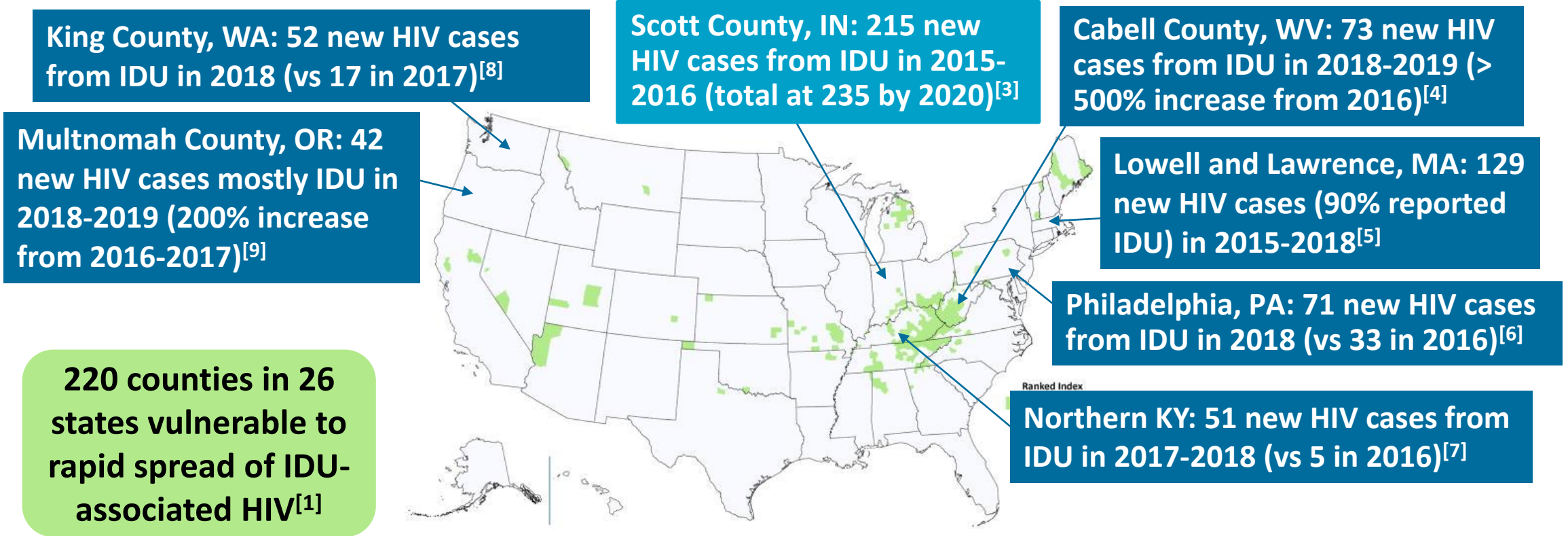
- Males (63%) and females (37%); bimodal distribution by age in both genders



Bimodal Distribution of Chronic HCV Cases by Gender in 2018

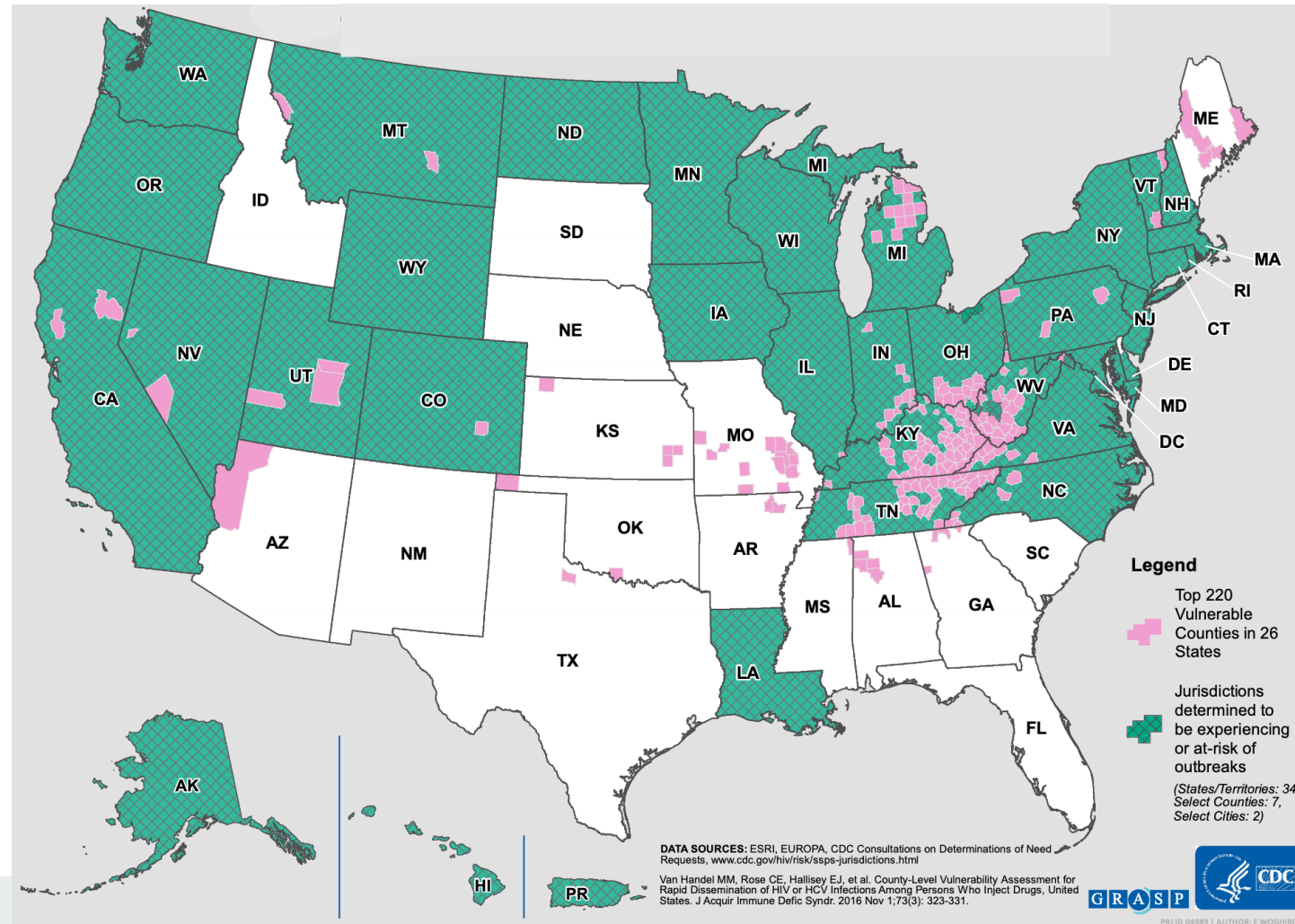


# Several Recent HIV Outbreaks Identified Among PWID



1. Van Handel. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2016;73:323. 2. Volkow. IAS 2019. Abstr MOSS0102. 3. IN DOH. <https://www.in.gov/isdh/26649.htm>. 4. WV. DHHR. <https://oepps.wv.gov/hiv-aids/pages/default.aspx>. 5. Alpre. Am J Public Health. 2020;110:37. 6. PDPH. <https://www.phila.gov/documents/hiv-aids-data-and-research/>. 7. N KY Health Dept. <https://nkyhealth.org/individual-or-family/health-alerts/hiv-investigation/>. 8. WA. DOH. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/hiv-std/patients/epidemiology/annual-reports.aspx>. 9. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/hiv-std/patients/epidemiology/annual-reports.aspx>.

# Vulnerable Counties and Jurisdictions Experiencing or At-Risk for HIV/HCV Outbreaks



# How to Intervene?



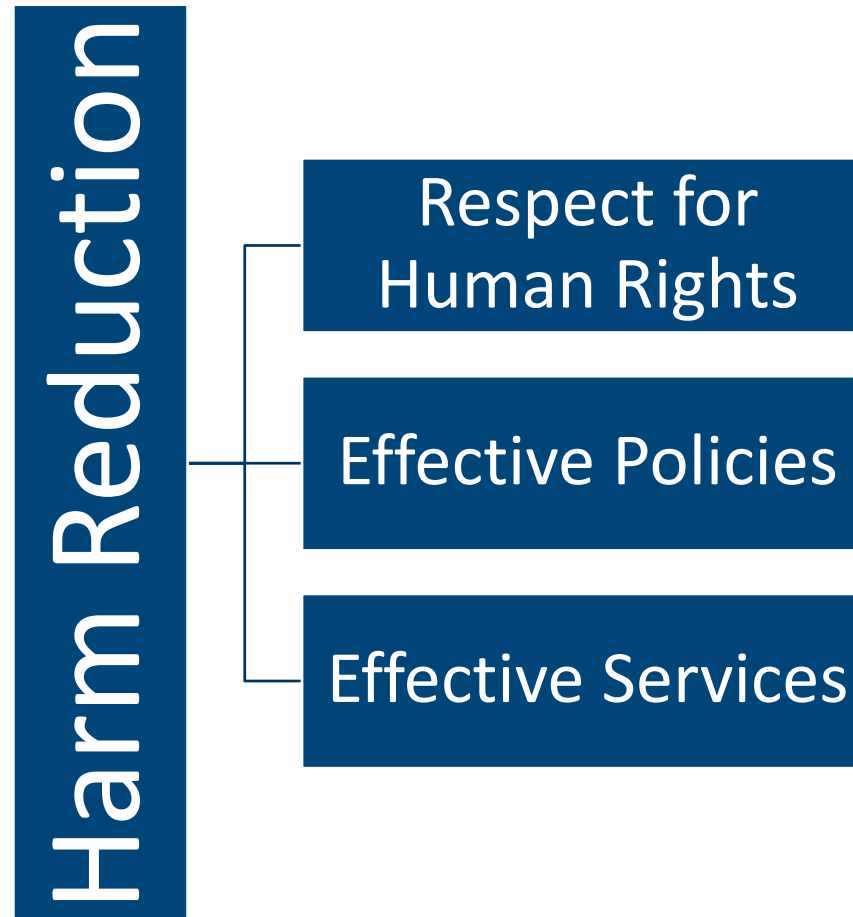
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# Harm Reduction: A definition

“Policies, programs and practices that aim to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws. Harm reduction is grounded in justice and human rights – it focuses on positive change and on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they stop using drugs as a precondition of support.”



# What are the Core Principles?





# Effective and Evidence Informed Services

## Harm reduction services include...



Syringe  
Access



Syringe  
Disposal



Safer Drug  
Use



Naloxone



Medication  
Assisted  
Treatment



Supervised  
Consumption  
Services



Drop-In  
Centers



Housing  
First



Pharmacy  
Access



Referral &  
linkage



# Effective and Evidence Informed Services

Decreases:

- Overdoses
- HIV infection
- HCV infections

Increases:

- Quality of life
- Entry and retention in treatment
- Chronic disease management

Cost effective

## Harm reduction services include...



Syringe Access



Syringe Disposal



Safer Drug Use



Naloxone



Medication Assisted Treatment



Supervised Consumption Services



Drop-In Centers



Housing First



Pharmacy Access



Referral & linkage



# Summary

- In addition to the rising numbers of opioid-related overdose deaths, the opioid crisis has resulted in significant increases in all infectious diseases
- More widespread implementation of harm reduction services will be the most effective public health approach to curb this trajectory



# THANK YOU!

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[amesika.nyaku@rutgers.edu](mailto:amesika.nyaku@rutgers.edu)

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**Bob Gaydosh**  
**Deputy Director**  
**New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety**



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# Impaired Driving in New Jersey

BOB GAYDOSH

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY





# NJDHTS and its mission



- ▶ The mission of DHTS is the **safe passage of all roadway users in New Jersey as we move towards zero fatalities**. To achieve our mission, DHTS promotes statewide traffic safety programs through education, engineering and enforcement activities. DHTS administers and coordinates grant funding for State and local traffic safety projects.

# NJDHTS priority program areas



- ▶ Occupant Protection (seat belts and child safety seats)
- ▶ Other vulnerable road users (pedestrian, bicyclists, motorcyclists)
- ▶ Speeding and Driver Distraction
- ▶ Impaired Driving



# Impaired Driving – Priority Program Area

- ▶ Impaired driving (alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription medication)
- ▶ Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers (with BACs at or above .08). In 2020, there were 11,654 people killed in drunk-driving crashes. It's illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, yet in 2020, one person was killed every 45 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads.
- ▶ Not just alcohol, many substances can impair driving including some over-the-counter and prescription drugs, and illegal drugs. Marijuana, as an example, can impair the ability to drive because it slows coordination, judgment, and reaction times. Cocaine and methamphetamine can make drivers more aggressive and reckless. Using two or more drugs at the same time can amplify the impairing effects.

# Impaired Driving – New Jersey data

- ▶ Over the five year period (2016-2020):
  - ▶ New Jersey's experienced 33,798 alcohol involved crashes, resulting in 662 fatalities.
  - ▶ **23% of all NJ traffic fatalities** involved a driver with a 0.08+ BAC.
  - ▶ 754 Total Drug Involved Fatalities – Increase of 5.5% from 2015-2019 total (715).
  - ▶ **26% of all NJ fatalities** involved a drug impaired driver.
- ▶ Impaired Driving remains a major factor in contributing to fatalities, crashes, and injuries on the State's roadways.

# Impaired Driving – Other consequences

- ▶ The Cost of Drunk Driving:
- ▶ On average, a DUI can set the person caught back \$10,000 in attorney's fees, fines, court costs, MVC surcharge, lost time at work, higher insurance rates, and more.
- ▶ Drinking and driving can cause you to lose your driver's license and your vehicle. This could keep you from getting to work, resulting in lost wages and, potentially, job loss.
- ▶ The financial impact from impaired-driving crashes is devastating. Based on 2010 numbers (the most recent year for which cost data is available), impaired-driving crashes cost the United States \$44 billion annually.

# Opioid Impaired Driving

## Drugged driver who killed three in N.J. gas station crash appeals sentence

Updated: Apr. 23, 2023, 10:36 a.m. | Published: Apr. 20, 2023, 2:32 p.m.



Advertisement

Jason Vanderee addresses the Warbeck family in March 2022 during his sentencing. In the courtroom of Judge Marilyn Clark at the Passaic County Superior Courthouse, Vanderee, of Vernon, was sentenced for the 2019 heroin induced car crash that killed three people on Route 23 in Wayne. Aristide Economopoulos | NJ Advance Media



By [Richard Cowen](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

The Sussex County man who was driving while high on heroin and killed three people when he crashed into a Wayne gas station in 2019 has filed an appeal, hoping to erase the plea

Recommended for You





# Opioid Impaired Driving

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Journal List > J Med Toxicol > v.17(3); 2021 Jul > PMC8206443

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Journal of Medical Toxicology  
Springer

J Med Toxicol. 2021 Jul; 17(3): 289–308.  
Published online 2021 Jan 5. doi: [10.1007/s13181-020-00819-y](#)

PMCID: PMC8206443  
PMID: [33403571](#)

**Opioid Use and Driving Performance**  
Keaton T. Cameron-Burr, Albert Conicella,<sup>✉</sup> and Mark J. Neavyn  
► Author information ► Article notes ► Copyright and License information ► [Disclaimer](#)

**Abstract** Go to: ►

**Introduction**

The USA is in an opioid epidemic, with an increased number of individuals taking psychoactive drugs while executing the tasks of everyday life, including operating a motor vehicle. The pharmacology of opioids has been widely studied, but the effects of opioids on psychomotor function, driving performance, and the risk of motor vehicle collision remain less clear. Clinicians are faced with the challenge of controlling patient pain while also reconciling conflicting messages from the literature about how safe it is for their patients taking opioids to engage in potentially dangerous routine tasks.

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Clinicians should counsel patients on the risk of impairment when initiating therapy, when co-prescribing opioids and other psychoactive drugs, or when a patient is suspected of having an opioid use disorder.

# NJDHTS countermeasures– Enforcement programs

- ▶ DWI enforcement
  - ▶ Sustained year long enforcement grants to state, county and local police agencies (roving patrols and checkpoints).
  - ▶ Two statewide enforcement mobilizations
    - ▶ Labor Day Crackdown
    - ▶ December holiday crackdown
- ▶ Training for law enforcement
  - ▶ Alcotest operations, SFST, ARIDE
- ▶ Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's)
  - ▶ Training, certification, and callout funding



# NJDHTS countermeasures- Education programs

- ▶ Materials
  - ▶ Cannabis handout



- ▶ Social media





# “Wheel Risks” Campaign

March-May, 2022





# “Memorial” Campaign (December 2022)



A memorial campaign poster for impaired driving. The background shows a courtroom scene with a woman in a judge's robe and a man in an orange jumpsuit. Overlaid on the left is the text: "HE LOST HIS LICENSE... SHE LOST HER LIFE. DON'T DRIVE IMPAIRED." Below this is a New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety logo and the website "NJSAFEROADS.COM/IMPAIRED". On the right, a portrait of Mary C. is shown with her name and dates: "Mary C. Sep. 26, 1956 - Nov. 7, 2022".

**HE LOST  
HIS LICENSE...  
SHE LOST HER LIFE.**

**DON'T DRIVE IMPAIRED.**

 [NJSAFEROADS.COM/IMPAIRED](https://NJSAFEROADS.COM/IMPAIRED)

**Mary C.**  
Sep. 26, 1956 - Nov. 7, 2022

# Triennial New Jersey Highway Safety Plan – 2024-2026

- ▶ Holistic messaging
  - ▶ Include treatment referral information in our printed materials and social media ([reachnj.gov](https://reachnj.gov))
    - ▶ The hope is to get individuals with substance abuse problems into treatment before they get behind the wheel and potentially injure or kill themselves or others in a crash.
- ▶ Always looking for input and new ideas to incorporate into our efforts.
- ▶ Major new requirement: Engage the community and make that a part of our planning process.

*Thank You!*

# Impaired Driving in New Jersey

BOB GAYDOSH

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY





**Adrienne Simpkins, MA**  
**Director of Outreach and Capacity Building**  
**New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence**

# The Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and Opioid Use

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Presented by:  
Adrienne Simpkins, MA  
Director of Outreach and Capacity Building

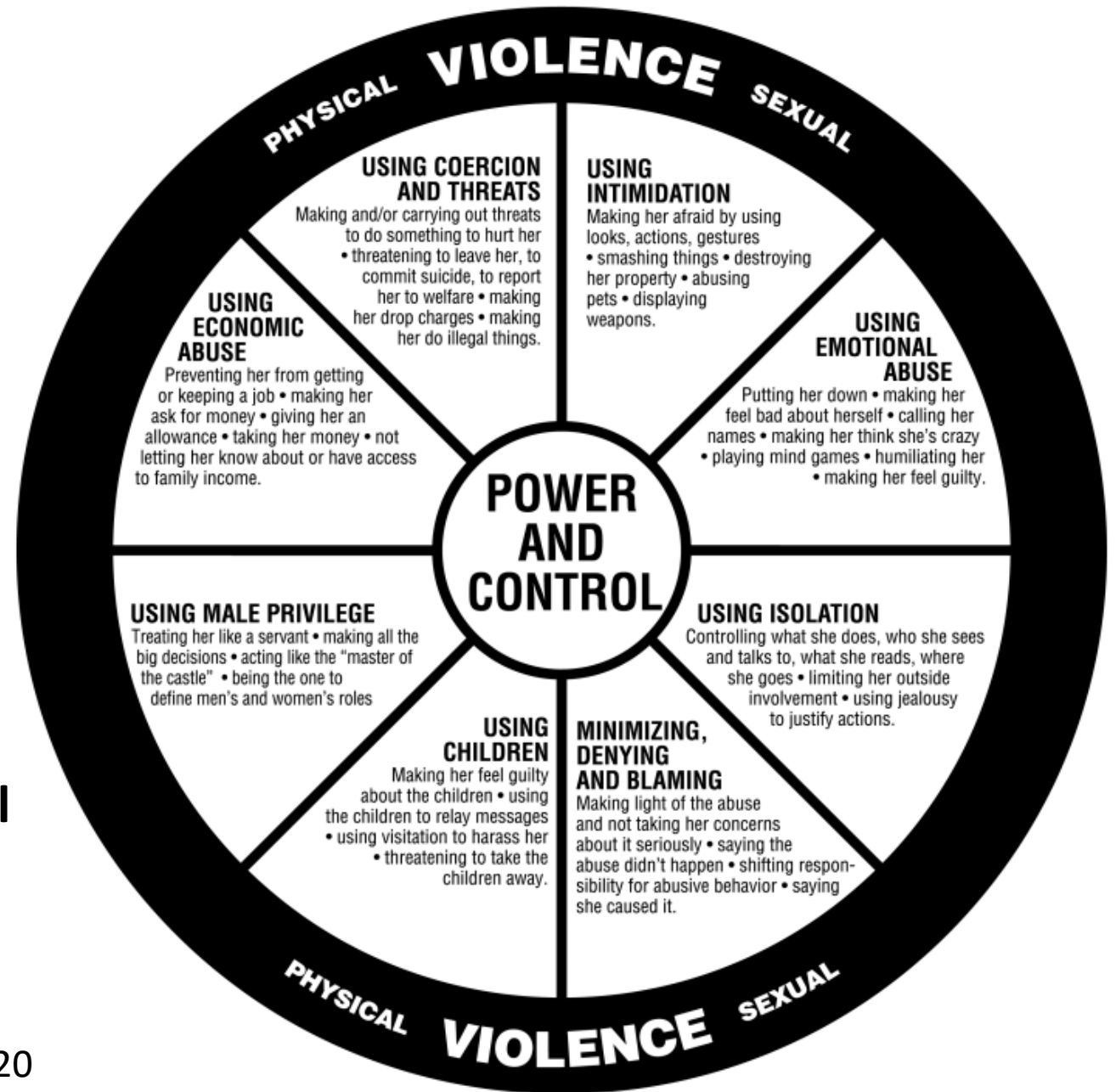




# Power & Control

**Substance use coercion: Occurs when perpetrators of IPV undermine and control their partners through substance-use-related tactics and creates major barriers to safety and health.**

ASPE, October 2020





# Impact on Survivors

Sabotaging recovery  
or efforts to reduce  
use

Intentionally  
increasing stress as  
a way to influence  
use.

Making threats that  
cause reluctance to  
reach out for  
assistance

Increased risk of  
homicide if they  
leave

Limited access to  
medical care

# Contributing Factors

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- Effects of some substances cause irritability and aggression
- SUDs may create or worsen problems with impulse control
- Intoxication may create cognitive distortions and misperceptions about a partner's behavior
- Couples with one partner suffering from a SUD might be susceptible to higher levels of conflict about substance use, money, or related topics





## Considerations for Service Providers

- Develop collaborations with DV programs
- Receive basic training on DV
- Ask questions about DV in your screening and intake processes
- Utilize gender-responsive, trauma informed models of service
- Access to pain management & individualize treatment

# Resources Cited

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- Patrick , Wendy L. "The Link between Opioids and Interpersonal Violence." *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 20 June 2021, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/why-bad-looks-good/202106/the-link-between-opioids-and-interpersonal-violence>.
- Phillips, H., Schaffer, S., White-Domain, R., & Warshaw, C. (2019, May). *SAVING LIVES: Meeting the Needs of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors Who Use Opioids RESEARCH AND POLICY BRIEF | MAY 2019*. [www.ncdvtmh.org](http://www.ncdvtmh.org).
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- "Supporting Survivors' Access to Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services during the COVID-19 Emergency." *National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health*, <http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/2020/03/covid-19-resources-for-advocates/>.

# Contact Us

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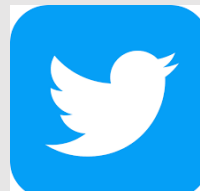
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Email: [training@njcedv.org](mailto:training@njcedv.org)

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*To register for continuing education for today's webinar, visit [KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/credit](https://KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/credit)*

## UPCOMING WEBINAR

**The Rise of Poly-Substance Overdose Deaths**

**11 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2023**

**Register at [KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/events](https://KnockOutDay.DrugFreeNJ.org/events)**



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