

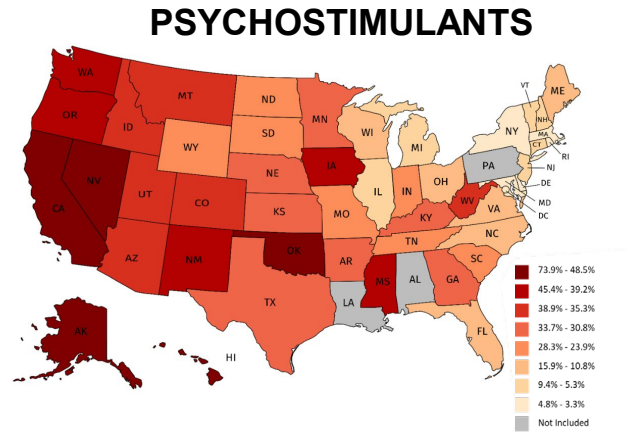
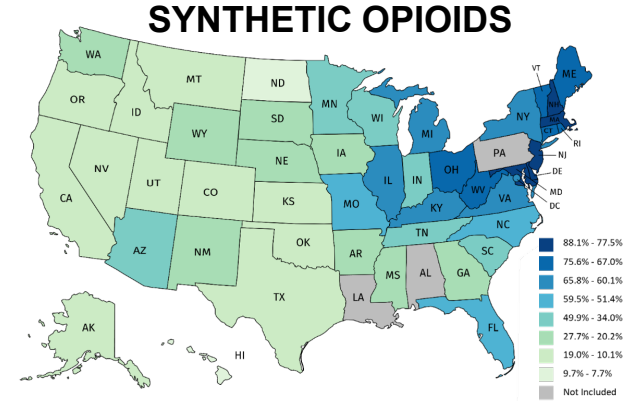
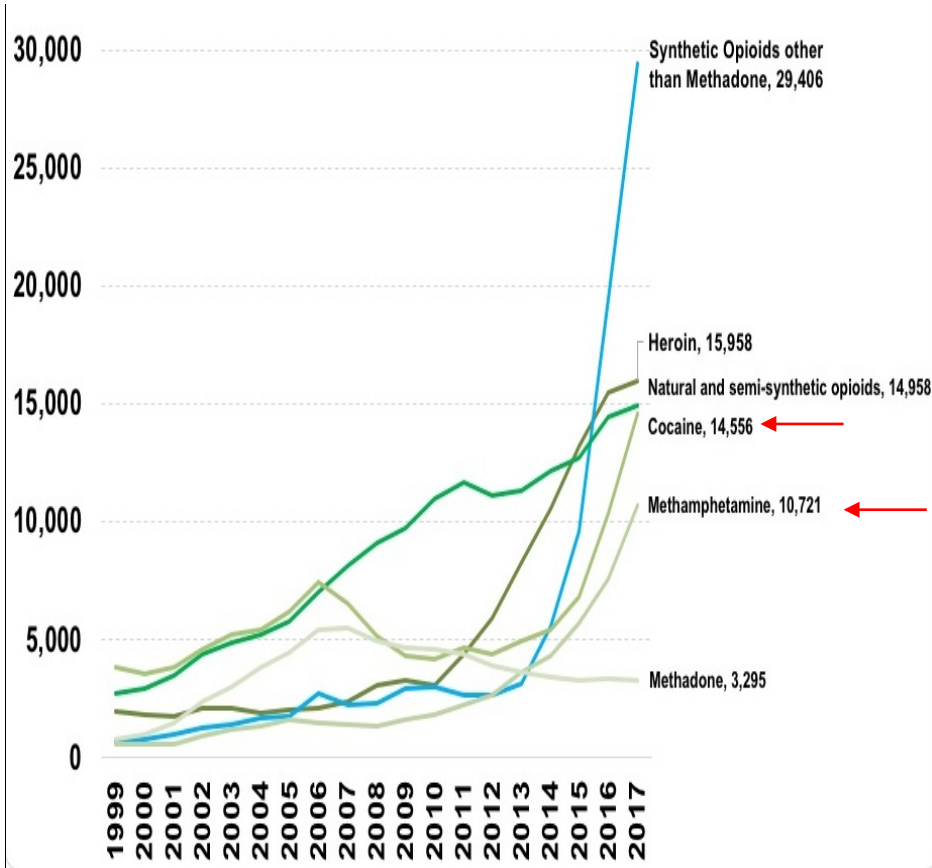


Emerging Issues in the Opioid Crisis: Methamphetamine and Stimulants

Dr. Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

OD Deaths: Provisional Data 3/ 2018 – 2/ 2019

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, September 12, 2019



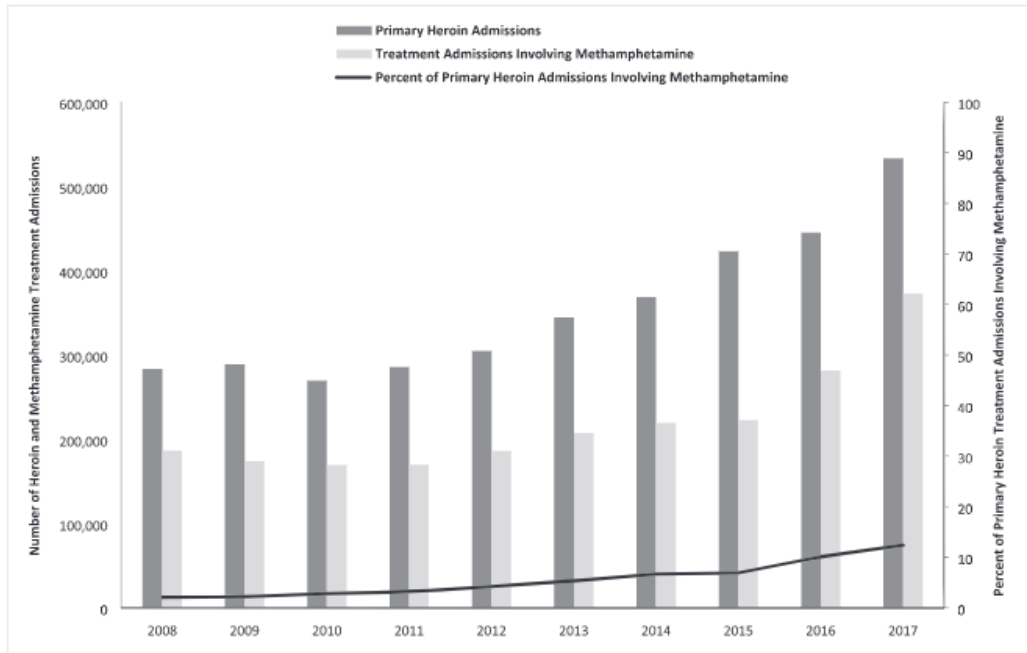
OVERDOSE MORTALITY BY CLASS OF DRUG

ADAPTED FROM NCHS STATISTICS

CDC National Vital Statistics System, January 15, 2020

	HEROIN	NAT & SEMI – SYNTHETIC	METHADONE	SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS	COCAINE	OTHER PSYCHO-STIMULANTS
JUNE 2018 *	15,408	13,703	3,226	30,817	15,408	11,667
JUNE 2019 *	14,973	12,275	2,883	33,752	15,391	14,687
Change	-2.82%	-10.42%	-10.63%	9.52%	-0.11%	25.88%

Heroin Treatment Admissions: Increasing Rates of Methamphetamine Co-Use



- Increases in co-use evident for all demographic and geographic groups
- Higher prevalence co-use among females and among age groups 12-17 and 18-24

Jones et al., *Addiction* doi:10.1111/add.14812

National Early Drug Warning System (NDEWS) Hotspot Study

Co-Use of Methamphetamine and Opioids Among Patients in Treatment in Oregon, US (September 2019)

- Meth **perceived as safer** than heroin
- Meth often **used to counteract/titrate** effects of heroin
- Meth considered a **cost-effective** way to achieve high
- Relatively **easy access** to combine meth and heroin
- Polysubstance use with meth or heroin as the primary drug is **concentrated among youth**

Methamphetamine Use and Opioid Treatment Retention

Buprenorphine for Heroin Use: Treatment Retention

- Those who co-used methamphetamine and heroin
 - had significantly shorter treatment duration
 - were more likely to discontinue treatment immediately or within three months
- Loss to follow-up was most common cause of non-retention

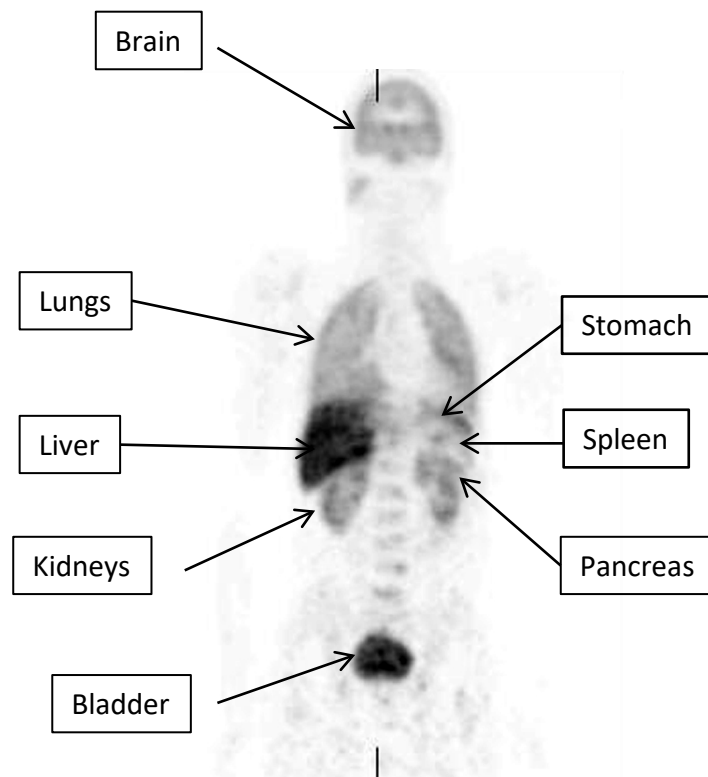
Tsui, et al. J Substance Abuse Treatment 109(2020): 80-85

Methamphetamine Use: Challenges

Methamphetamine is especially potent underlying its high addictiveness

- Methamphetamine directly releases large amounts of dopamine into the synapse, which underlies its **addictiveness**
- Methamphetamine clears slowly from brain – thereby producing long-lasting psychoactive effects including **psychoses**

Methamphetamine distributes throughout brain and body underlying its high toxicity



COVID-19: Potential Implications for People with OUD

- SUD-related lung impairment may increase risk for serious effects from COVID-19 (smoking/vaping, opioids, methamphetamine)
- Stress on health systems may be a barrier to care for those with OUD, including ED interventions
- Concerns regarding infections may hinder naloxone reversal interventions
- Risks for SUD, such as homelessness or incarceration, may increase likelihood of COVID-19 exposure
- Research delays due to:
 - University closures
 - Delayed patient recruitment and enrollment (Clinical Trials Network)
 - Other community partner priorities (HEALing Communities Study)
 - Inability to access correctional facilities (JCOIN)

Discussion