

Rising Methamphetamine Use and the Overdose Epidemic

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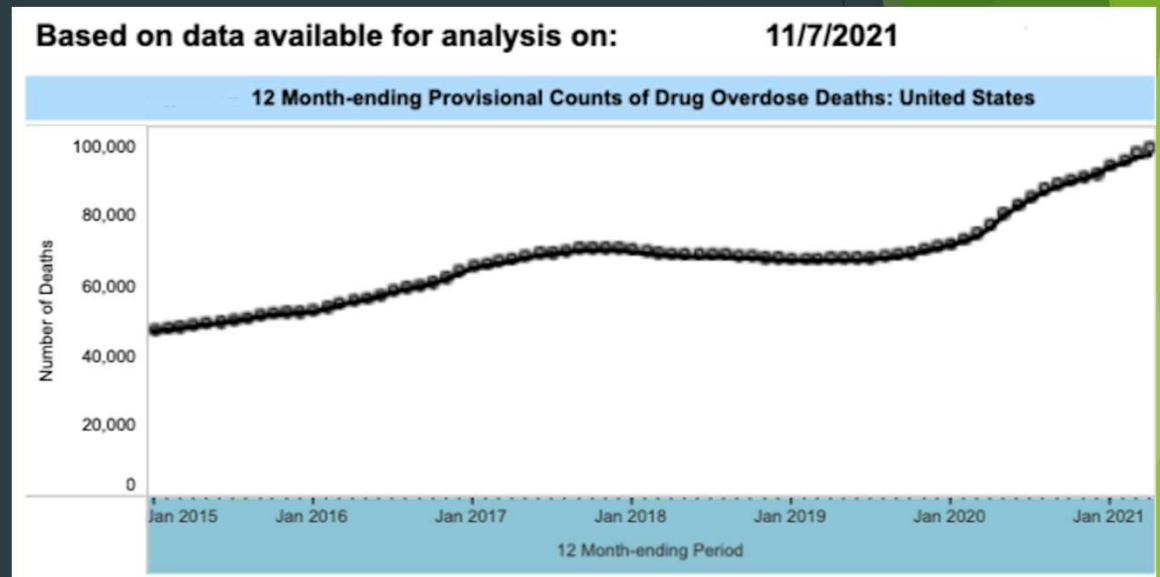
Overdose Deaths in America (the parallel epidemic):

- ▶ April 2019-April 2020
(pre-pandemic OD deaths):

- ▶ **Up 29% to 78,056**

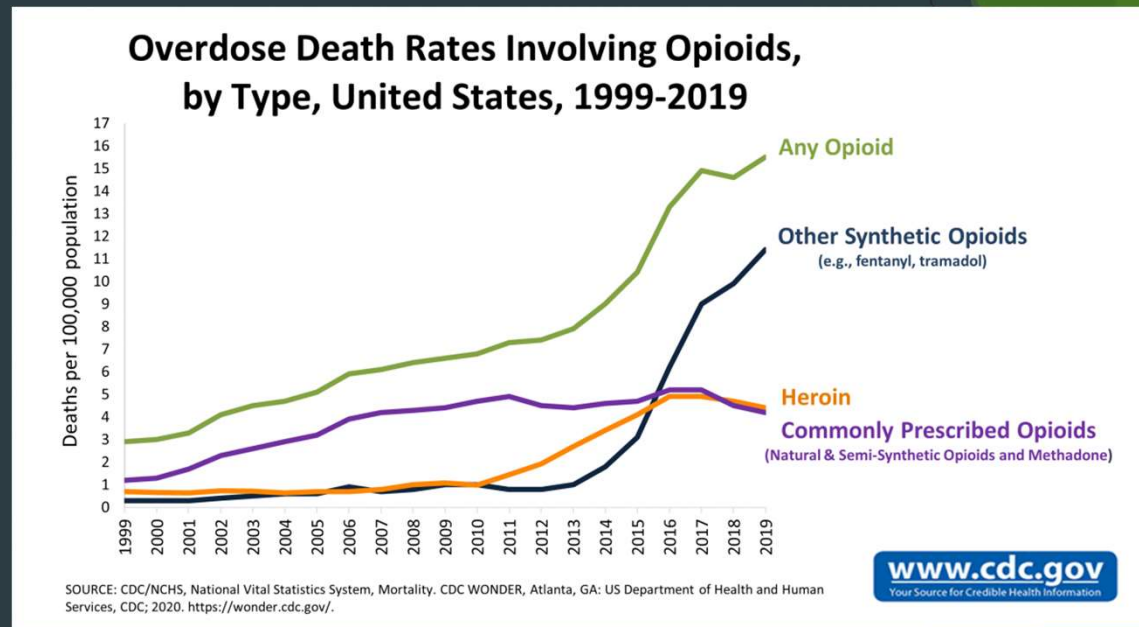
- ▶ April 2020-April 2021
(during COVID OD deaths):

- ▶ **Up another 28% to 100,000+**



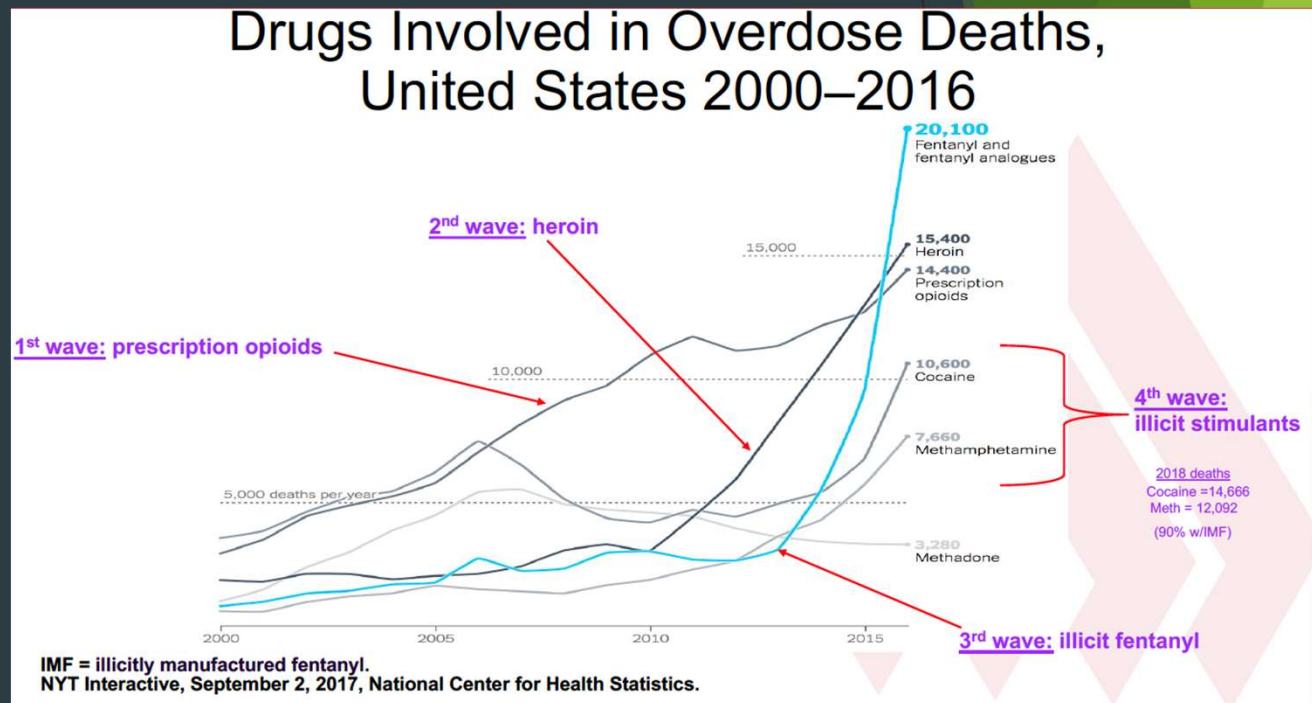
The 3 Waves of Opioid OD Deaths

1. Over-prescribed & diverted prescription opioids
2. Heroin
3. Synthetic opioids (especially fentanyl)



The 4th Wave & Stimulants: (methamphetamine & cocaine)

- ▶ Opioid OD deaths w. cocaine and/or methamphetamine **grew 529%** from 2015 to 2017
- ▶ Meth use increasingly found overlapping with fentanyl (2013-2019 fentanyl-positive screens **increased 1280%**)
- ▶ Cocaine use increasingly found overlapping with fentanyl (2013-2018 fentanyl-positive screens **increased 1850%**)



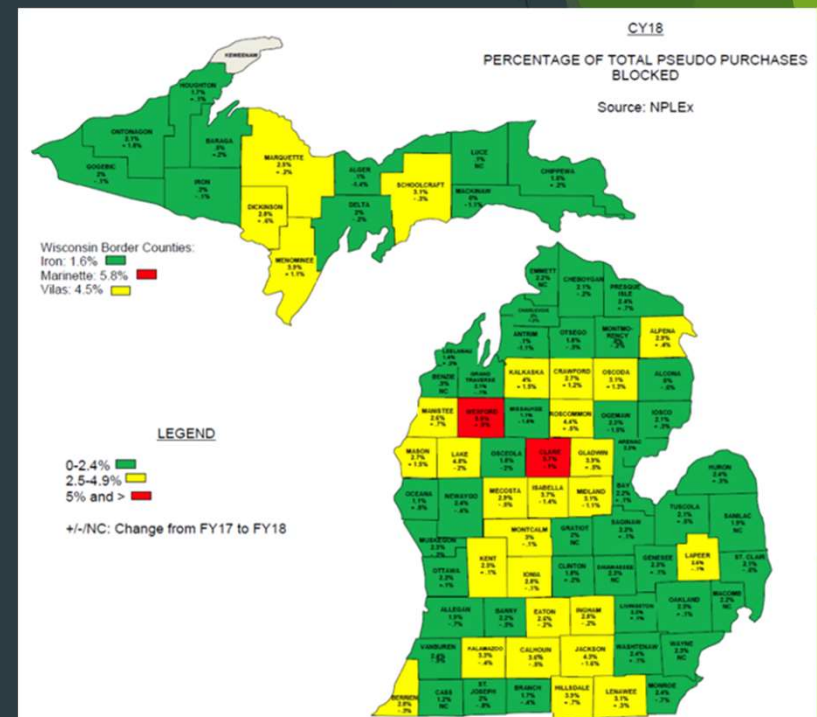
What is Methamphetamine (Meth)?

- ▶ Highly addictive stimulant - Easy to produce
- ▶ Street names for meth: “chalk, ice, speed, crystal, crank & glass”
- ▶ Meth used in combination with other substances like cocaine/crack, marijuana, heroin, and alcohol
- ▶ Can be smoked, snorted, injected orally, or injected - (IV meth use increasing)



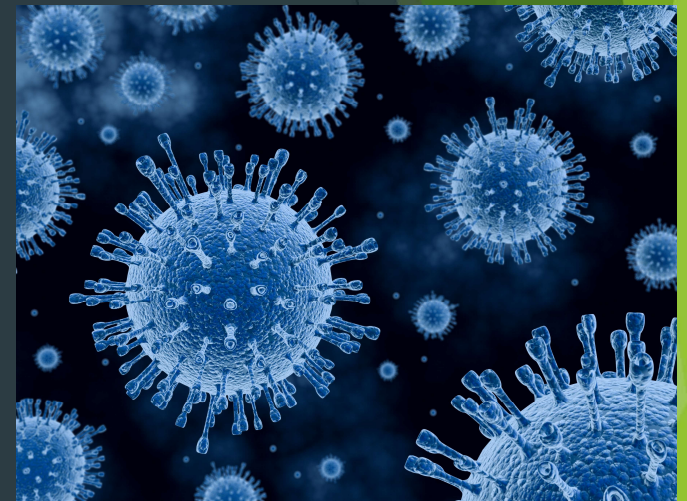
How has meth production & use changed?

- ▶ Local, small-scale meth production w. ephedrine (e.g., Sudafed). Access restricted.
- ▶ Cartels stepped in w. lab produced phenyl-2-propanone (P2P) meth - More toxic neurotoxin
- ▶ Users often are unaware that fentanyl is combined with their meth



Prevalence of Meth Use

1. COVID parallels rise in meth use
2. Per SAMHSA:
 - ▶ About 2 million people 12 years or older use meth in any given year
 - ▶ About 500 people each day try meth for the first time
3. In 2020, 2.5 million Americans aged 12 or older reported having used methamphetamine in the past year
4. User profile is evolving and is more diverse
5. No MAT for stimulants (for craving, withdrawal, overdose reversal)



Methamphetamine Psychosis (MAP)

- ▶ MAP is when meth intoxication includes psychiatric symptoms like hallucinations, paranoia, severe depression, suicidality & anxiety.
- ▶ Symptoms usually resolve within a month after meth use stops
- ▶ 10-28% experience MAP after 6+ months of abstinence
- ▶ 5-7% experience MAP even during long-term abstinence

- ▶ Where to place individuals w. MAP is a challenge:
 - ▶ SUD Providers not used to psychotic behaviors
 - ▶ Drug-induced psychosis doesn't meet eligibility for inpatient psych units
 - ▶ Contributing to homelessness

MSHN Strategies

- ▶ Developing a clinical practice guideline for MAP
- ▶ Engaging with substance use prevention coalitions
- ▶ SOR 2 expands from just opioids to include stimulants
- ▶ Pilot of Contingency Management in recovery homes (Newaygo & Montcalm counties)
- ▶ Working on education, training, stigma reduction and continuity of care

Questions?

