

VOICES FROM THE OPIOID CRISIS:

WHAT SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES MEAN IN PHILADELPHIA

KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW, AMERICAN INN OF COURT

COLLOQUY PRESENTED BY TEAM 2

NOVEMBER 20, 2018



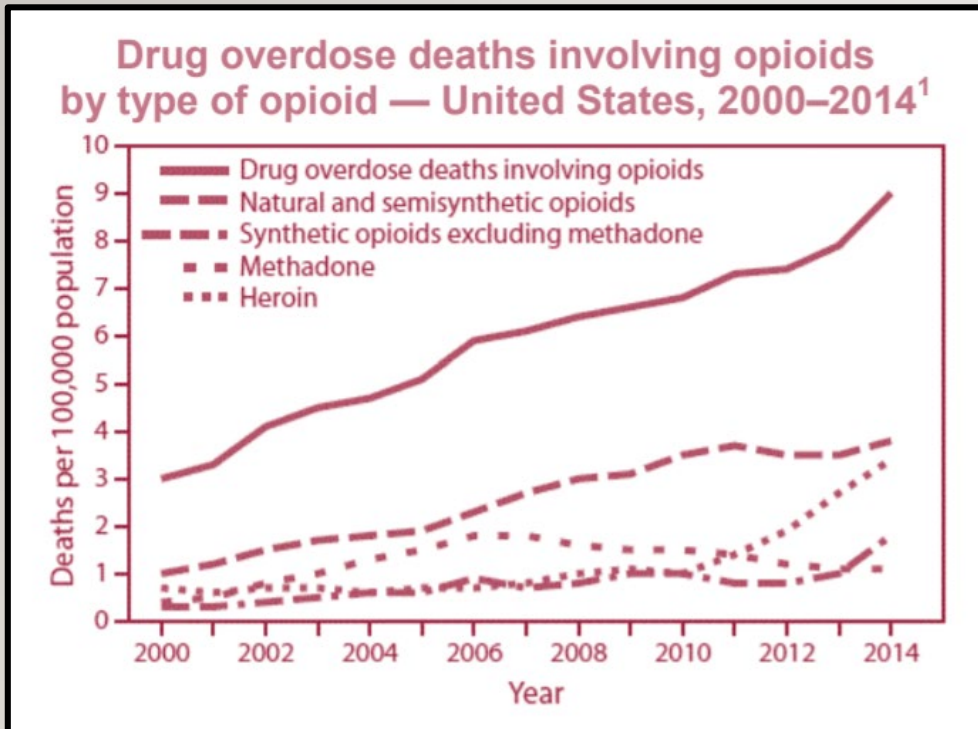
IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

- October 2017: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency because of the country's opioid crisis
- The opioid crisis affects the whole country and is especially traumatic in Philadelphia
- There is an estimated 70,000 heroin users in the Philadelphia area along with 50,000 people that have misused prescription painkillers



Sources: HHS.gov & Saint John's University Study
Photo of Vancouver site from NPR.org

THE NUMBERS...



- 2016: **907 people died** of overdose in Philadelphia
- 2017: **1,217 people died** of overdose in Philadelphia (**34% increase** from 2016)
- Opioid crisis costs Philadelphia an estimated **\$26 million a year**
- Today there are over **120 CUES worldwide**
- **Zero overdose deaths** reported at any of the 120 sites; **Zero CUES** in the U.S.

Sources: SafehousePhilly.org, Philly.gov, “Does Evidence Support Supervised Injection Sites?” & Saint John’s University Study

PANEL

- **Jose Benitez, MSW**, Executive Director, Prevention Point
- **Ronda Goldfein, Esq.**, Executive Director, AIDS Law Project
- **Jeffrey Hom, MD, MPH**, Policy Advisor, Philadelphia Health Department
- **Louis Lappen, Esq.**, Deputy U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- **Charlene and Kyle Scott**, Parent of a Conwell Middle Magnet Schooler
- **Captain Laverne Vann**, Philadelphia Police Department
- **Sergeant Alfonso Jett**, Philadelphia Police Department

“MULTIPLE SIDES OF THE STORY”



Photos of Kensington, Philadelphia from the NY Times feature, “Trapped by the ‘Walmart of Heroin’”

SOURCES

(NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

- *Comprehensive User Engagement Sites (CUES) Fact Sheet*, PHILA.GOV, https://www.phila.gov/media/20180614163426/OTF_CUES-Fact-Sheet.pdf (last visited Nov. 19, 2018)
- *The Epidemic of Overdoses from Opioids in Philadelphia*, PHILA.GOV, (June 2016) <https://www.phila.gov/health/pdfs/chartvlel.pdf>.
- *Frequently Asked Questions*, SAFEHOUSE, <https://www.safehousephilly.org/about/faqs> (last visited Nov. 14, 2018).
- *HHS Acting Secretary Declares Public Health Emergency to Address National Opioid Crisis*, HHS.GOV (Oct. 26, 2017), <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/10/26/hhs-acting-secretary-declares-public-health-emergency-address-national-opioid-crisis.html>.
- Jennifer Ng, Christy Sutherland, & Michael R. Kolber, *Does Evidence Support Supervised Injection Sites?*, CANADIAN FAMILY PHYSICIAN (November 2017), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5685449/>.