

OFA PeerTA Network Webinar

***Opioid Use Disorder, Treatment, and
Barriers to Employment Among TANF
Participants***

March 29, 2018

Moderator:

Damon Waters

Family Assistance Program Specialist
Office of Family Assistance

OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families



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Meeting

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

OFA PeerTA
Strengthening Self-sufficiency Pathways

OFA PeerTA Network Webinar

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Q & A

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- **Overview**

Justin Germain, MEF Associates

- **Kentucky's Targeted Assessment Program**

Barbara Ramlow, University of Kentucky Center on Drug & Alcohol Research

- **Vermont's CHARM (Children and Recovering Mothers) Team**

Ann M. Johnston, University of Vermont Children's Hospital
Sally Borden, KidSafe Collaborative

- **Facilitated Q&A, Damon Waters, OFA**

Audience Poll #1

To what extent is opioid use disorder a problem among clients in your TANF program?

- a. Not at all
- b. Somewhat of a problem
- c. A large problem
- d. Unsure

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Overview

Justin Germain
MEF Associates

Opioid Use Disorder, Treatment, and Barriers to Employment Among TANF Participants

Justin Germain

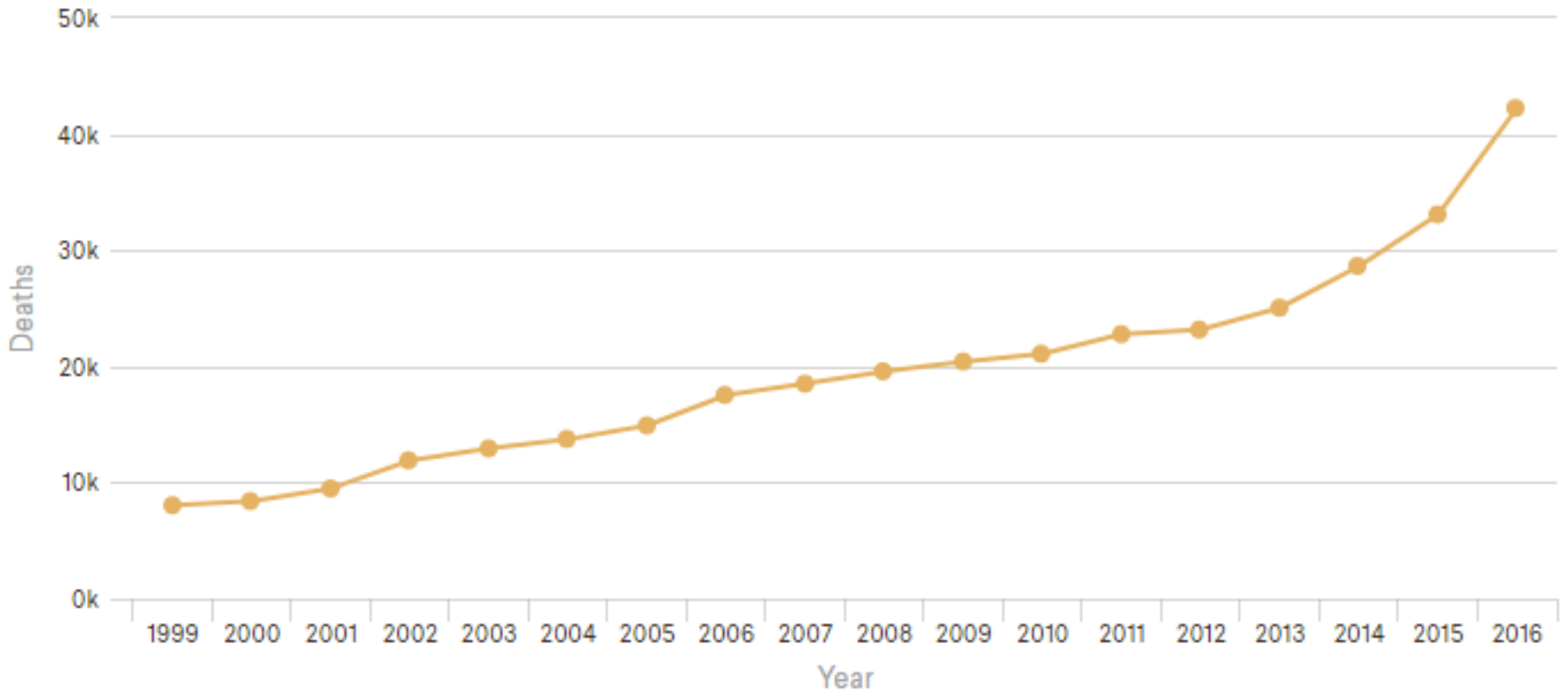
March 29, 2018



Roadmap

- Prevalence of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Prevalence Among TANF and Low-Income Populations
- Effects on Employment
- Treatment and Prevention Strategies
 - OUD
 - Specific Populations
- Challenges
- Conclusion

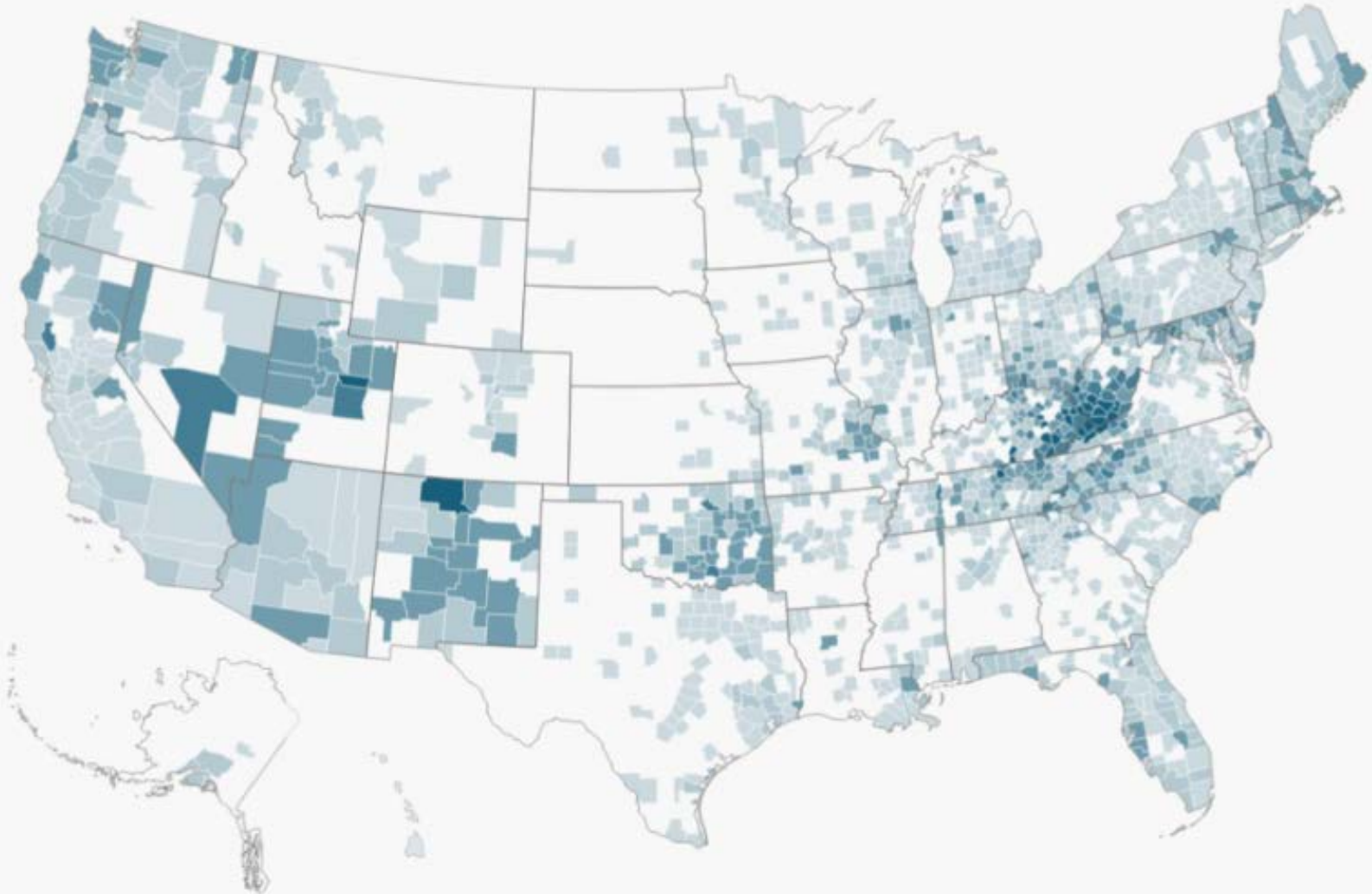
U.S. Opioid Overdose Deaths



Source: Council on Foreign Relations; National Institute on Drug Abuse; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

OPIOID DEATH RATE PER 100,000 PEOPLE, 2015

□ Insufficient data 0-5.4 5.4-9.3 9.3-15.3 15.3-22 22-52.2



OUD Prevalence in TANF and Low-Income Populations

- Research on TANF and TANF-eligible families focuses on general substance use disorders
- OUD rates among Medicaid recipients can help draw parallels to TANF recipients
- Screening and assessment procedures may underestimate the scope of OUD among individuals receiving public assistance

Effects on Employment

- OUD falls within a web of coexisting barriers to employment
 - Employment before or during treatment may increase employment retention and success
- Higher county unemployment rates correlate to higher opioid-related death rates
 - Employment alone may not be enough to stem OUD

Treatment and Prevention Strategies: OUD

- Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
 - Medication
 - Methadone
 - Buprenorphine
 - Naltrexone
 - Counseling



Treatment and Prevention Strategies: OUD

- Strategies Curbing Improper Prescribing Practices
 - National Prescribing Guidelines
 - Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
 - Pill Mill Laws
- Contingency Management
- Community Prevention Coalitions



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Treatment and Prevention Strategies: Specific Populations

- TANF Participants and Women with Dependent Children
 - Screening and Assessment
 - Intensive Case Management
 - Individualized Placement and Support Model of Supported Employment
 - Family-Centered Treatment

Treatment and Prevention Strategies: Specific Populations

- Child Welfare Families
 - Family Treatment Drug Courts
 - Recovery Coaches and Counseling



Challenges

- There is limited information about opioid treatment strategies targeted at employment for TANF participants
- Coexisting barriers may hinder the accessibility of treatment
- Limited collaboration across social service systems can hinder screening and treatment
- OUD harms individuals throughout the entire workforce system
- Individuals at risk of losing public assistance or custody of their children fear disclosing their OUD

Conclusion

■ Key Takeaways

- There is limited research about the opioid crisis among TANF participants
- OUD is one of many coexisting problems that worsen difficulties in securing employment

■ Implications for Future Research

- There is a need for more research on the prevalence of OUD among the TANF and TANF-eligible populations
- Certain treatment strategies have been shown to be effective and could be evaluated for TANF

Contact Information

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Audience Poll #2

How do you screen and assess your clients for substance use disorders?

- a. Do not screen
- b. Self-disclose on application
- c. Assessment tool
- d. Mandatory drug test
- e. Other

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***Kentucky's Targeted
Assessment Program***

Barbara Ramlow

University of Kentucky Center on
Drug & Alcohol Research