

Logo: SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Welcome to

Drug Trends in NH

John Burns, Executive Director
Eileen Doyle, Training Coordinator
SOS Recovery Community Organization

SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 60

Logo: SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Pr Introductions

- Name
- Less than 1 minute to tell us about you and your work
- Motivation for attending

SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 1.2

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to...

- Identify common adulterants in the illicit drug supply in NH
- Explore compassionate overdose reversal strategies
- Identify prevalent myths and stigma and the impact on vulnerable populations

SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 1.3

Alcohol & Tobacco cause more deaths in NH

Tobacco:

Tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. responsible for the death of 1,900 people a year in NH.

13.9% of NH residents still smoke and is the leading cause of death and disease in NH. (1)

(1) <https://www.breathenh.org/lung-health/tobacco-issues>

Alcohol & Tobacco cause more deaths in NH

Alcohol:

- According to SAMHSA Rates of death due to alcohol increased over 30% during COVID pandemic.
- 13 deaths per 100,000 nationally in 2020
- CDC research showed that as many as 1 in 8 deaths amongst adults 20-64 were alcohol related deaths.(2)
- **NH has the highest per capita alcohol consumption in the U.S. (4.43 gallons per 100,000).**(3)
- 4 out of every 10 violent crimes in the US involve someone who is under the influence of alcohol
- 17% of adults in NH reported binge drinking in last 30 days. (4)

1. <https://www.nhr.org/2022-11-08/the-rate-of-alcohol-related-deaths-in-the-u-s rose-30-in-the-first-year-of-covid>

2. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/448488/per-capita-alcohol-consumption-of-all-beverages-in-the-us-by-state/>

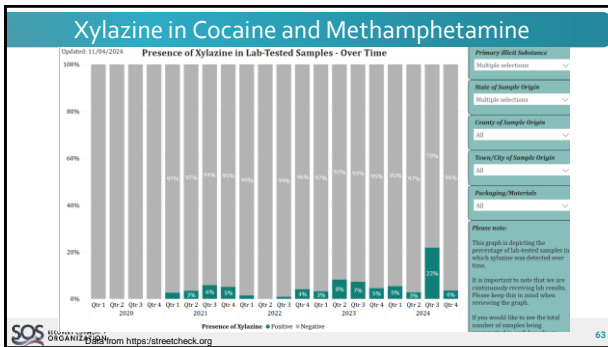
3. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/986646/ binge-drinking-rate-adults-by-state/>

Comprehensive Community Drug Checking

- Most Data Presented comes from programs in Massachusetts
- NH allows ONLY fentanyl and xylazine test strips
- Legislature rejected using comprehensive Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer programs despite research and evidence.
- Police Chief Association opposed legislation despite no evidence to indicate negative impacts.
- Draw your opinions on the timeliness of data we gain from this in preventing overdose death and reducing harms to those at risk.
- It took over 3 years from the time it was appearing for NH DHHS to issue a public health alert to the threat of Xylazine.

What is Xylazine

Xylazine in Cocaine and Methamphetamine



Adulterants in Cocaine

Cocaine:

- 58% of samples: Tetramisol/Levamisole
- De-wormer only used in veterinary care now.
 - Causes skin lesions, necrosis (around face and ears).

- 26% of samples: Phenacetin
- Used as a cutting agent/filler.
 - Formerly used as an analgesic, now used in research primarily.
 - Linkages to bladder cancer due to prevalence in cut

There is no Fentanyl being put in Cannabis

Why is it so widely reported?

- **Caused by faulty field drug testing kits that are unreliable**
- **Poor reporting and funding incentives to law enforcement to hype local fear**
- **Reporters failing to follow up or research accuracy of reports**
- **When it does exist likely cross contamination in a space cutting fentanyl and preparing cannabis**

Fentanyl laced Cannabis would burn too hot for the fentanyl to have a euphoric effect. Stigma around heroin/fentanyl use and criminal penalties. If you've used cannabis and fentanyl and find yourself in a hospital or facing law enforcement given stigma and criminal penalties fear results in denial.

"He explained that even if fentanyl were in a marijuana plant, it begins to break down into its separate compounds at temperatures higher than 350 degrees Celsius, less than that of the flame from a lighter, which burns at around 2,000 degrees Celsius. Once the fentanyl does burn off, it releases irritants that can cause lung injury." – Dr. Ryan Marino

Feb 28, 2023 News Nation Now <https://www.newsnationnow.com/cuomo-show/marijuana-fentanyl-claims-ryan-marino/>



Data from <https://streetcheck.org>

63

Contact Overdoses with Fentanyl/Carfentanyl

Fentanyl overdoses due to contact or inhalation are a MYTH

No toxicology proof has ever backed such a claim

The position of the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) and American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT), is as follows: Fentanyl and its analogs are potent opioid receptor agonists, but the risk of clinically significant exposure to emergency responders is extremely low. To date, we have not seen reports of emergency responders developing signs or symptoms consistent with opioid toxicity from incidental contact with opioids

Some research indicates 80% of law enforcement believe this to be true. Result is fear and anxiety

"Psychological stress presenting as anxiety and, when taken as a whole, mass sociogenic illness, is most likely," Nelson wrote. "This is often described as the nocebo effect in which the thought of an exposure causes the expected adverse effect even if a substance is inactive. This is essentially the opposite of the more well-known placebo effect."

Increases stigma and fear in the community and impacts how individuals are treated by police and first responders.



Data from <https://streetcheck.org>

63

Compassionate Overdose Prevention

Most overdose reversals continue to happen through public Naloxone administration in the community by people who use drugs. Far more than those administered by first responders.

New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law (RSA 318-B:28-b) allows people to call 911 without fear of arrest if they are having a drug overdose that requires emergency medical care or if they witness someone overdosing.

What does New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law not protect against? It does not protect a person from:

- The arrest, prosecution and conviction of a crime other than possession of a controlled drug.
- The lawful seizure of any evidence or illegal items.
- The ability of law enforcement officers to detain or place a person into custody as part of a criminal investigation, or to arrest a person for an offense other than possession of a controlled drug.



Data from <https://streetcheck.org>

63

Compassionate Overdose Prevention

Compassionate overdose responses require airway management and LESS Naloxone not more.

Most overdose reversals only require one dose or two max – complications of Xylazine and other adulterants in drug supply.

Reversals often take 6-9 minutes now.

Mouthpieces in all overdose response kits, agencies utilizing Ambubags or oxygen when possible.

Pulse Oximeters

Intramuscular administration preferred over nasal due to lower dose.
.4mg vs. 4mg intranasal

8mg Kloxado is NOT best practice



Overdose Prevention and Recent Research

Spatiotemporal Analysis Exploring the Effect of Law Enforcement Drug Market Disruptions on Overdose, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2020–2021 Bradley Ray, PhD, Steven J. Korzeniewski, PhD, George Mohler, PhD, Jennifer J. Carroll, PhD, MPH, Brandon del Pozo, PhD, Grant Victor, PhD, Philip Huynh, MPH, and Bethany J. Hedden, MSW

Results. Within 7, 14, and 21 days, opioid-related law enforcement drug seizures were significantly associated with increased spatiotemporal clustering of overdoses within radii of 100, 250, and 500 meters. For example, the observed number of fatal overdoses was two-fold higher than expected under the null distribution within 7 days and 500 meters following opioid-related seizures. To a lesser extent, stimulant-related drug seizures were associated with increased spatiotemporal clustering overdose.

Conclusions. Supply-side enforcement interventions and drug policies should be further explored to determine whether they exacerbate an ongoing overdose epidemic and negatively affect the nation's life expectancy. (Am J Public Health. 2023;113(7):750–758. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2023.307291>)



Overdose Prevention and Drug Seizure Data

Brandon Del Pozo, assistant professor at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School and School of Public Health. 19 years at New York City Police Dept and 4 years as Chief of Police in Burlington, VT:

“To be truly effective in reducing overdose deaths, policing strategies need to be comprehensive,” he said. “That means taking into account all the outcomes of police work, not just the effect of incapacitating drug dealers, but also how seizing drugs disrupts sales in a community, and how those disrupted sales affect usage patterns, and how those usage patterns affect an individual’s health and safety. According to this study, we have evidence that seizing opioids increases exposure to overdose.”



Virtual Overdose Prevention Approaches

Challenges and Opportunities of Virtual Overdose Monitoring Services

Response time concerns
VOMS may face longer time to interventions due to differences in emergency response plans and the range of emergency medical services in responses.

Development and operational costs
Operational costs and data security requirements may represent costs. Additionally, there may be additional costs for emergency response services resulting from VOMS.

Accessibility and Equity
VOMS require access to technology in order to be able to access services.

Impacts on service workers
Emerging responses may take a large toll on the mental health of peer workers, response workers and mental health supports should be assessed alongside appropriate compensation for service operators.

Changes in Drug Supply
As hard drug supply leads to additional substance use related harms, VOMS may be able to more rapidly identify and disseminate information on the local drug supply.

Scope of Administration
VOMS can support all types of substance use. Many harm reduction services only provide injection supports.

Geographic Access and Suitability
VOMS can support anyone within cell service range. SOS are limited by their location.

Stigma concerns
VOMS are often peer led and discreet. Some may have stigma and repercussions of accessing SOS.

SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 63

Thank you! Questions

SOS RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION 63

Data from <https://streetcheck.org>
