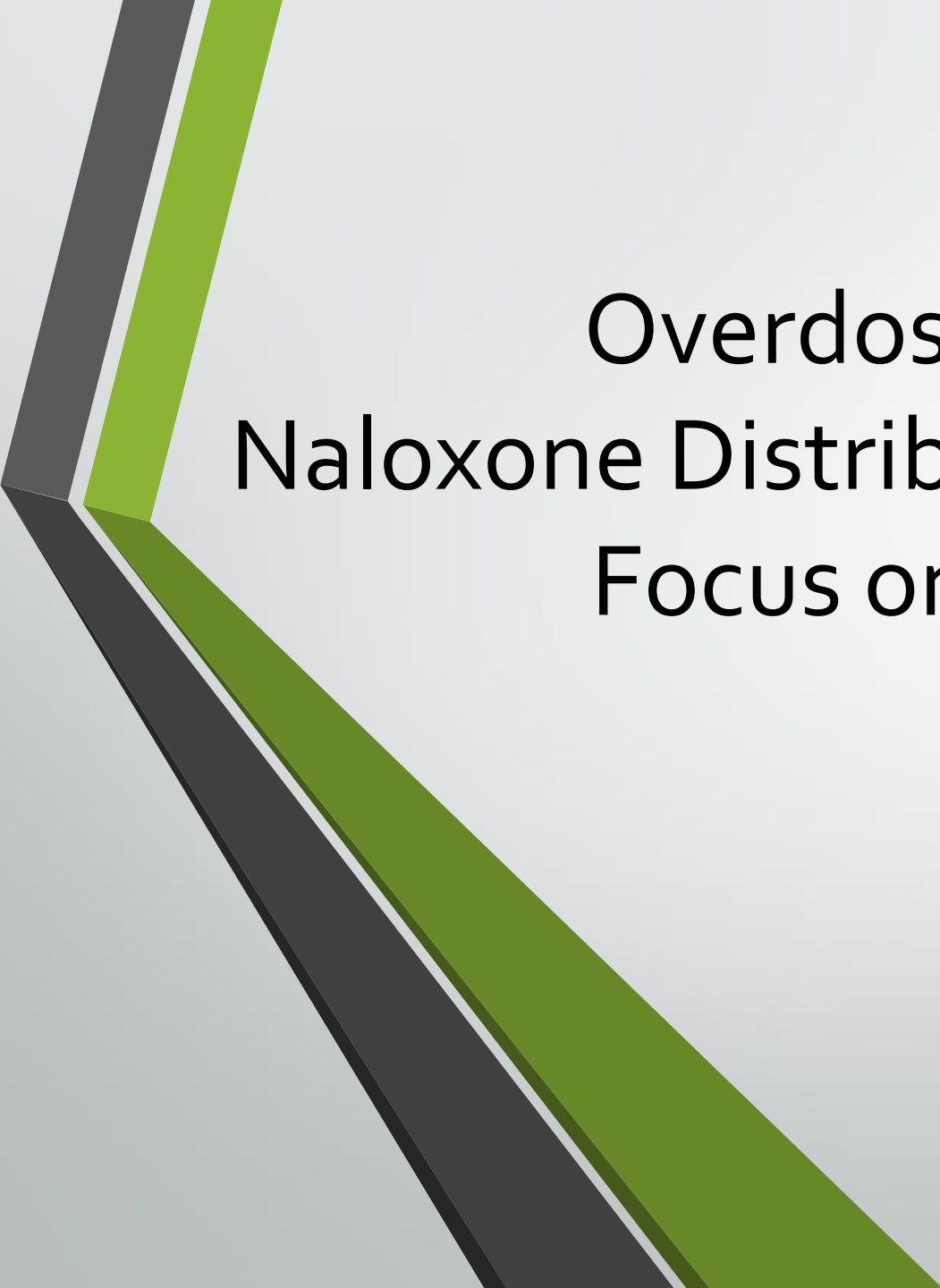




Overdose Prevention Education & Naloxone Distribution in Alameda County: Focus on Criminal Justice Settings

Savannah O'Neill, MSW, CATC

OPEND Coordinator

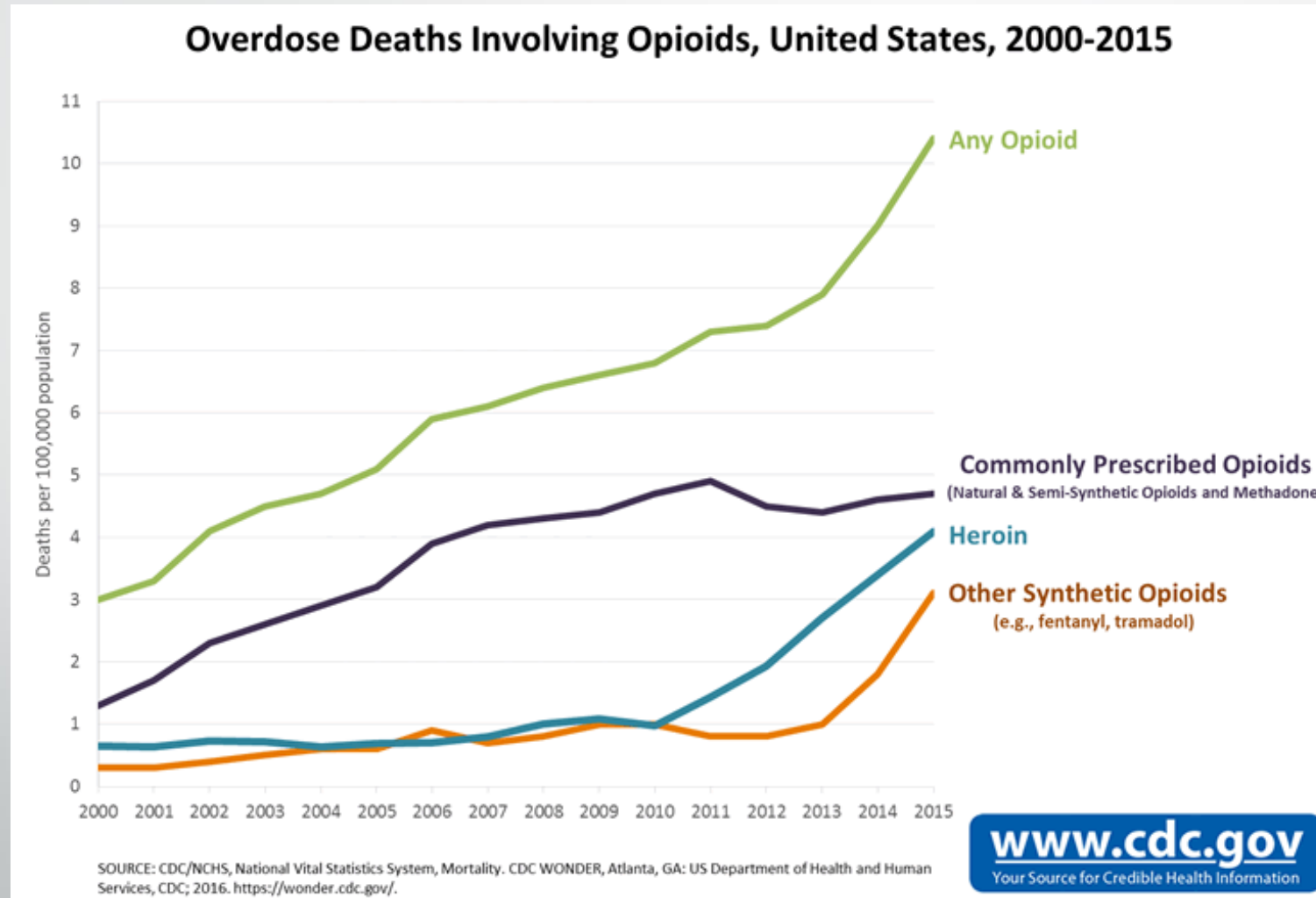
HIV Education Prevention Project of Alameda County

Lynn D. Wenger, MSW, MPH

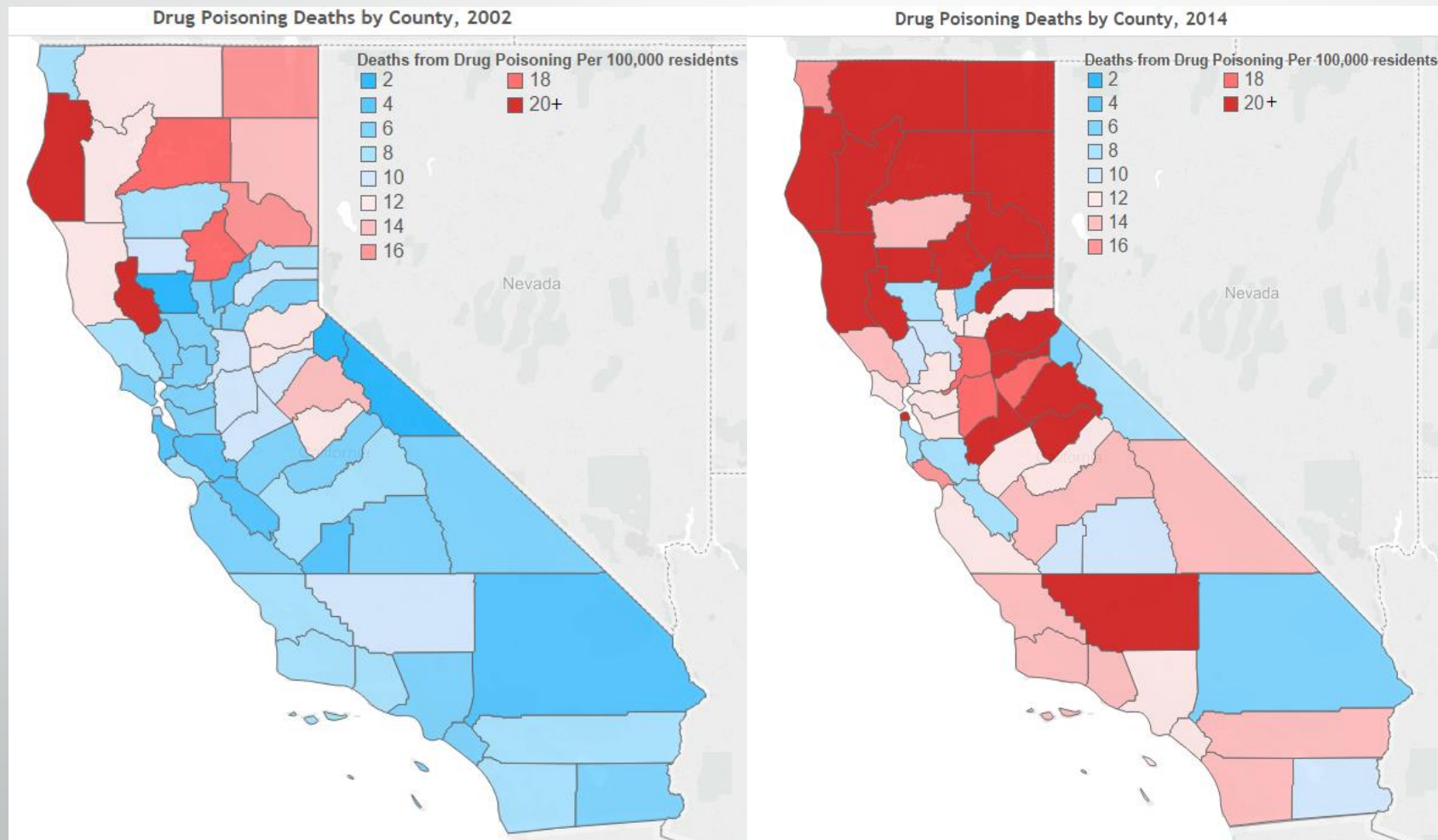
Senior Project Director

RTI International

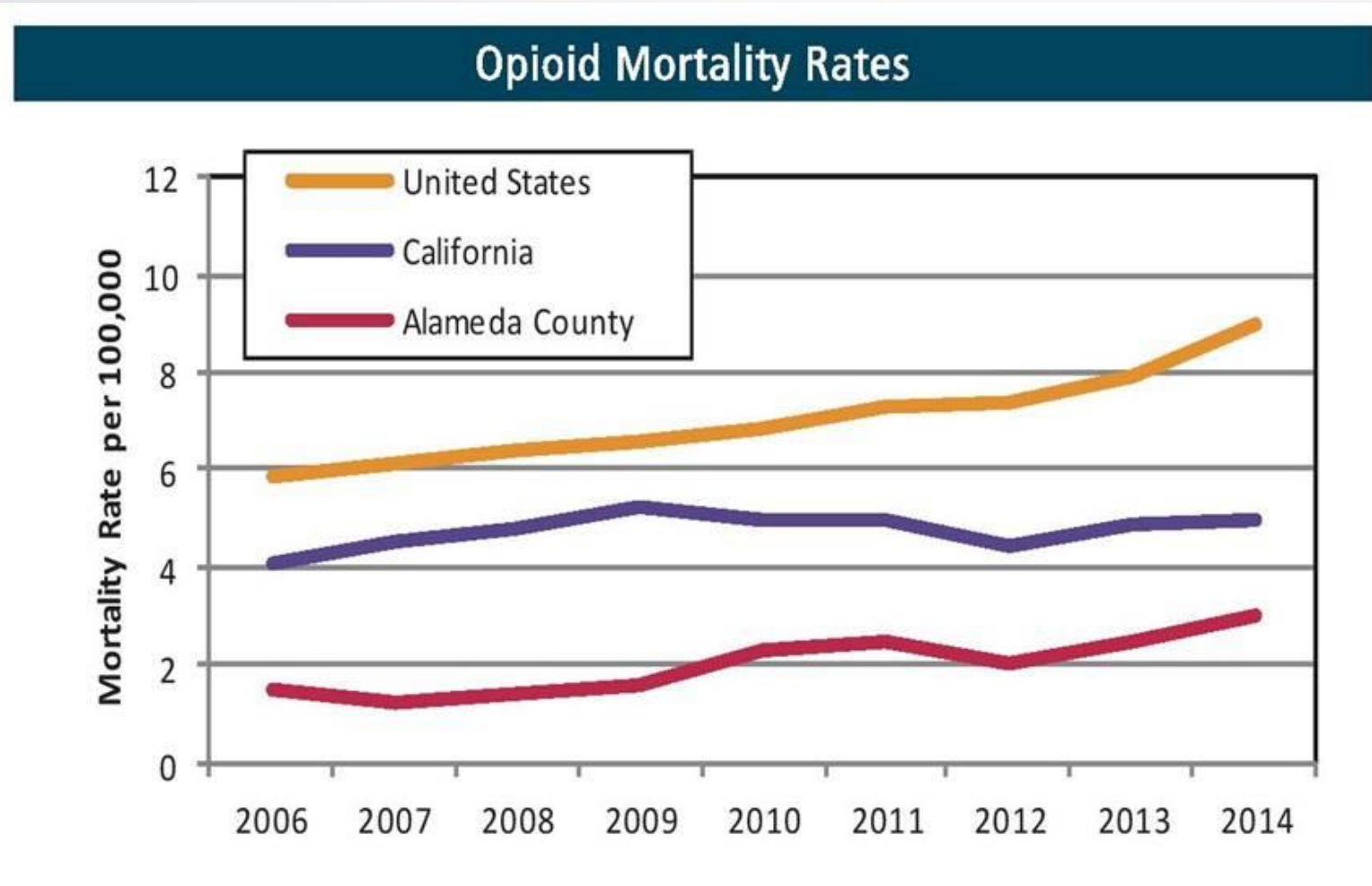
National Overdose Deaths



California Overdose Deaths



Alameda County Overdose Deaths



OPEND Pilot Project

- Funded by HCSA Measure A funding in October 2015
- Modeled after DOPE Project in San Francisco, adapted to be relevant for Alameda County
- Pilot Project managed by HEPPAC
- Goals
 - Increase access to naloxone for at risk community members
 - Provide trainings and technical support to organizations in Alameda County
 - Reduce overdose deaths in Alameda County



Naloxone 101

- Naloxone is an opioid antagonist with no physical side effects except those associated with withdrawal
- Providers and laypeople have immunity from criminal and civil liability when prescribing, possessing or administering naloxone (AB635)
- It is a drug that can be distributed under a physicians standing order in California



OPEND Outcomes

- 500 individual naloxone trainings with people at risk for opioid overdose
- 137 reported reversals; 70% homeless individuals
- 47 trainings to organizations (MAT, syringe exchange, homeless shelters, mental health programs, primary care clinics, and legal organizations)
- Successful integration of naloxone distribution into MAT clinics, syringe exchange programs and homeless outreach organizations

OPEND Year 2

- OPEND Project was funded for a 2016-2017 second year to sustain services, increase capacity among new providers and expand services in South County.
- Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved OPEND indicating desire for collaboration with Probation and Santa Rita Jail along with these goals





OPEND in Criminal Justice Settings – RTI International

- NIDA funded, Implementation Science study of OPEND in CJ settings (P.I. Alex Kral)
- Project Goal: understand implementation barriers and facilitators
- Today I will discuss the following:
 - overdose risk at re-entry
 - OPEND program models with a focus on the SF county jail program
 - provide preliminary results from our study
 - next steps

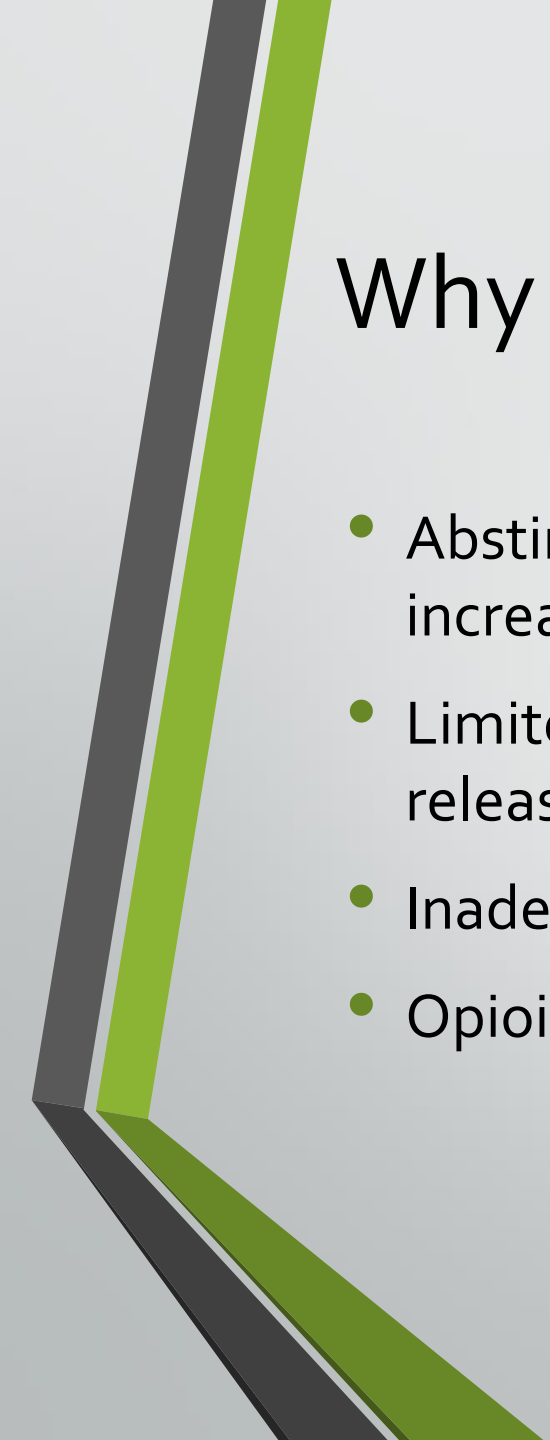
Overdose risk and re-entry

- Research from Washington State shows:
 - Former inmates had 129 times the risk of overdose death during the 2 weeks immediately following release from prison than the general population.³
 - Overdose was the leading cause of death among former prisoners.³
 - Opioid overdose was most common during the first two weeks following release from jail or prison.⁴



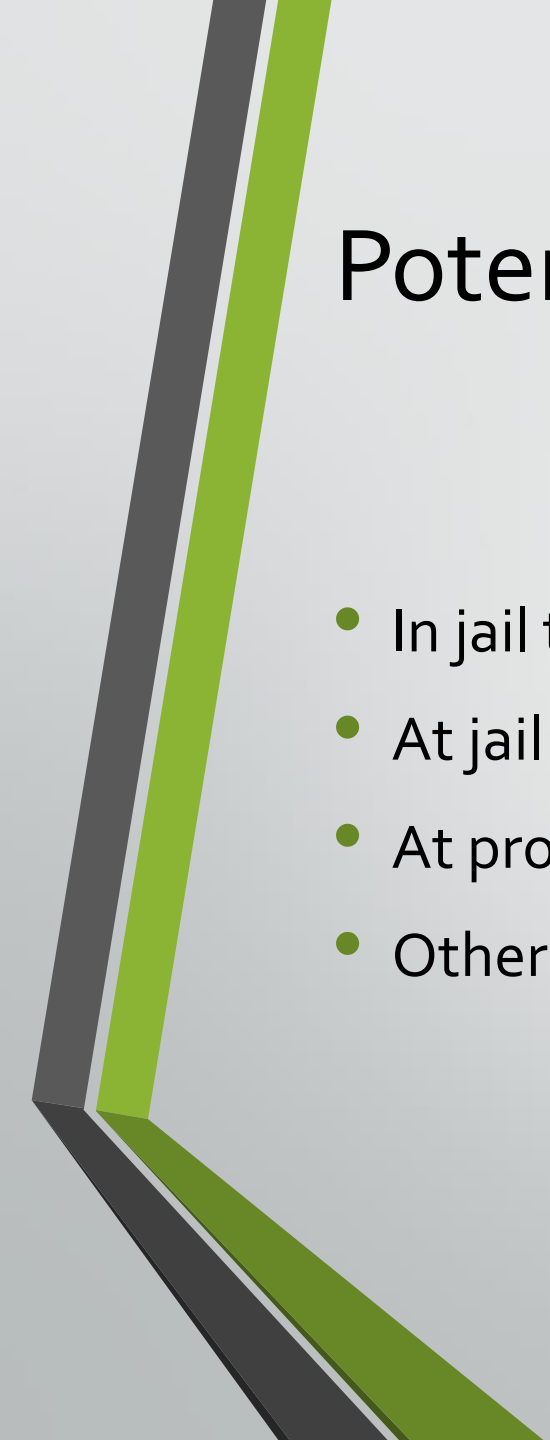
³Binswanger I.A., et al. (2007). Release from prison—a high risk of death for former inmates. *NEJM*356(2), 157-165;

⁴ Binswanger IA et al. (2013). Mortality after prison release: opioid overdose and other causes of death, risk factors, and time trends from 1999 to 2009. *Ann Intern Med*159(9), 592-601.



Why are former inmates at high risk of overdose?

- Abstinence and infrequent use during incarceration lowers opioid tolerance, increasing risk of overdose in the event of relapse
- Limited access to drug treatment and lack of social support following release
- Inadequate services to support integration into the community
- Opioid relapse is common after release from prison or jail



Potential Venues for Naloxone Implementation for people exiting incarceration

- In jail to inmates.
- At jail for people visiting inmates.
- At probation or re-entry programs.
- Other venues?

OEND in Criminal Justice settings

- Implemented in New York State, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Boulder and Arapahoe, CO, Seattle WA, Durham, NC; Pittsburgh & Philadelphia, PA and Cuyahoga County OH, and San Francisco have all implemented OEND programs in criminal justice settings using a variety of program models.
- San Francisco – is closest to home and is the program we are the most familiar with so, in this next section I will describe the SF model



In this 3/21/2016, photograph, inmate Eric Burton examines a naloxone dose while conferring with a doctor at the Denver County Jail in downtown Denver. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Naloxone pilot SF County Jail

- March 2013 in A-pod; January 2014 in B-pod
- Collaboration:
 - The Drug Overdose Prevention and Education (DOPE) Project, a program of the Harm Reduction Coalition; funding and support from the San Francisco Department of Public Health
 - Jail Health Services; funding and support from the San Francisco Department of Public Health
 - SF Sheriff's Department and Adult Probation Division



Program goals:

- Educate inmates about to re-enter the community about overdose risks.
- Offer inmates the option of receiving naloxone in their property upon release
- Integrate overdose prevention into the wider array of services for substance using adults, including substance abuse treatment, HIV/HCV/STD testing and linkage to care.
- Decrease overdose mortality among people leaving prison and re-entering the community

Program Structure

- Naloxone provided via DOPE Project (dispensed via standing order from SFDPH)
- Staff who provide intervention are HIV test counselors from Jail Health Services (JHS) who were trained by DOPE Project to deliver overdose prevention education
- JHS staff visit monthly and Inmates living in participating housing units are called to participate based on release date (within one month) – they are not screened for overdose risk.

Program Structure, continued:

All inmates watch video:

“Staying Alive on the Outside” (approx. 18 mins)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QwgxWO4q38
- Inmates who watch video can opt-in to receive a naloxone kit in property.
- Those who opt-in, meet with staff one-on-one for 5 minutes to go over any questions, practice with naloxone demo and complete paperwork.
- JHS staff places naloxone kit in property.
- Inmates are encouraged to test for HIV/HCV/STIs and participate in other health interventions offered by JHS.



Program Results: March 2013-June 2016

697 inmates viewed the video.

65% (453) who watched the video opted receive naloxone kit in property

Demographics	(n=453)
Women	50%
Men	48%
Transgender (MTF)	2%
Black/African American	45%
White Non-Hispanic	24%
Latino	12%
API	4%
Native American	2%
Mixed	11%
Ever overdosed	25%
Ever witnessed an overdose	63%

SF Jail Program Results: Continued

Drug Use – 30 days prior to incarceration	N=271
Methamphetamine	44%
Heroin	33%
Cocaine/crack	24%
No drug use	15%
Rx Opioids	10%
Benzodiazepines	8%
Methadone	6%
Buprenorphine	2%

The NEXT Project

- The goal of this research is to identify barriers and facilitators and develop solutions for the implementation of overdose prevention programs in Criminal Justice settings
- Four San Francisco Bay Area counties, including Alameda County.
- Interviews with key stakeholders in health care services, corrections, and re-entry programs.
- Implementation of OPEND in two pilot venues – existing programs targeting people exiting incarceration
- Development of a manual to address the key factors and lessons learned

What we have learned so far: barriers

- Insufficient county level overdose death data
- Lack of basic knowledge about OPEND programs
- Competing priorities for providing services to people exiting Criminal Justice settings; utilization of competing priorities as leverage
- Lack of local harm reduction services in some counties
- Institutional fragmentation (larger counties)
- Budgetary limitations
- Lack of understanding by medical professionals regarding what it means to write a standing order for Naloxone (time, effort and liability).
- Resistance to distribution of Naloxone vs. prescribing Naloxone.
- Institutional culture of punishment in Criminal Justice settings
- Fear of “the needle”

What we have learned so far: facilitators

- Local champions who are committed to OEND
- Existing county-wide initiatives addressing opioid overdose prevention
- Existing partnerships within the county systems of care with procedures in place for collaboration
- CBOs committed to the population and interested in building OEND services
- Availability of funding - AB109 and CDPH
- Local programs with access to jails – with jail clearance and experience working in CJ settings
- Education: The more information we provide stake holders about the issues, the more likely they are to support it. For example, providing data that indicate OEND saves lives without adverse consequences in comparable settings important to gain support.
- Access to experts – our team, those in this room and beyond who have experience implementing OEND in community settings



How we can all work together

- RTI International research staff are available to discuss and support process and monitor implementation of OPEND in CJ settings.
- OPEND Project and Coordinator are available to offer training, technical support and naloxone kits to Alameda County providers

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