

OCTOBER 28  
5:30 - 7:30PM  
U.S. CELLULAR CENTER  
ASHEVILLE, NC

LET'S

# TALK OPIOIDS.

COMMUNITY UPDATE AND CONVERSATION ON OPIOID CRISIS RESPONSE

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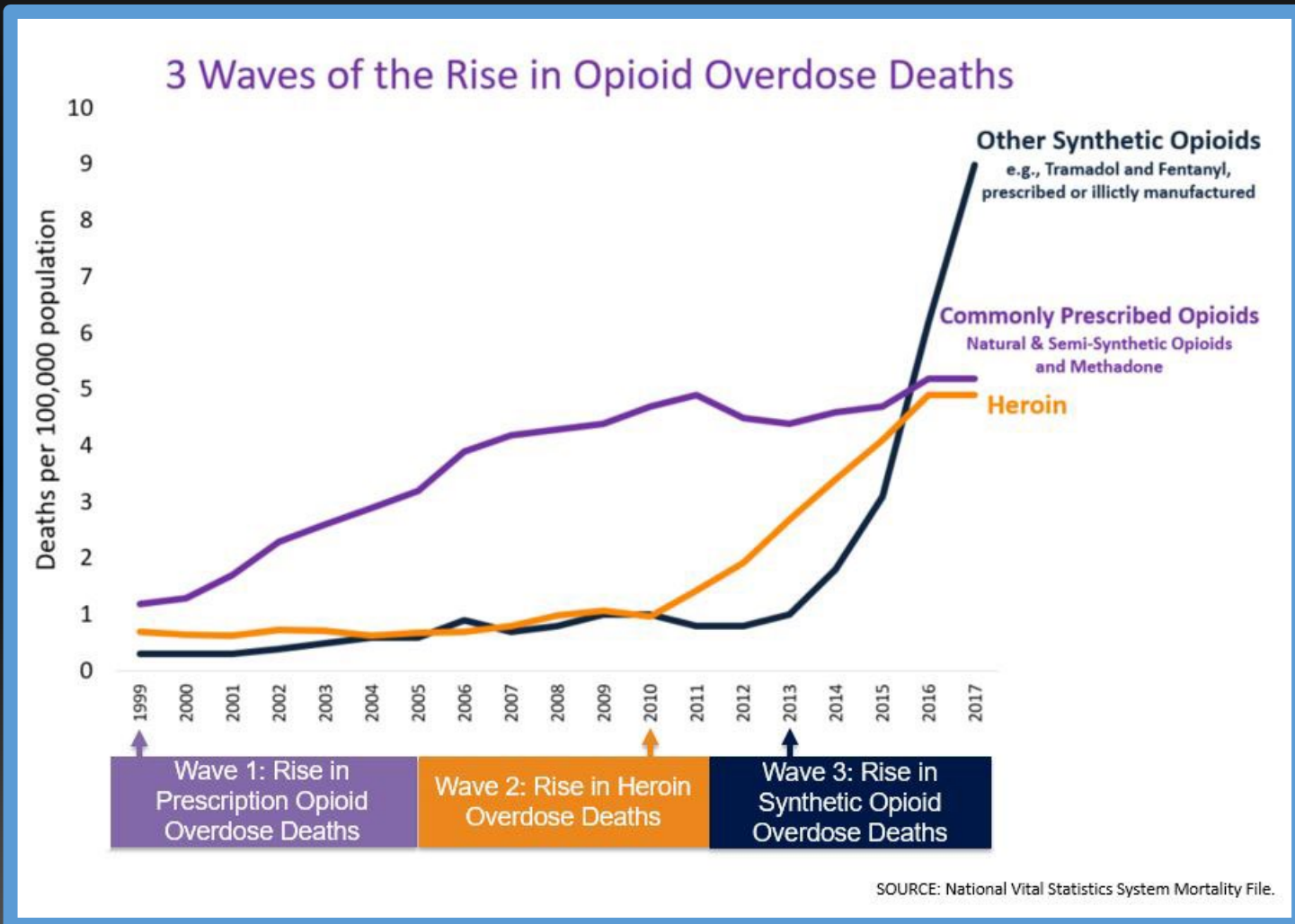
# Amy Upham, MPH, CPWIC

Opioid Response Coordinator

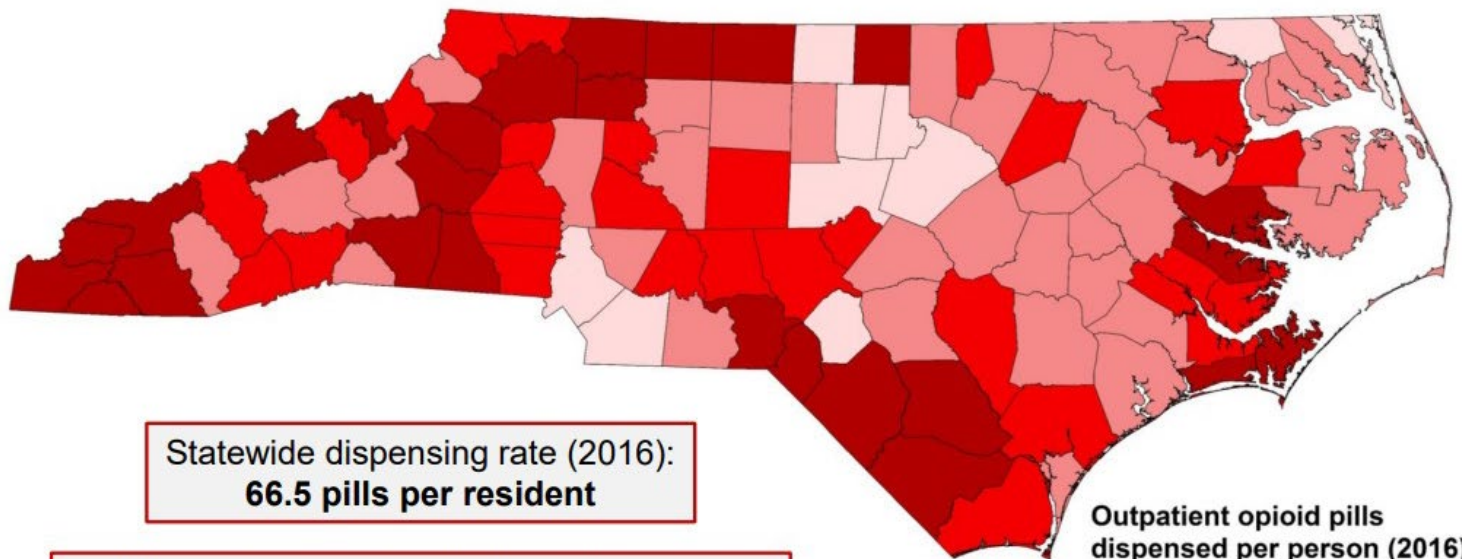
Buncombe County Health and Human Services

# The Backdrop

According to a 2013 Drug and Alcohol Dependence study, 4 out of 5 people who use heroin began misusing prescription painkillers



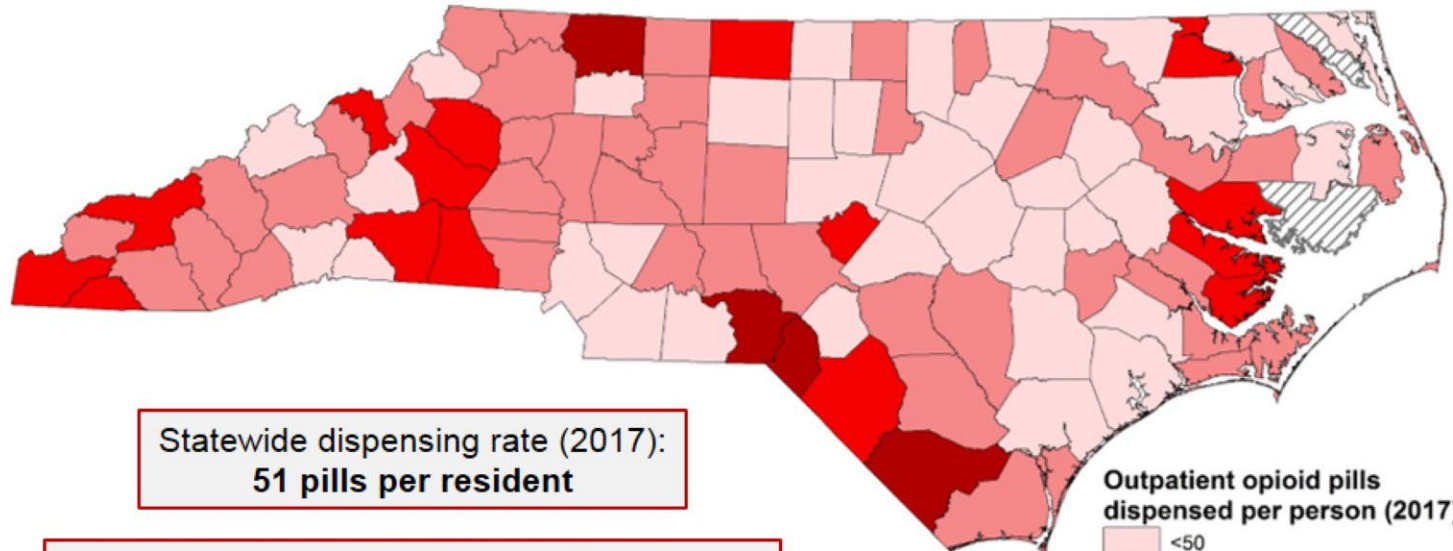
## Rate of Outpatient Opioid Pills Dispensed by County per North Carolina Resident, 2016



Source: Opioid Dispensing – NC Division of Mental Health, Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2016/ Population- National Center for Health Statistics, 2016  
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

North Carolina  
Injury & Violence  
PREVENTION Branch

# Rate of Outpatient Opioid Pills Dispensed by County per North Carolina Resident, 2017



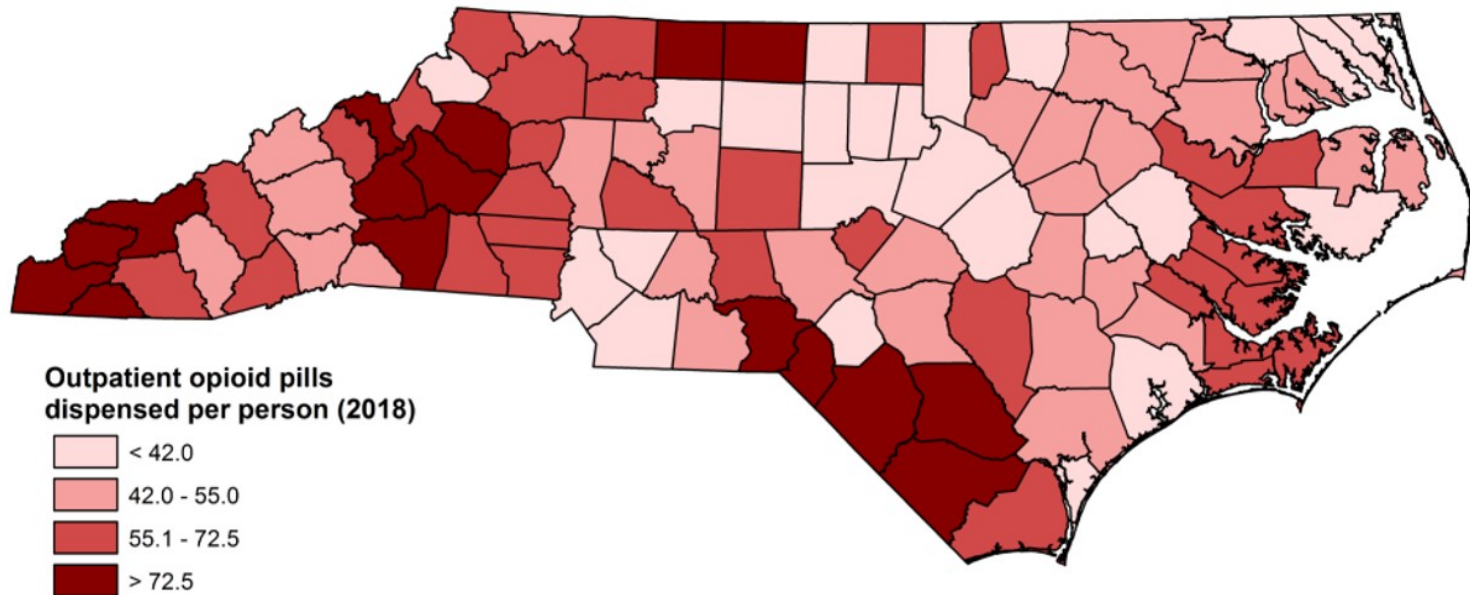
Statewide dispensing rate (2017):  
**51 pills per resident**

Opioid overdose is more common in counties where more pills are dispensed.

Source: Opioid Dispensing – NC Division of Mental Health, Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2017;  
Population- National Center for Health Statistics, 2017  
Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

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## Reduce oversupply of prescription opioids: Statewide, 43 pills per resident dispensed in 2018

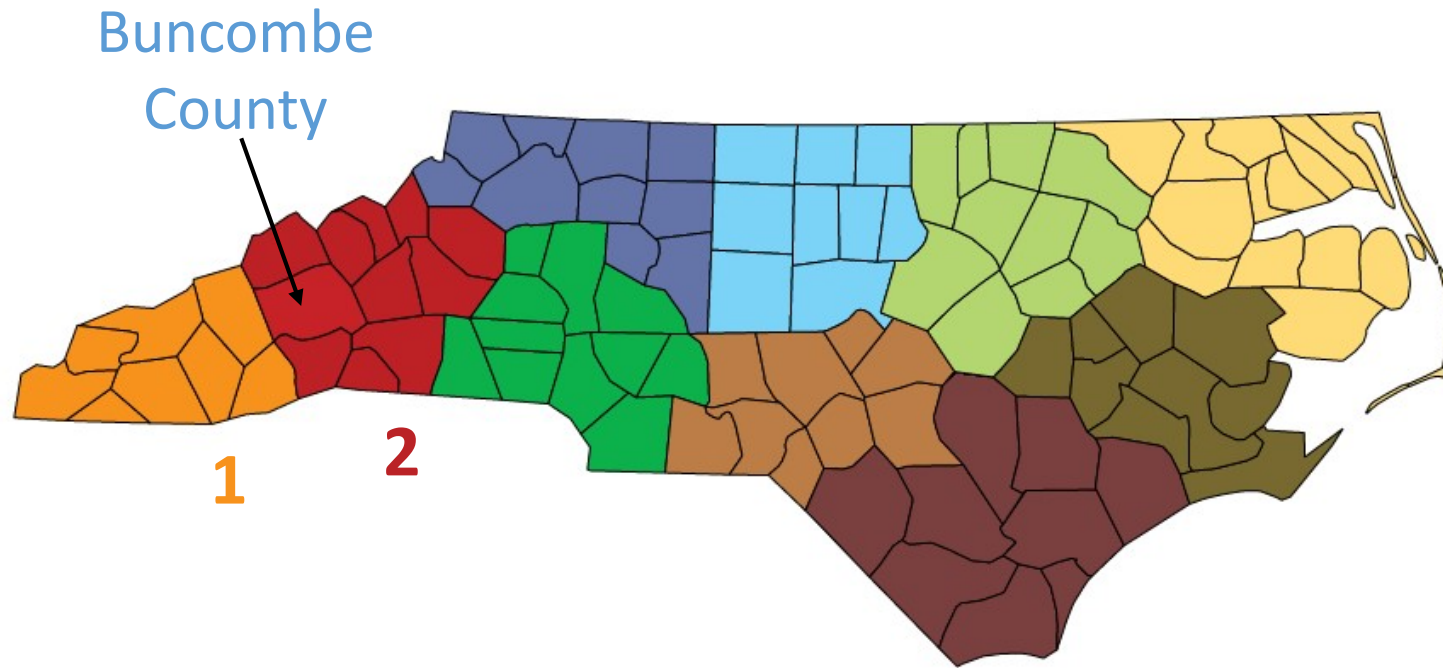


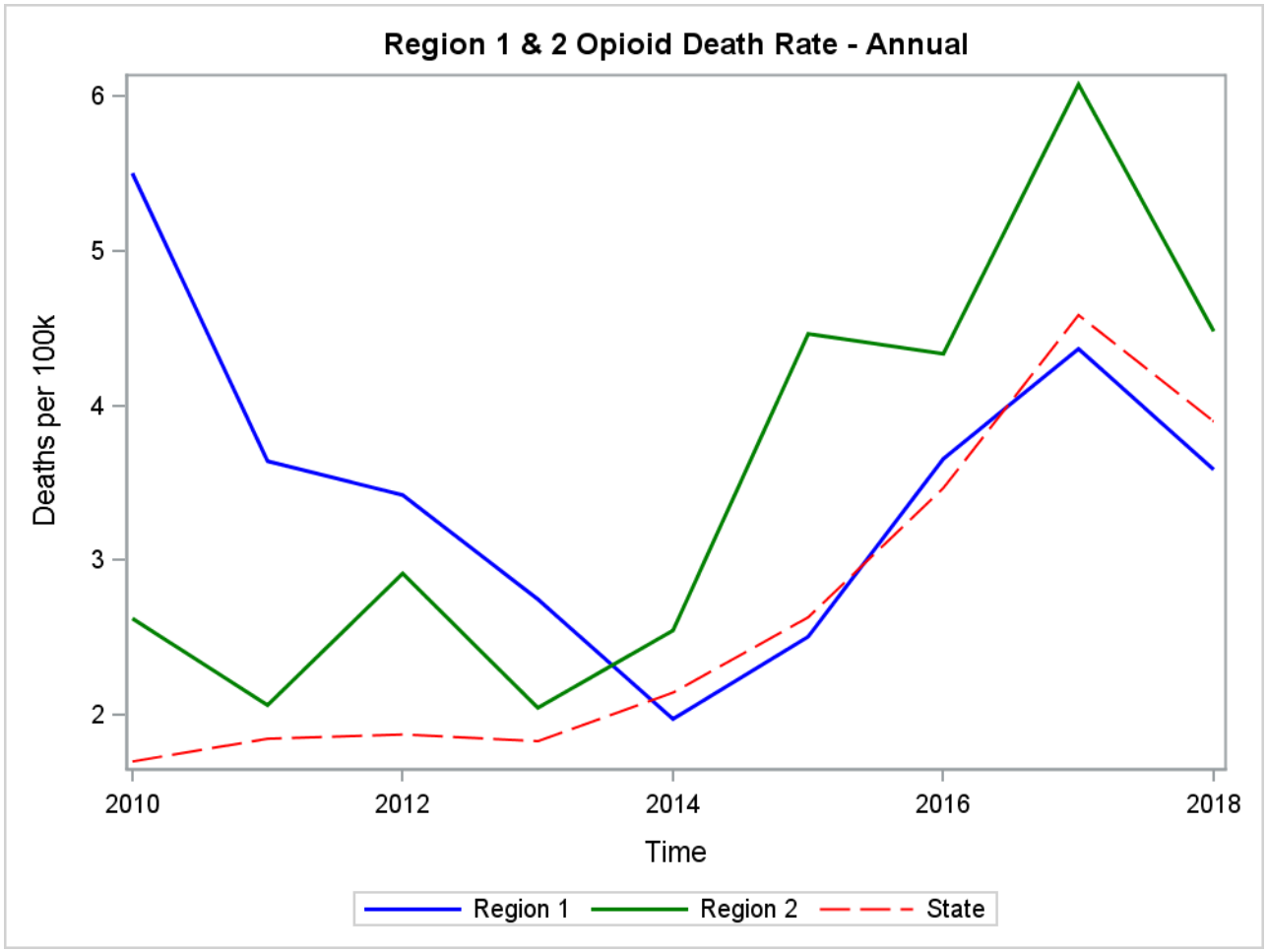
**Technical Note:** All CSRS data are subject to change

**Source:** Opioid Dispensing—NC Division of Mental Health, Controlled Substance Reporting System, 2018, Population—NCHS, 2018  
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

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# Health Department Regions







# Progress in North Carolina

- 2017-2018: 10% reduction in ED visits for opioid-related overdoses
  - Increase in Buncombe County
- 2018: unintentional opioid-related deaths decreased in NC by 5%
  - 2017-2018: 30% decrease in deaths in Buncombe



# Current trends in WNC:

## Regions 1 and 2

Rate of overdose deaths declined in 2018 **BUT:**

- Rate is still high in NC
  - 2018: ~3.5 deaths per 100k people
  - 2012: <2 deaths per 100k people
- **Region 2** (including Buncombe and Henderson) still considerably higher than state average
  - **~4.5 deaths per 100k people**
- ED visits are on the decline in NC, but on the rise in Buncombe; 10% higher than 2018



# The Face of Buncombe County

## 2018 Demographics of Opioid Overdose Victims

### General Demographics

72% Male

96% White

77% between 20-39

28% lived or were staying in West Asheville

### Substance Use

84% had fentanyl in their system

29% had methamphetamine in their system

17% alcohol

14% benzos

### People who use opioids are in the workforce

35% laborers

20% worked in restaurants

10% worked in healthcare

6% were veterans

# In Buncombe County

- 2015: 38 deaths
- 2016: 52 deaths
- 2017: 125 deaths
- 2018: 88 deaths



# Progress in North Carolina

## Prevention

- 2017-2019: opioid dispensing decreased by 24%

Drug-Free  
Communities

CARE Team

Historical Mapping  
Project

Medical School  
Project

Nurse Practitioner  
and Physician  
Assistant School  
Project

Medical Residency  
Project





# Progress in North Carolina

## Treatment

- 2017-2019: prescriptions for drugs used to treat OUD increased by 15%
- OUD treatment for uninsured/Medicaid beneficiaries increased by 20%

North  
Carolina's MAT  
Project for EMS

Comprehensive  
Mental  
Health/MAT

Project CARA

MAT in Jails

# Progress in North Carolina

## Recovery

- **Peer Support Services reduce substance use, reduce involvement with the criminal justice system, and reduce use of emergency services**

Post-Overdose  
Response for  
Buncombe County

START Model for  
DSS

Justice Center  
Resource: Diversion  
Programs and  
Treatment Courts



# Progress in North Carolina

## Harm Reduction

Harm  
Reduction  
Education

Naloxone  
Training and  
Distribution

Syringe  
Services

Safe Disposal

STD Testing/  
Treatment







# Next Steps

## Naloxone

- Libraries
- YMCA
- Private and Charter Schools

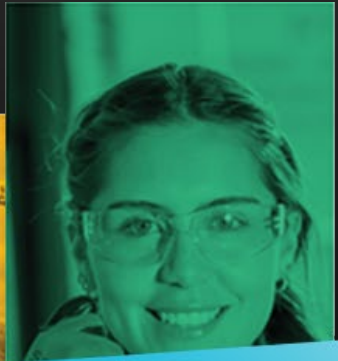
## Criminal Justice

- Linkage to care from jails
- Community Health Worker model, FIT
- LEAD

## Social determinants of health

- Housing, employment, legal assistance, transportation
- Harm reduction

**Become a community that humanizes people who use drugs.**



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