

# Introduction to Medication-Assisted Treatment

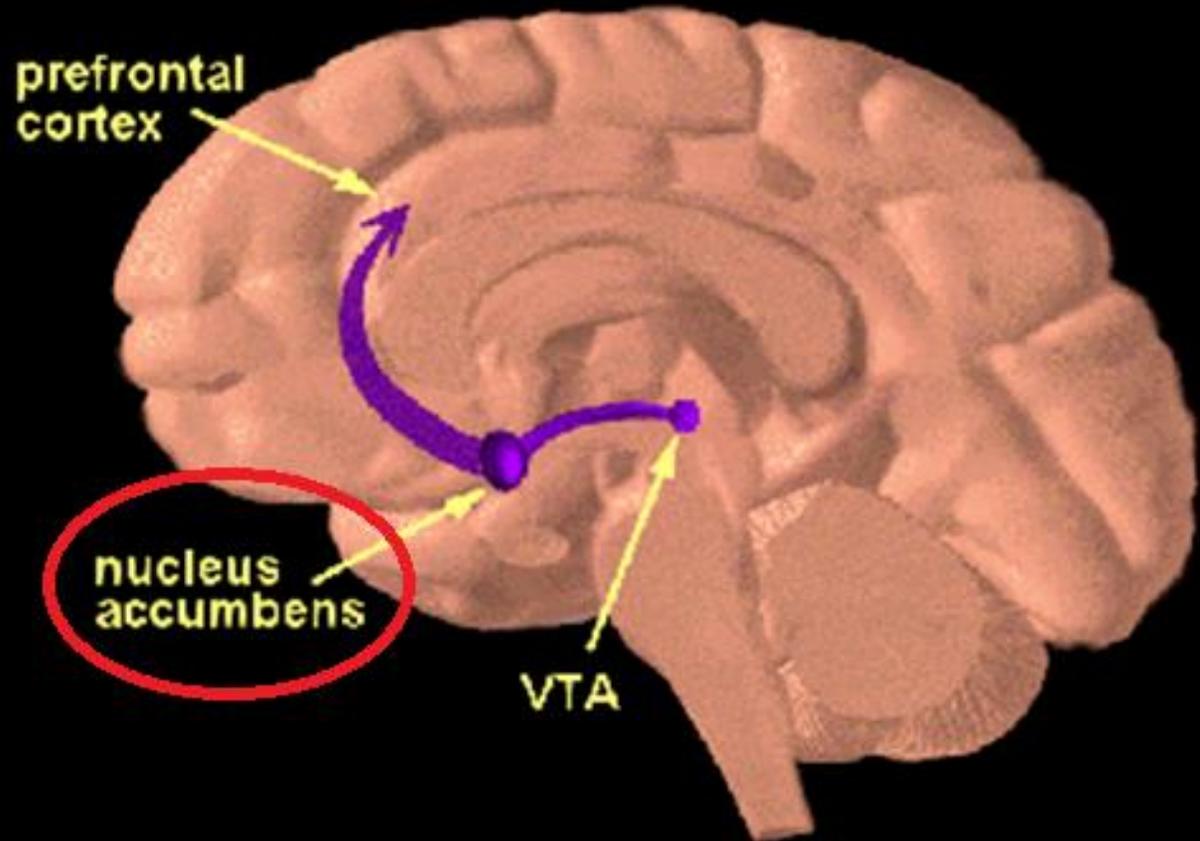
Erin Zerbo, MD

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Rutgers NJMS

Director, Northern NJ Center of Excellence in MAT

# Reward Pathway

- Neurons start in the midbrain  
→ release dopamine in the  
nucleus accumbens
- Baseline: steady dopamine
- Drugs: burst of dopamine  
(pleasure/salience/motivation)
- Responsible for “hedonic tone”

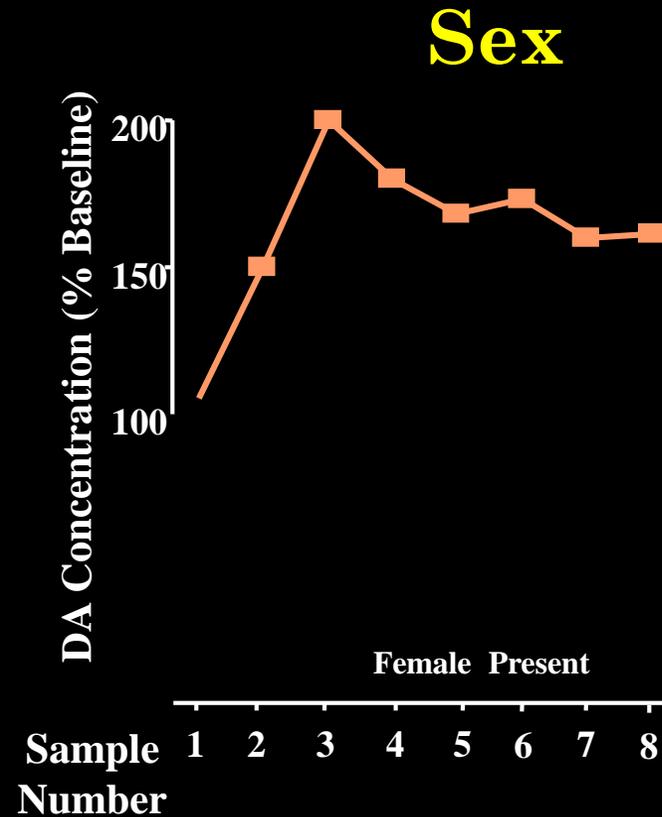
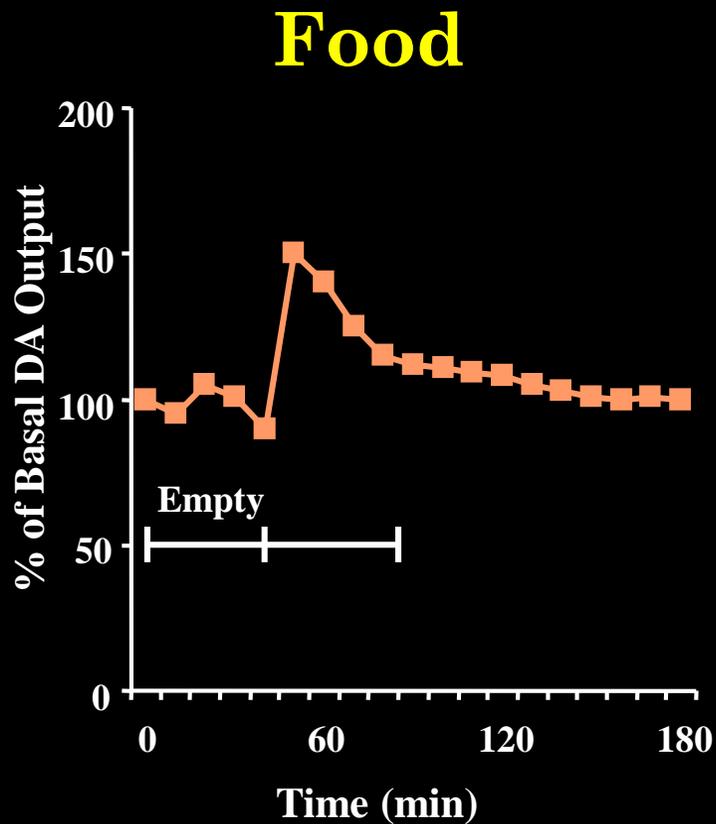


# What is Hedonic Tone?

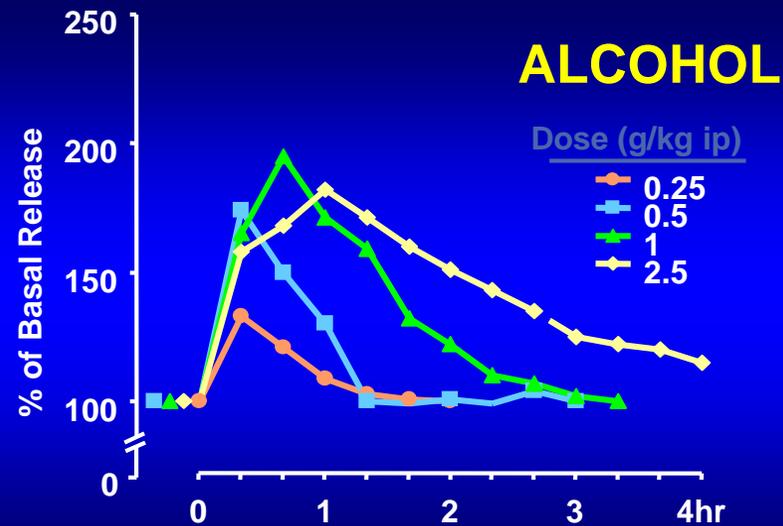
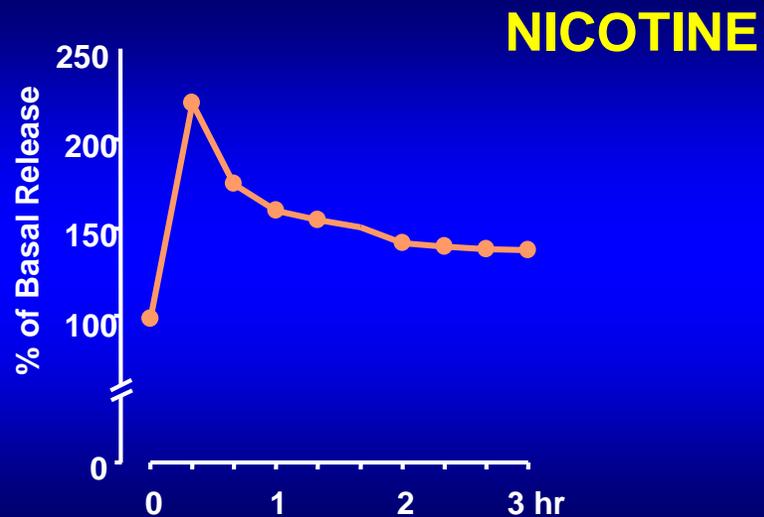
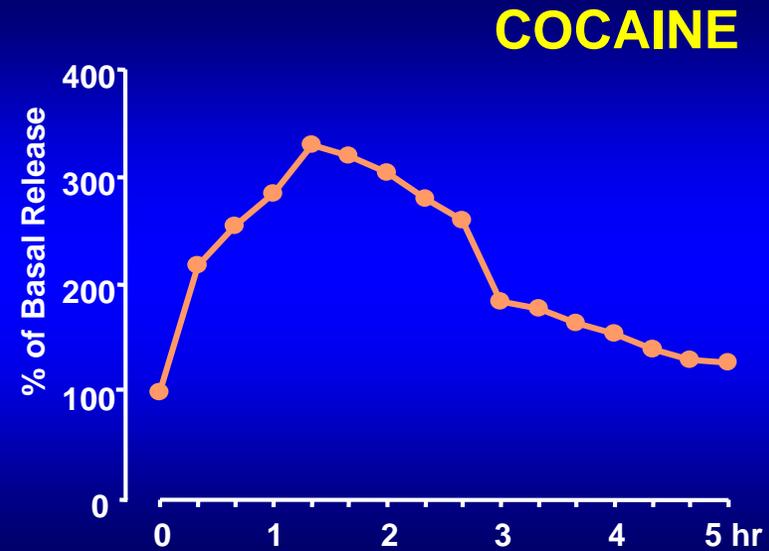
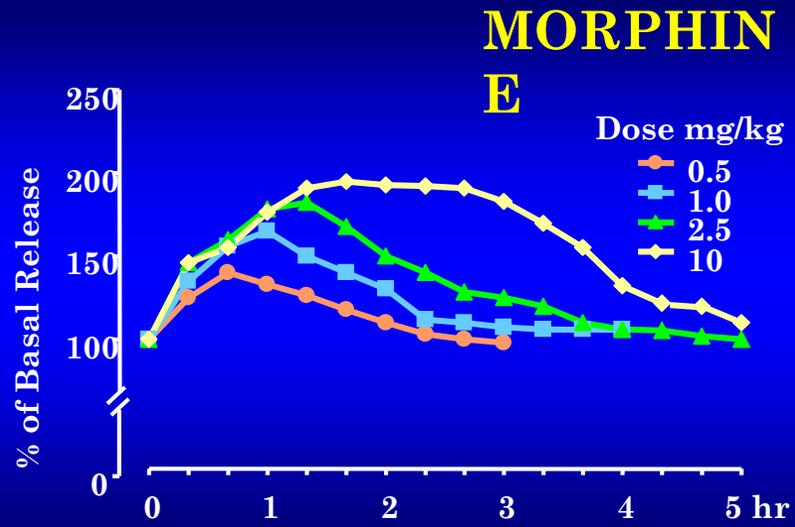
- Sense of well-being, happiness, pleasure, contentment
- “Set” in the reward pathway
- Range: Euphoria  $\leftrightarrow$  Dysphoria
- Altered by psychoactive activities/substances
- Reward Deficiency Syndrome?
  - Kenneth Blum: DRD2 allele  $\rightarrow$  lower D2



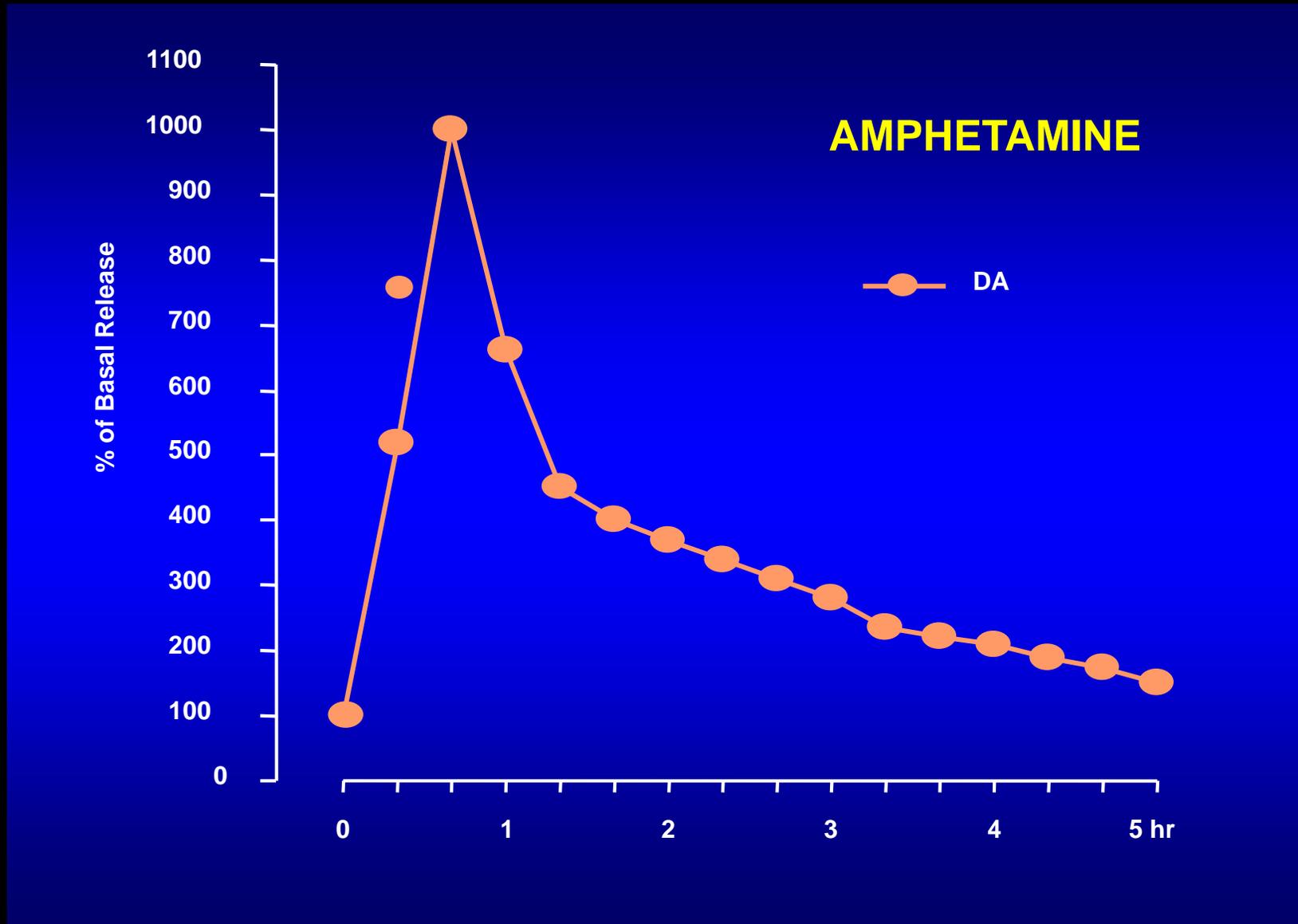
# Natural Rewards and Dopamine Levels



# Effects of Drugs on Dopamine Levels

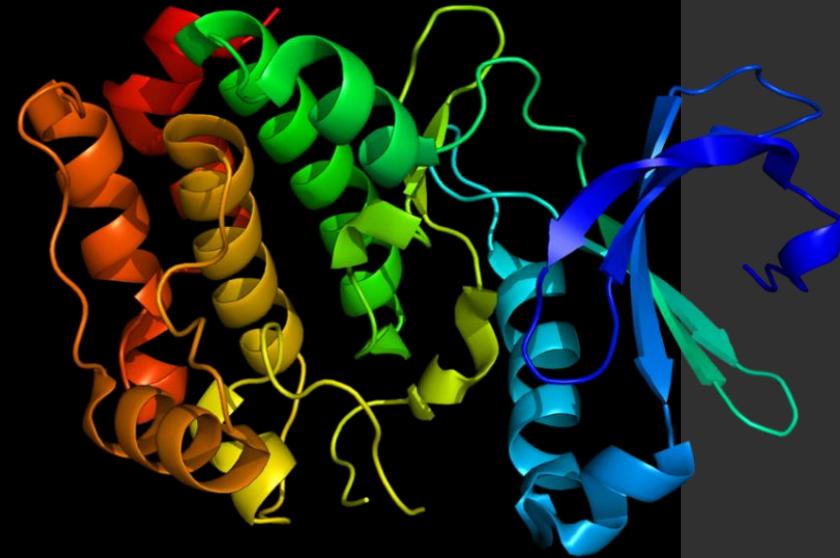


# Effects of Drugs on Dopamine Levels



# Acute drug effects

- Extra dopamine release → changes in cell signaling
  - *D1 DA receptor stimulation →*  
*cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA) →*  
*phosphorylation of CREB →*  
*immediate early gene products such as cFos →*  
*short-term neuroplastic changes for a few hrs/days*



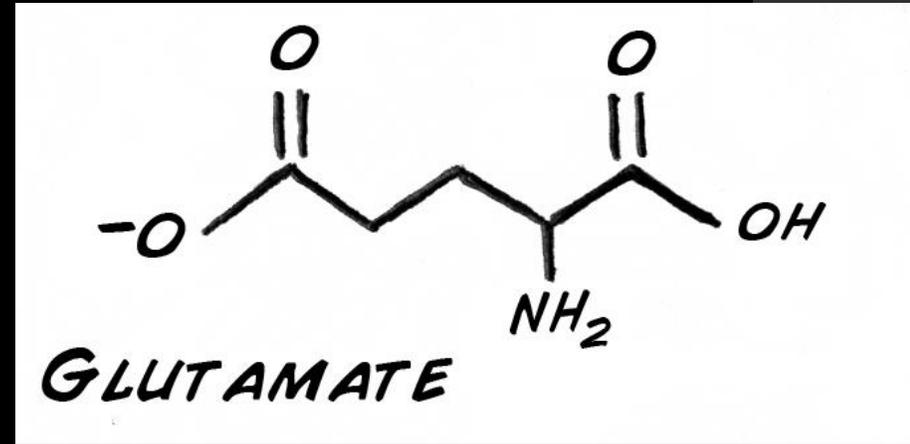
... but none of this explains long-lasting behavioral changes

# How to explain end-stage addiction?

- Overwhelming desire to obtain drug
- Diminished ability to control drug seeking
- Reduced pleasure from biological rewards

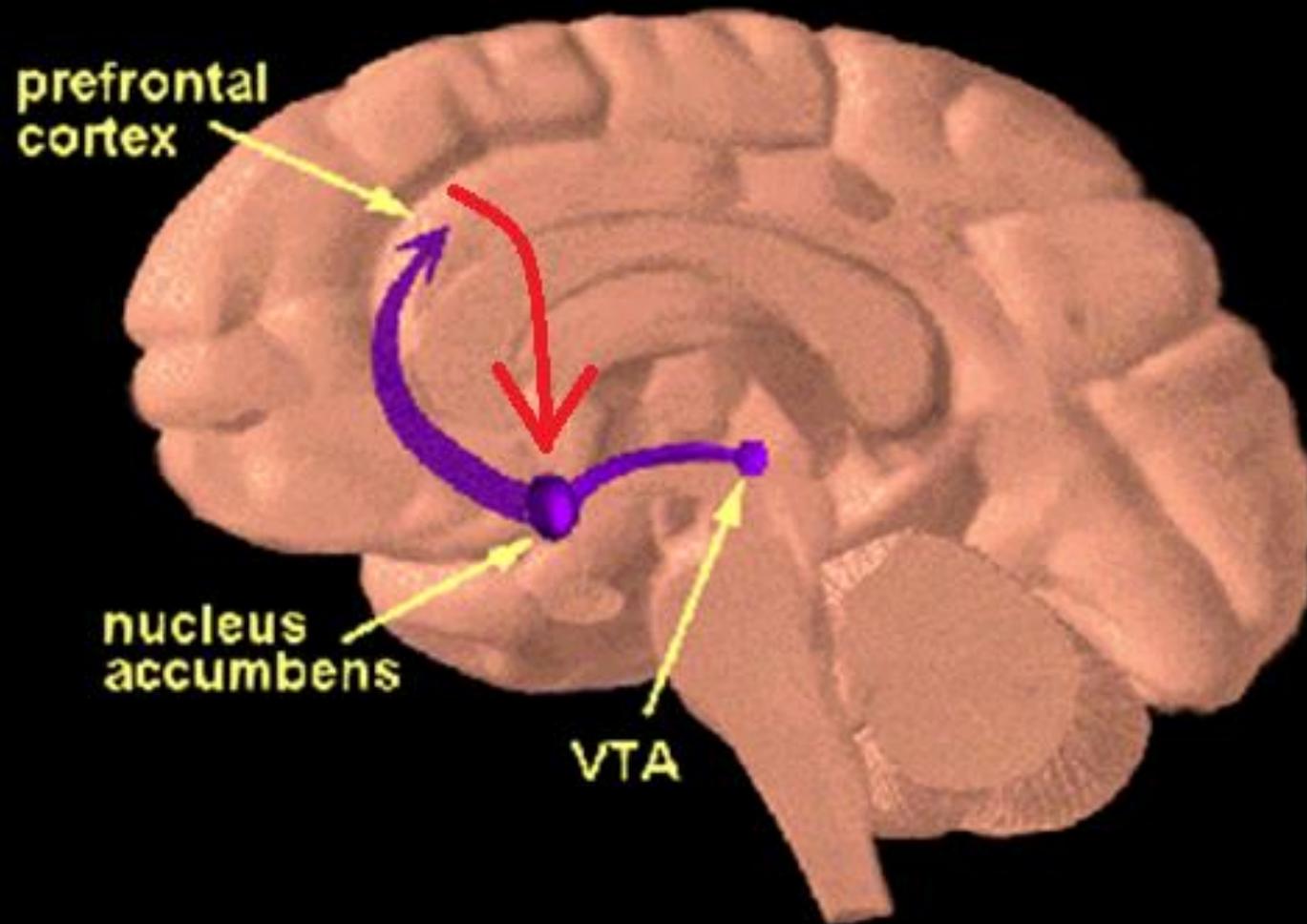
End-stage addiction is mostly about waiting for the police, or someone, to come and bury you in your shame.

# Transition to addiction



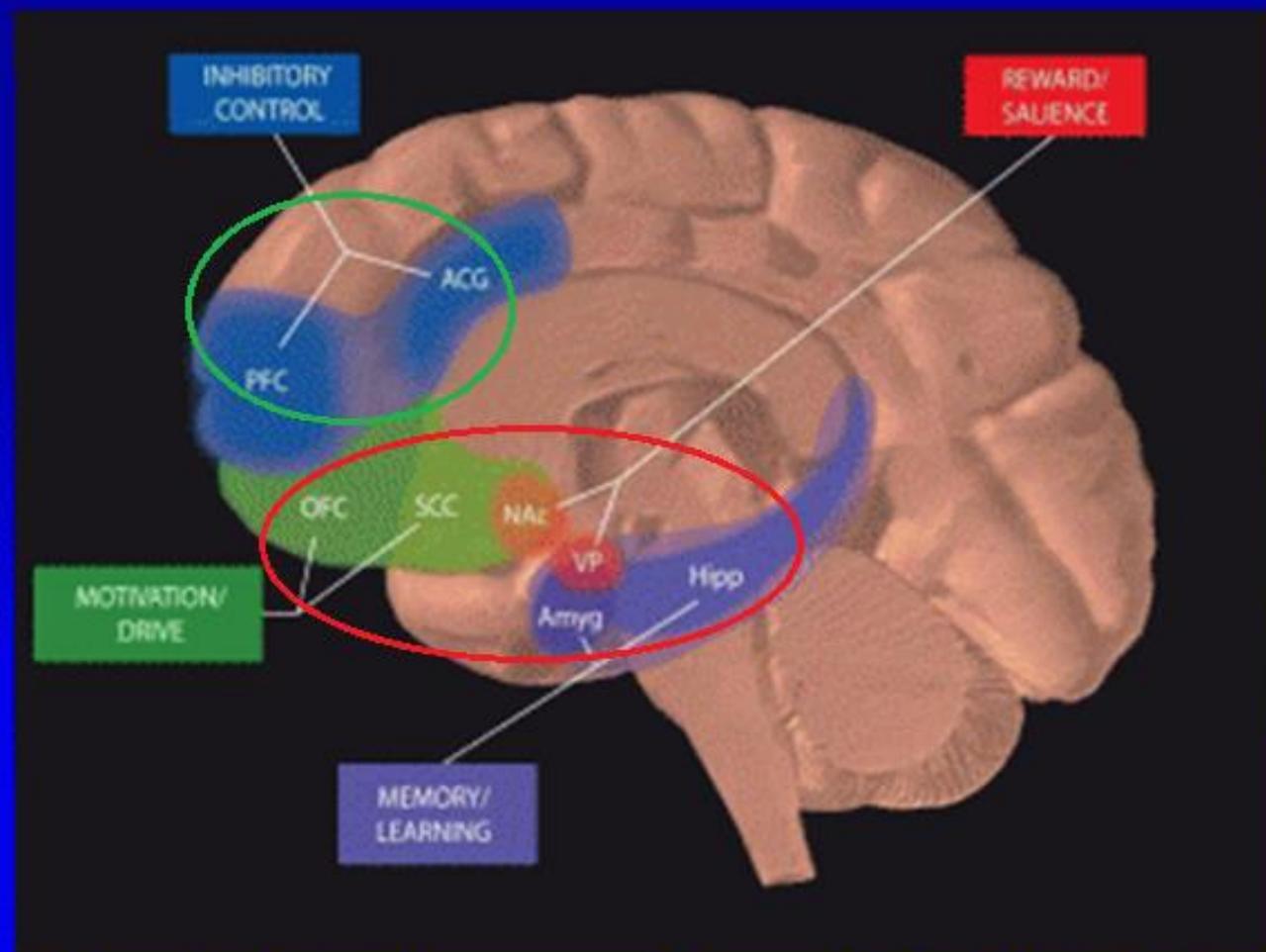
- Repeated use → brain changes that last for days-weeks
  - *Long-acting proteins involved*
    - $\Delta$  FosB = transcriptional regulator,  
*increases AMPA glutamate receptor subunits*

Create new circuits based on glutamate, not dopamine



New circuits created from prefrontal cortex (glutamate)

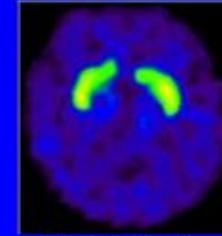
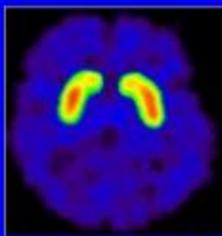
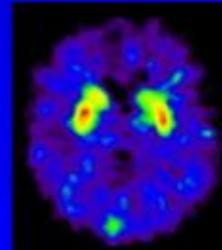
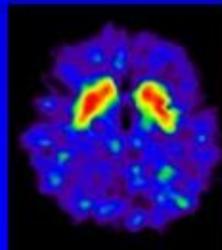
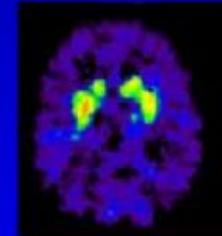
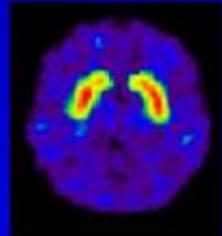
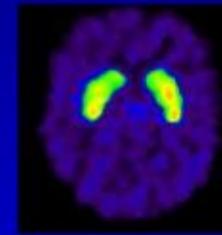
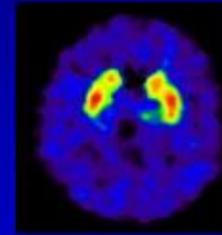
# *Circuits Involved In Drug Abuse and Addiction*



**All of these brain regions must be considered in developing strategies to effectively treat addiction**

And to make matters worse...

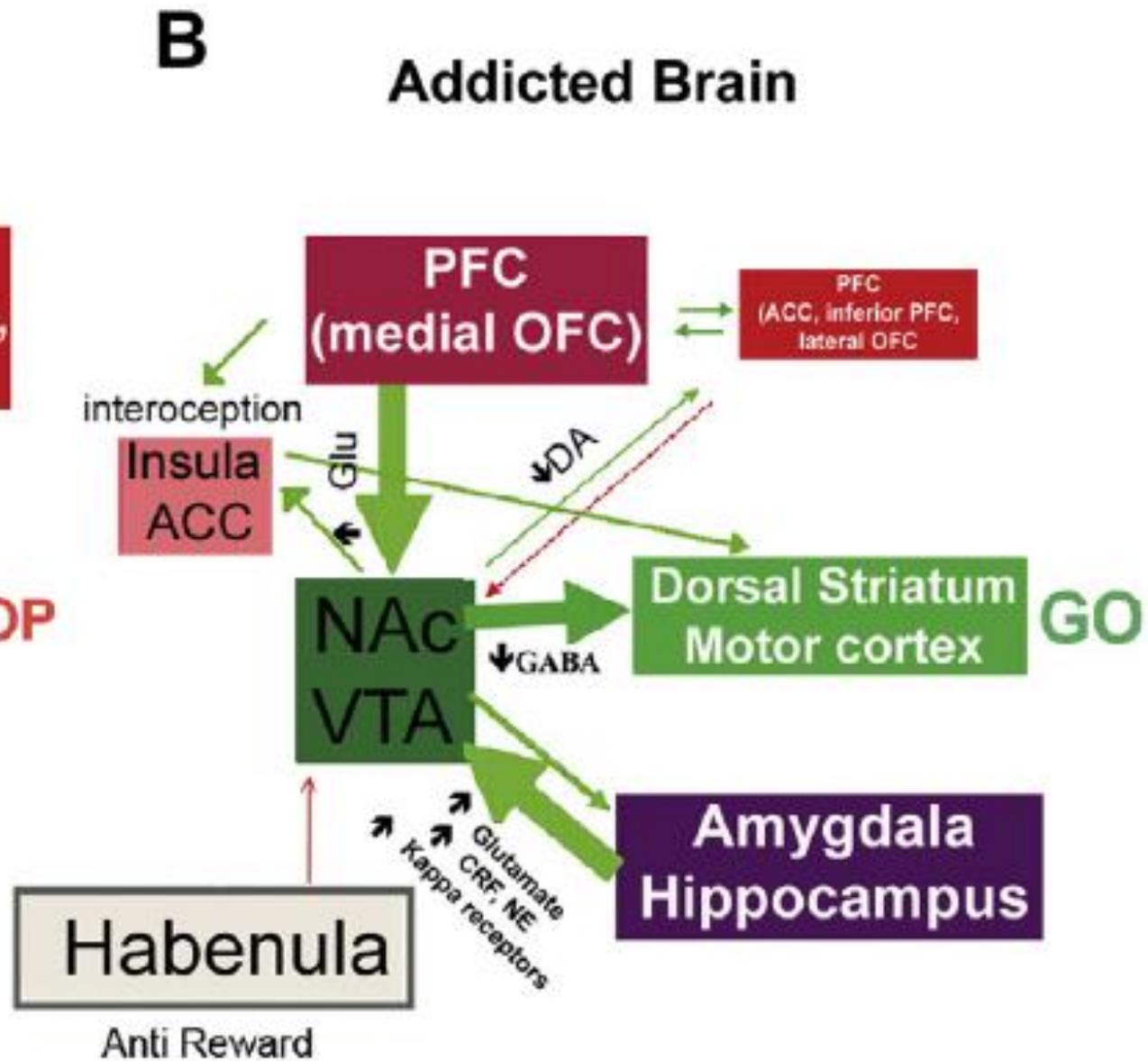
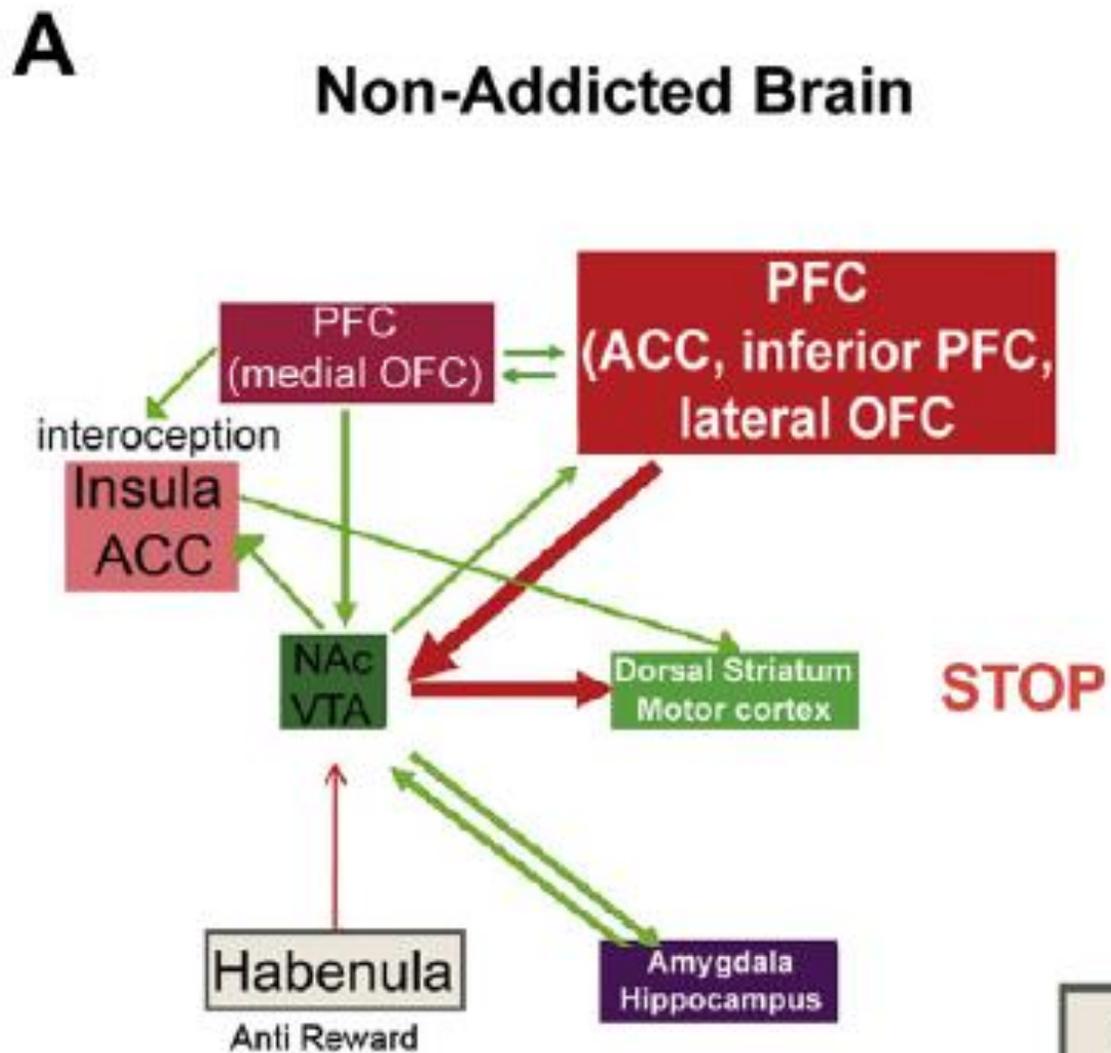
## Dopamine D2 Receptors are Decreased by Addiction



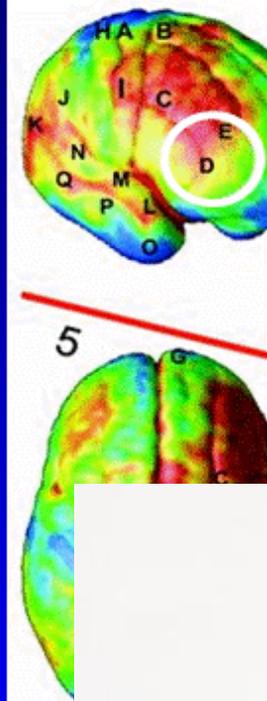
Control

Addicted

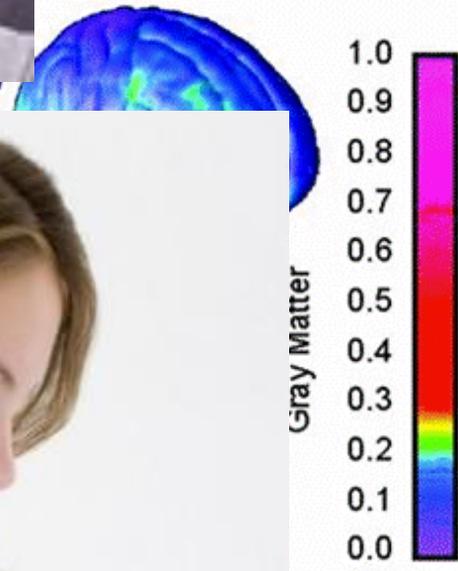




Blue =  
mature state



Time



**Environmental factors**



**Genetics**



**Behavioral traits**

**Psychiatric comorbidity**

**Addiction risk**

# What environmental factors make us vulnerable to addiction?

dopamine D2 receptor — the DRD2 gene). Concomitantly, environmental factors such as stress (high stress combined with polymorphisms in dopaminergic genes, as well as other neurotransmitter genetic variants), and social defeat also alter brain-reward mechanisms in such a manner as to impart vulnerability to addiction [7]. Thus, elevated stress levels,

stress & social defeat  
(interacting with our genes)

# Transformative Spiritual Experience



“We’ve been doing this for over 40 years since Nixon... The drugs are more available, purer quality, and cheaper than they’ve ever been before... and we’ve destroyed more lives than drugs have by incarcerating people, hanging felony convictions on them, denying them education, denying them jobs... **And we don’t even have one drug-free prison in America.**”

- Retired police captain Peter Christ





*InSite in Vancouver: An overdose prevention center (i.e., a safe injection site)*

## BEFORE DCR



Make money.  
Buy street heroin.  
Hide from the police.  
Find or share needle.  
Use puddle water.  
Rush to inject while keeping a  
look out.  
Throw drug paraphernalia  
on the ground.  
Repeat.

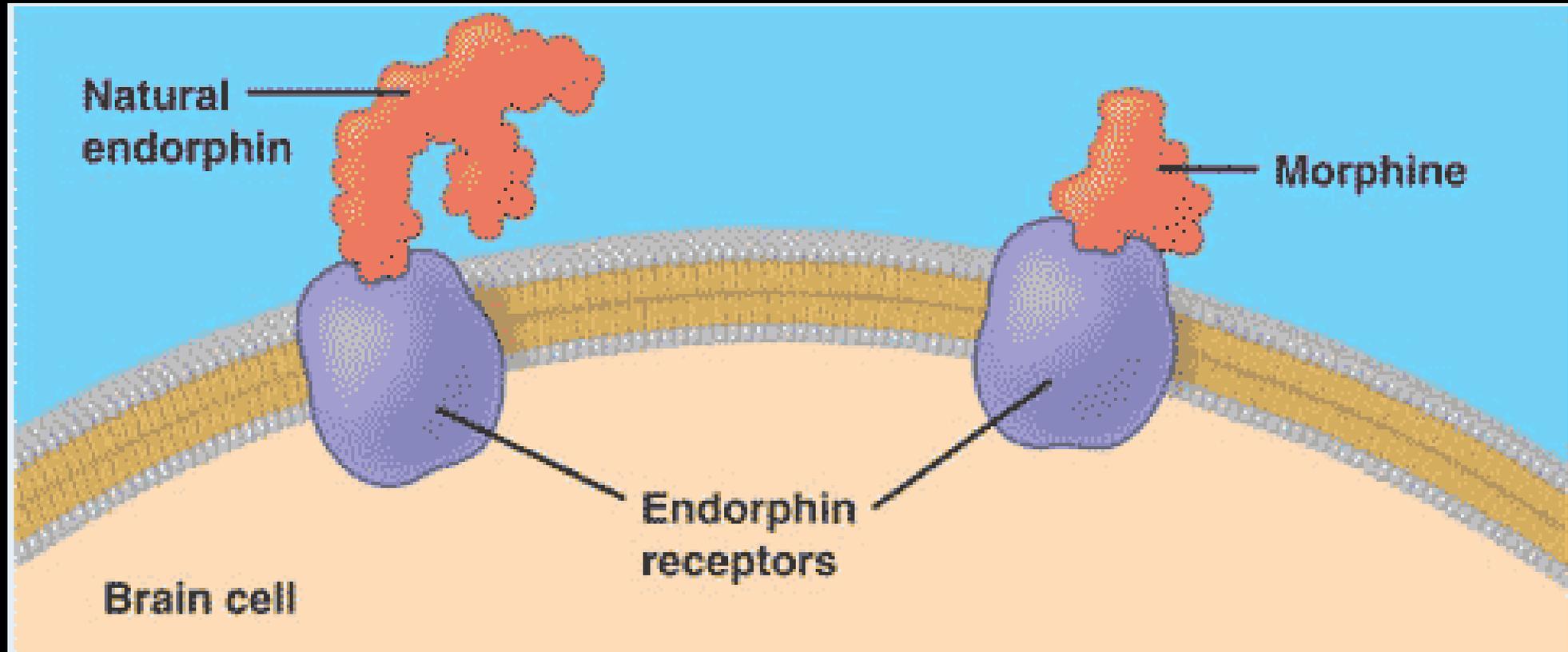
*Life of people who  
use drugs before and  
after the opening of  
DCR's*

## AFTER DCR

Make money.  
Buy street heroin .  
Visit DCR.  
Receive hygienic paraphernalia  
(syringe, cookers, filter, alcohol  
pad) .  
Use under supervision of trained  
professional first aid.  
Properly dispose of drug para-  
phernalia in biohazard containers.  
Relax, take a shower, change  
clothes, talk to a social worker &  
organise the rest of my day.

# Opioids

# Endogenous vs. Exogenous Opioids



# Classification of Opioids

<i>Traditional</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Function</i>
<p><b><u>Strong</u></b> morphine fentanyl remifentanil</p> <p><b><u>Intermediate</u></b> buprenorphine pentazocine butorphanol</p> <p><b><u>Weak</u></b> codeine</p>	<p><b><u>Naturally occurring</u></b> morphine, codeine, thebaine</p> <p><b><u>Semisynthetic</u></b> oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, buprenorphine</p> <p><b><u>Synthetic</u></b> fentanyl methadone tramadol</p>	<p><b><u>Pure agonists</u></b> morphine, fentanyl, remifentanil</p> <p><b><u>Partial agonist</u></b> buprenorphine</p> <p><b><u>Agonists-antagonists</u></b> pentazocine nalbuphine</p> <p><b><u>Pure antagonists</u></b> naloxone naltrexone</p>

# Opiate Receptors In The CNS

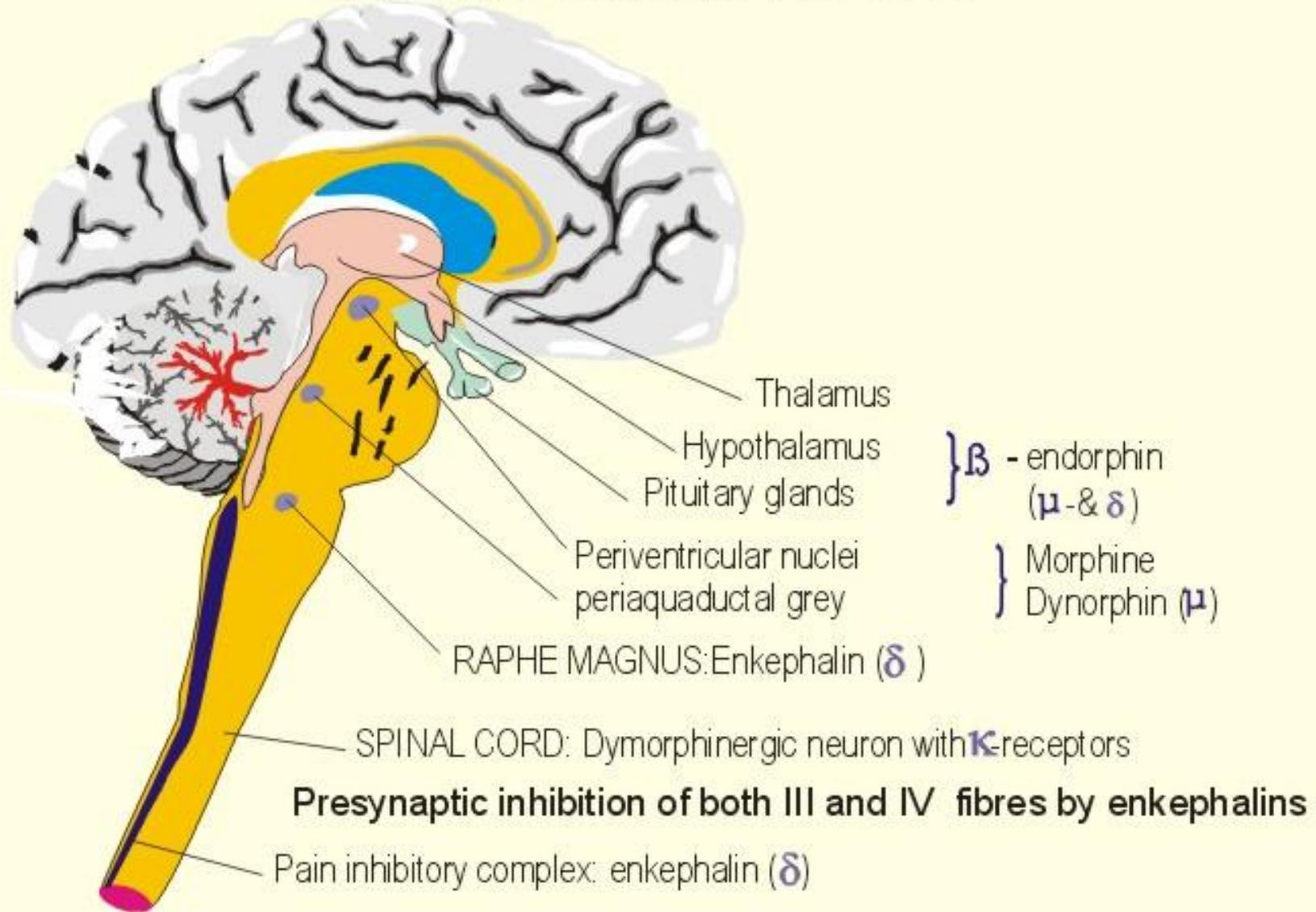
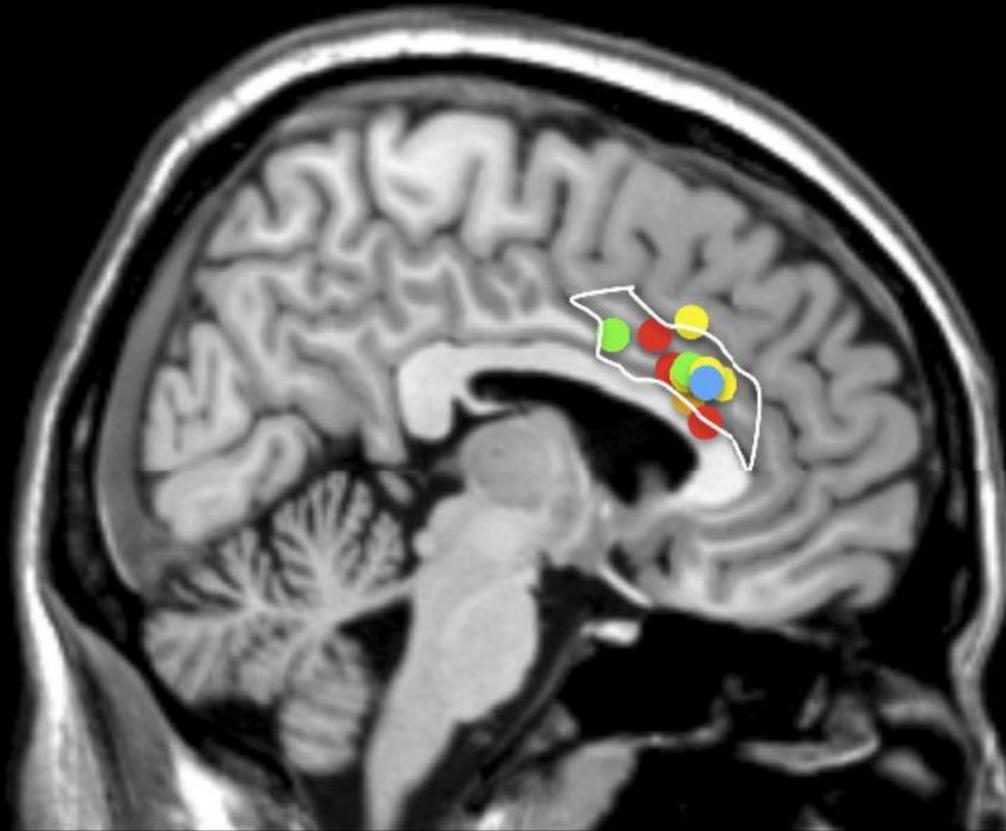


Fig. 3-10

# Distress and Pain: Dorsal Anterior Cingulate Cortex



- Pain
- Social rejection
- Hunger
- Thirst
- Breathlessness

# Opioid Intoxication

- **Euphoria** experienced as a “rush” of intensely pleasurable feelings
- Reduced psychological pain:
  - Anxiety, depression, anger, paranoid ideation/psychosis
- GI: nausea, vomiting, constipation
- Miosis (pinpoint pupils)
- Respiratory suppression

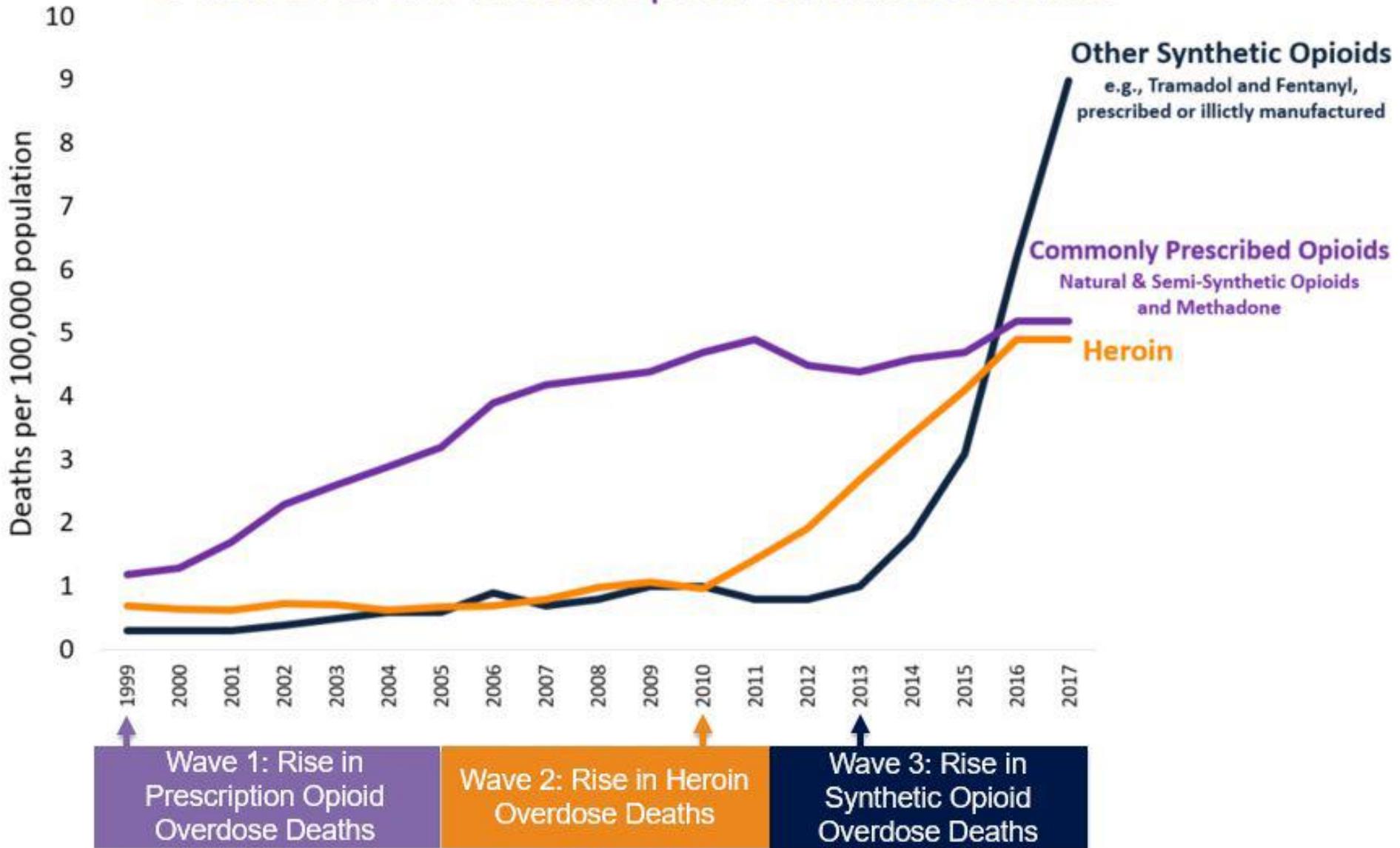


# Opioid Withdrawal



- Dysphoric mood
- Nausea/vomiting
- Muscle aches
- Lacrimation
- Rhinorrhea
- Pupil dilation
- Piloerection
- Sweating
- Diarrhea
- Yawning
- Fever
- Insomnia

## 3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

Three clear plastic vials with black caps are arranged in a row on a dark surface. Each vial has a white label with black text. The first vial on the left contains a significant amount of white powder. The second vial in the middle contains a small amount of white powder. The third vial on the right contains a single white pellet.

HEROIN

FENTANYL

CARFENTANYL



2 mL Single-dose  
I.V. or I.M. use  
**Fentanyl Citrate**  
Inj., USP  
**100 mcg Fentanyl/2 mL**  
(50 mcg/mL)  
Hospira, Inc.  
Lake Forest, IL 60045 USA  
NDC 0409-9000  
RL-50



2 mL Single-dose  
I.V. or I.M. use  
**Fentanyl Citrate**  
Inj., USP  
**100 mcg Fentanyl/2 mL**  
(50 mcg/mL)  
Hospira, Inc.  
Lake Forest, IL 60045 USA  
NDC 0409-9000  
RL-50

Treatment



Detox

# Opiate Withdrawal Timeline



Last Dose

Symptoms Begin

**6-12 hours**

Short-Acting Opiates



**30 hours**

Long-Acting Opiates

**72 hours**

## Symptoms Peak

- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Stomach Cramps
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Goosebumps
- ✓ Depression
- ✓ Drug Cravings

## Acute withdrawal

7 days for heroin

Up to 25 days for methadone

## Post-Acute Withdrawal Syndrome (PAWS)

Can be up to 1 year

# Post-Acute Withdrawal Syndrome (PAWS)

- Alcohol or drug cravings
- Irritability
- Anxiety
- Presence of a dysphoria state or depression
- Trouble sleeping
- Decreased ability to feel pleasure (anhedonia)
- Decreased libido (interest in sex)
- A reduction in short-term memory
- Chronic and lasting fatigue
- Struggling to concentrate
- Difficulty focusing on tasks
- Impaired decision-making skills
- Reduced control of executive functions
- Physical problems, especially pain, that may not be attributed to a specific cause



# Death by Detoxification

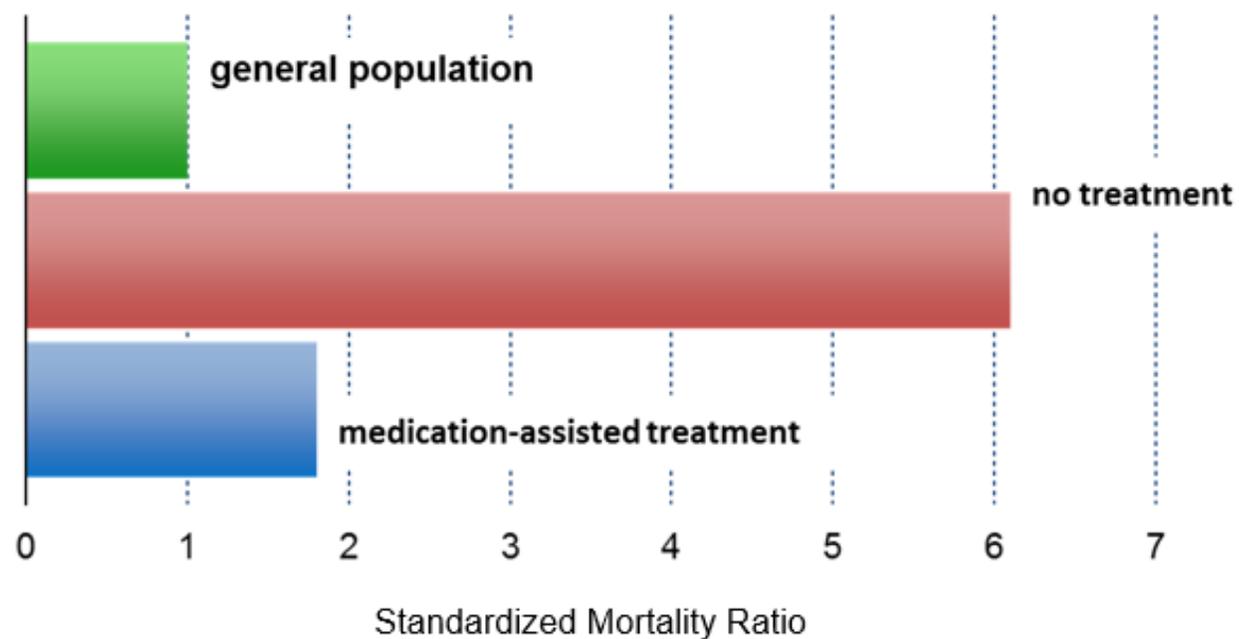
By Adam Bisaga, M.D., Maria A. Sullivan, M.D., Ph.D.

Hardly a day passes when we do not hear reports from many different areas of the country about young people dying from overdoses of narcotics. The recent death of the actor Cory Monteith was a stark public reminder of this recurring tragedy. Many of these incidents are even more tragic since they happen not too long after discharge from a treatment program. These headlines are a wake-up call: What more can be done to save the lives of young people with drug addictions, especially those who come to us seeking help?

Monteith was taking heroin, but we know that taking opioid painkillers — such as Vicodin or Oxycontin — affect the brain similarly to heroin and could have resulted in the same tragic outcome. He died of an overdose, a leading cause of death in individuals who use heroin or misuse painkillers. Overdoses, which are most often unintentional, are too common among people who regularly use heroin or misuse painkillers. Drug overdose death rates in the U.S. have [more than tripled since 1990](#). In the past decade, deaths from opioids have [surpassed motor vehicles](#) as a cause of death in some states.

# Benefits of MAT: Decreased Mortality

## Death rates:



[Dupouy et al., 2017](#)  
[Evans et al., 2015](#)  
[Sordo et al., 2017](#)

SPECIAL ARTICLE

## Release from Prison — A High Risk of Death for Former Inmates

Ingrid A. Binswanger, M.D., Marc F. Stern, M.D., Richard A. Deyo, M.D.,  
Patrick J. Heagerty, Ph.D., Allen Cheadle, Ph.D., Joann G. Elmore, M.D.,  
and Thomas D. Koepsell, M.D.

### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

The U.S. population of former prison inmates is large and growing. The period immediately after release may be challenging for former inmates and may involve substantial health risks. We studied the risk of death among former inmates soon after their release from Washington State prisons.

#### METHODS

We conducted a retrospective cohort study of all inmates released from the Washing-

From the Puget Sound Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Seattle (I.A.B., T.D.K.); the Departments of Medicine (I.A.B., R.A.D., J.G.E.), Health Services (I.A.B., R.A.D., A.C., T.D.K.), Biostatistics (P.J.H.), and Epidemiology (J.G.E., T.D.K.), University of Washington, Seattle; the Department of Medicine, University of Colorado at Denver and the Health Sciences Center, Denver (I.A.B.); and the Washington State Department of

other state residents, with a markedly elevated relative risk of death from drug overdose (129; 95% CI, 89 to 186). The leading causes of death among former inmates

#### RESULTS

Of 30,237 released inmates, 443 died during a mean follow-up period of 1.9 years. The overall mortality rate was 777 deaths per 100,000 person-years. The adjusted risk of death among former inmates was 3.5 times that among other state residents (95% confidence interval [CI], 3.2 to 3.8). During the first 2 weeks after release, the risk of death among former inmates was 12.7 (95% CI, 9.2 to 17.4) times that among other state residents, with a markedly elevated relative risk of death from drug overdose (129; 95% CI, 89 to 186). The leading causes of death among former inmates were drug overdose, cardiovascular disease, homicide, and suicide.

N Engl J Med 2007;356:157-65.  
Copyright © 2007 Massachusetts Medical Society.

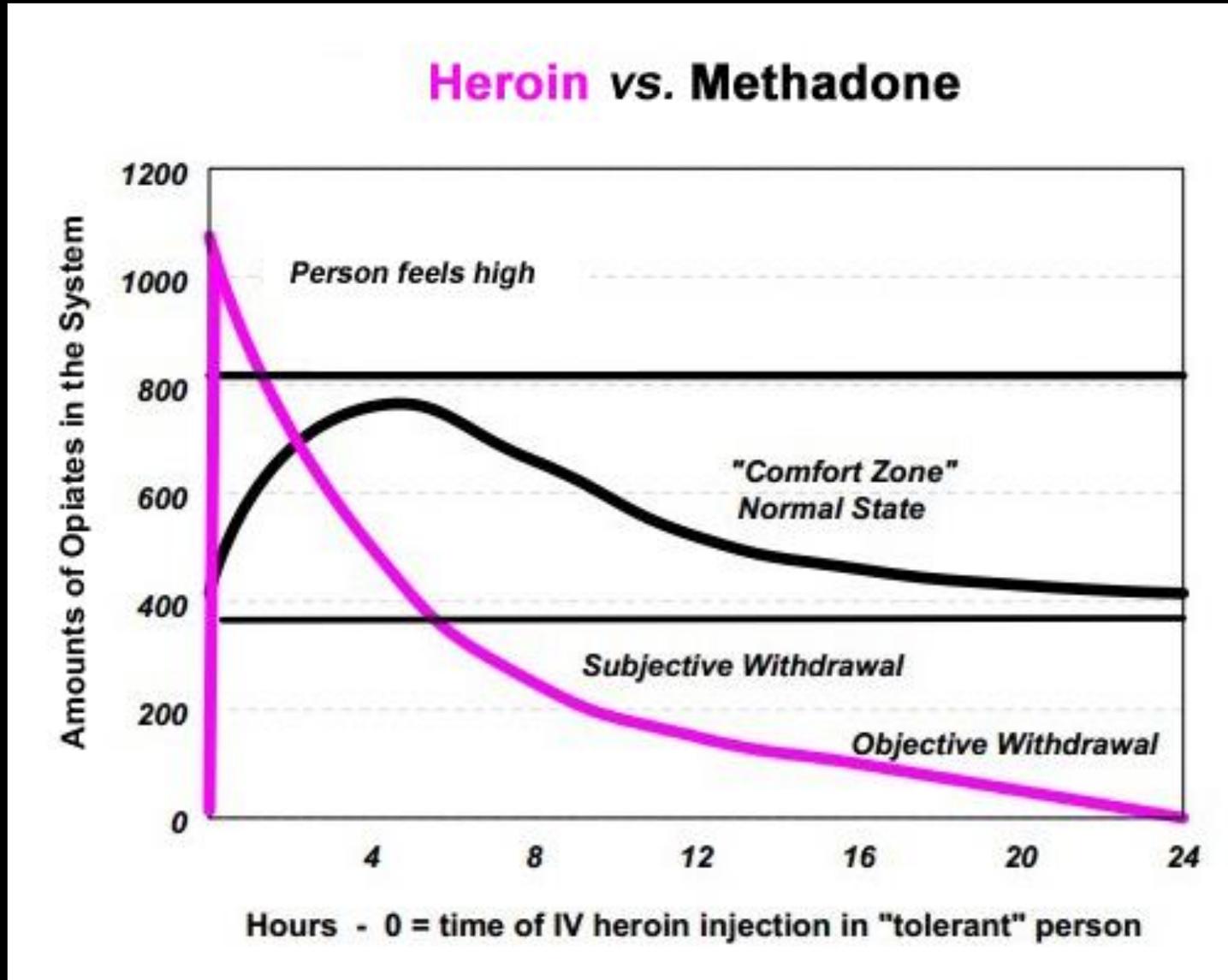
129 times  
the overdose  
death risk  
as compared  
to gen. pop.

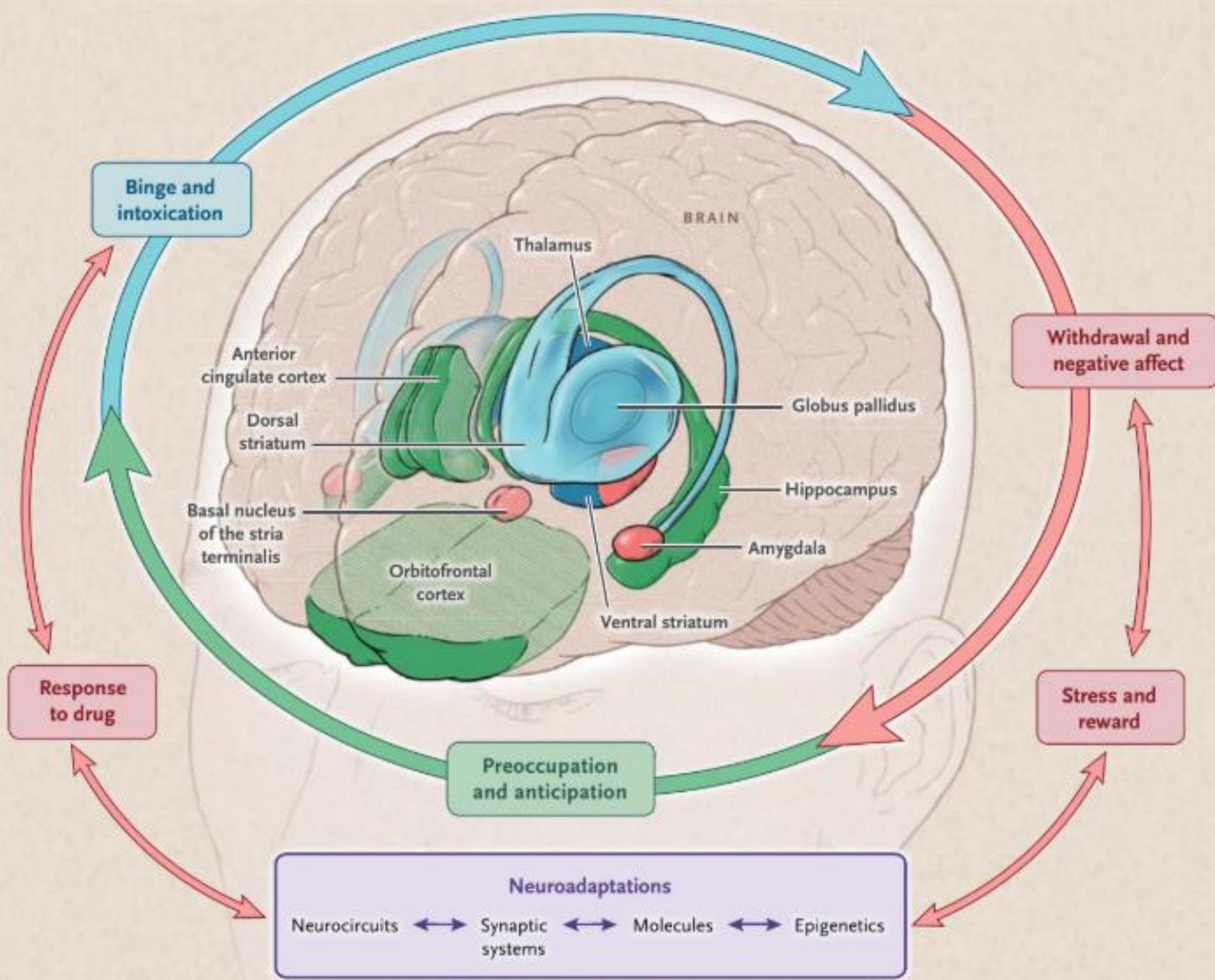


**MEDICATION-ASSISTED  
TREATMENT (MAT)**

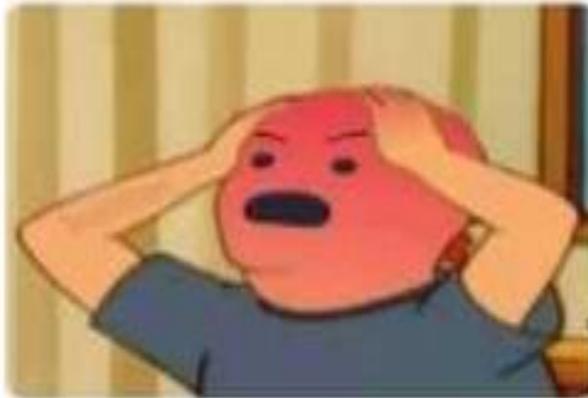
- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone

# Why do methadone and buprenorphine work?





When you're dope sick AF and  
your plug finally calls back after  
you've already taken your sub



# Methadone



5mg



10mg



40mg  
(Dispersible Tablet)

**Methadose**  
**Methadone IR Tablets**  
**Mallinckrodt**

# Buprenorphine



Buprenorphine / Naloxone Tablets  
Photo by Psychonaut. © 2010 Erowid.org





XR-Naltrexone

380mg IM every 4 weeks



Vivitrol injection preparation - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZBaDCIWSwg> ▼

# The Duration Dilemma

RESEARCH



OPEN ACCESS

## Mortality risk during and after opioid substitution treatment: systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies

Luis Sordo,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Gregorio Barrio,<sup>4</sup> Maria J Bravo,<sup>1,2</sup> B Iciar Indave,<sup>1,2</sup> Louisa Degenhardt,<sup>5,6</sup> Lucas Wiessing,<sup>7</sup> Marica Ferri,<sup>7</sup> Roberto Pastor-Barriuso<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Centre for Epidemiology, Carlos III Institute of Health, Madrid, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Consortium for Biomedical Research in Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain

<sup>3</sup>Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain

<sup>4</sup>National School of Public

### ABSTRACT

#### OBJECTIVE

To compare the risk for all cause and overdose mortality in people with opioid dependence during and after substitution treatment with methadone or buprenorphine and to characterise trends in risk of mortality after initiation and cessation of treatment.

#### DESIGN

Systematic review and meta-analysis.

#### DATA SOURCES

Medline, Embase, PsycINFO, and LILACS to September

out of buprenorphine treatment (2.20, 1.34 to 3.61). In pooled trend analysis, all cause mortality dropped sharply over the first four weeks of methadone treatment and decreased gradually two weeks after leaving treatment. All cause mortality remained stable during induction and remaining time on buprenorphine treatment. Overdose mortality evolved similarly, with pooled overdose mortality rates of 2.6 and 12.7 per 1000 person years in and out of methadone treatment (unadjusted out-to-in rate ratio 4.80, 2.90 to 7.96) and 1.4 and 4.6 in and out of buprenorphine treatment.

# The Duration Dilemma

## WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

Opioid substitution treatment is effective in suppressing illicit opioid use and reducing all cause and overdose mortality

Growing evidence suggests that mortality during and after opioid substitution treatment is time varying and differs by type of drug

## WHAT THIS STUDY ADDS

In patients using methadone maintenance treatment there are, on average, 25 fewer deaths/1000 person years than in patients who discontinue it. Mortality risk among opioid users during treatment is less than a third of that expected in the absence of opioid substitution treatment

Buprenorphine maintenance treatment is probably also effective in reducing mortality in opioid users, but quantification of averted deaths requires further studies

The mortality risk in the induction phase of methadone (first four weeks) is high but seems to decrease substantially during this period, with a further stabilisation at around six deaths/1000 person years in the remaining time in treatment. This did not occur with buprenorphine. The mortality risk in the four weeks immediately after cessation of either treatment is high and could exceed 30 deaths/1000 person years

## RESEARCH

ment:

t,<sup>5,6</sup>

1.34 to 3.61). In  
lity dropped  
thadone  
o weeks after  
remained stable  
on buprenorphine  
l similarly, with  
and 12.7 per  
done treatment  
2.90 to 7.96) and  
ie treatment.



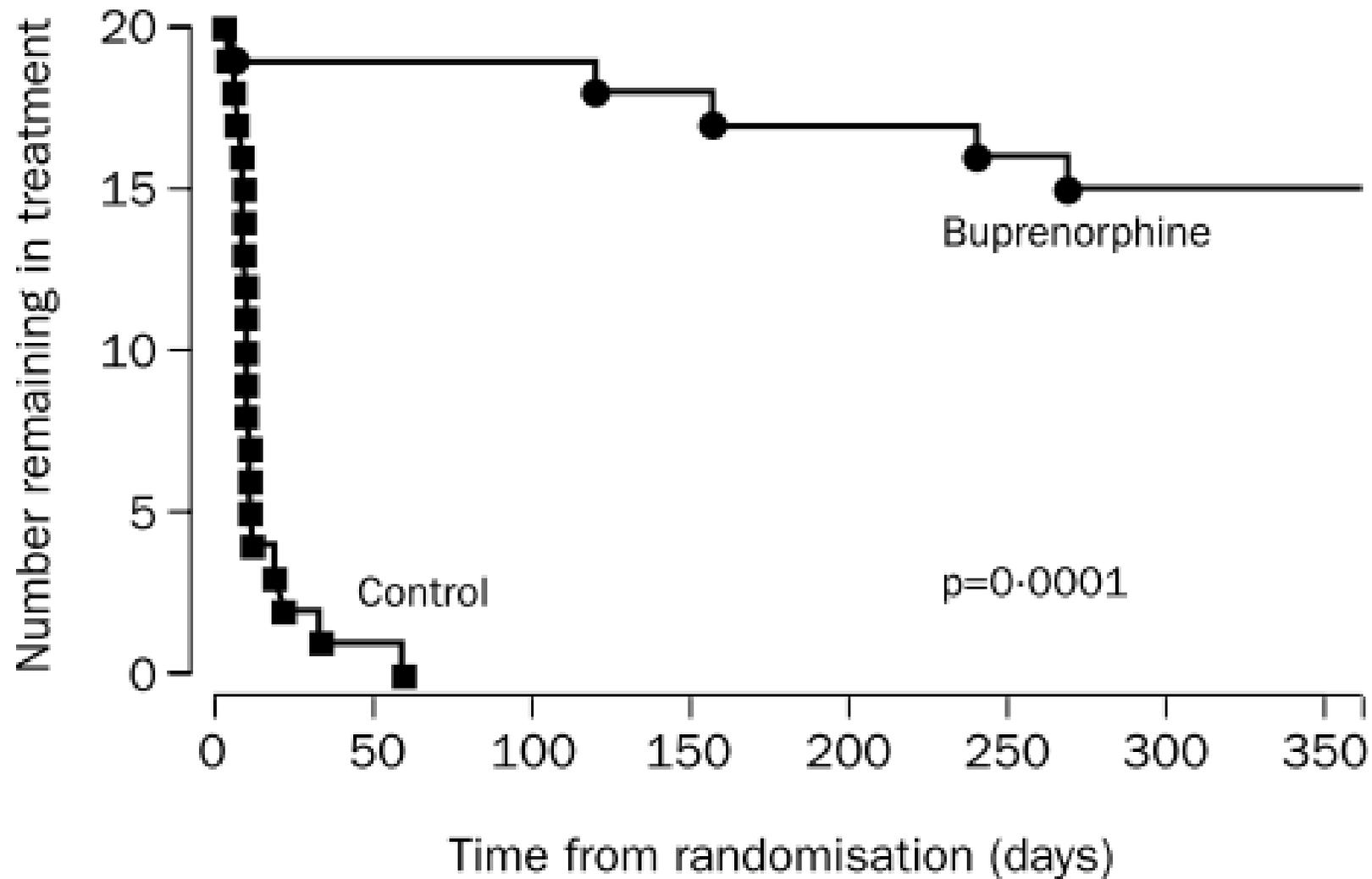
OPEN AC

<sup>1</sup>National Centre for Epidemiology, Carlos III of Health, Madrid, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Consortium for Biomed Research in Epidemiology, Public Health (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain

<sup>3</sup>Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain

<sup>4</sup>National School of Pub



**Mortality:**

**4/20** in placebo group

**0/20** in buprenorphine group

If you  
do  
detox...



# When prescribing MAT...

1

Continue  
despite  
opioid  
relapses

2

Continue  
despite other  
substance  
use

3

Can start  
even if just  
cravings and  
no relapse

# MAT: A Summary

## 1) Methadone

- Federally-regulated methadone maintenance programs (1970s)
- Decreases overdose deaths, improves psychosocial adjustment, reduces criminal activity, decreases rates of HIV/HCV

80 - 120mg daily

## 2) Buprenorphine

- Similar outcomes as for methadone
- Used since 2002
- DATA 2000 waiver allows office-based prescriptions

8mg BID

## 3) XR- Naltrexone (Vivitrol<sup>®</sup> injection)

- Opioid antagonist (blocks receptor)
- Much less evidence

380mg IM q 4 wks

# Opioids Are Different

- **Post-acute withdrawal syndrome** → high relapse rates  
*(we need our endogenous opiates)*
- **Detoxification doesn't work**
- **Overdose death** most likely after period of abstinence
  - Inpatient rehab
  - Incarceration
- **MAT** is the gold standard of treatment



# RUTGERS

New Jersey Medical School  
Department of Psychiatry

You may be  
eligible to receive  
**\$750\***  
financial  
reimbursement

## BUPRENORPHINE TRAINING COURSE

This conference is designed to meet the requirement for a buprenorphine waiver certification under the DATA 2000 federal law. Participants will learn about opioid use disorder and how to prescribe buprenorphine for their patients.

Training is FREE and includes complimentary breakfast, lunch and CMEs

### Registration

**CLICK below to Register**

All Courses are 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Friday, April 19, 2019**

Newark, NJ  
Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School

**Friday, May 10, 2019**

Park Ridge, NJ  
Park Ridge Marriott

**Friday, July 12, 2019**

Somerset, NJ  
RWJ University  
Hospital Somerset

**Friday, July 19, 2019**

Union, NJ  
Clubhouse at Galloping  
Hill Golf Course

**Friday, August 2, 2019**

Ringoes, NJ  
Heron Glenn Golf  
and Restaurant

**Friday, August 23, 2019**

Old Bridge, NJ  
Grand Marquis

**Friday, Sept 27, 2019**

Whippany, NJ  
Hanover Marriott



**Petros Levounis, MD, MA**  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School



**Erin Zerbo, MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School

\* This training is for Physicians, Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Nurses. Eligible providers who complete this full day training and attain the DATA 2000 waiver may be eligible to receive financial reimbursement of \$750.

### RUTGERS

University Behavioral  
Health Care

(732) 235-9290

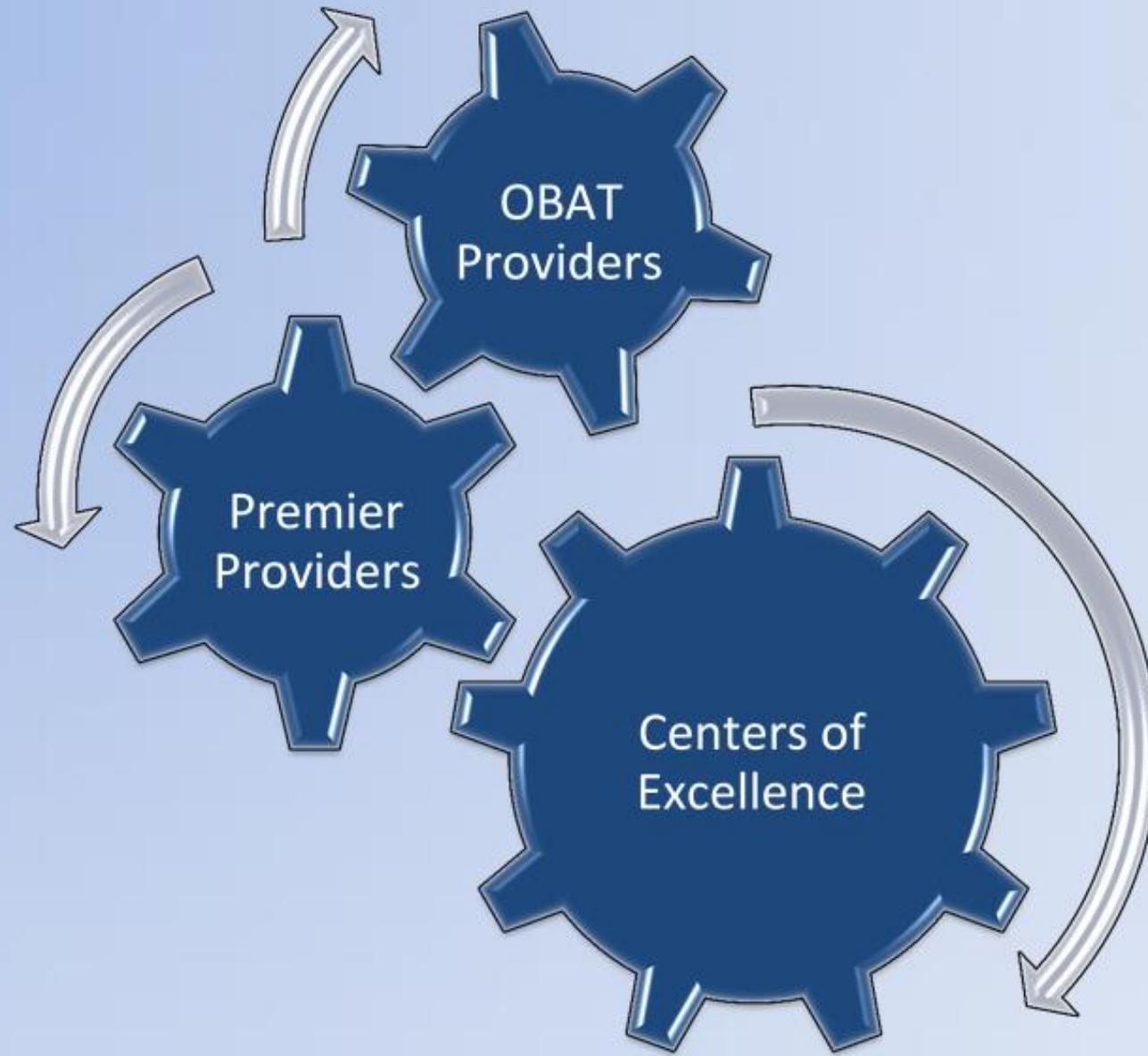
[NJMS.Rutgers.edu/Psychiatry](http://NJMS.Rutgers.edu/Psychiatry)

# Friday, September 27, 2019

# [NJMS.Rutgers.edu/Psychiatry](http://NJMS.Rutgers.edu/Psychiatry)

This program is funded by the New Jersey Department of Human Services. Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. 5U79TI026556-03 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) is the Data Sponsor for this training. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the NJ Department of Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

# The New Jersey MATrx





STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Department of Human Services  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services

## ADDICTION SERVICES TREATMENT DIRECTORY

**Carole Johnson**

Commissioner

Department of Human Services (DHS)

**Valerie Mielke**

Assistant Commissioner

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

Home

In an emergency, always call 911. For 24/7 help finding treatment, please contact 1-844-REACHNJ (1-844-732-2465).

What type of treatment are you interested in?

- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Inpatient Services
- Outpatient Services
- Withdrawal Management



Near

Zipcode / City

10 Miles

County

All

Provider Name

Agency / Provider name

Show only Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC)-affiliated agencies

Search

Reset

[njsams.rutgers.edu/TreatmentDirectory](https://njsams.rutgers.edu/TreatmentDirectory)

# Northern COE Counties



Please reach out to us!

Northern: [COE@njms.rutgers.edu](mailto:COE@njms.rutgers.edu)

Southern: [SouthernNJCOE@rowan.edu](mailto:SouthernNJCOE@rowan.edu)

**MAT Provider Hotline**

**866-221-2611**

(Monday - Friday, 8am - 8pm)