

Prescription Opioid Drug Misuse and Heroin Use in El Paso County: Scope and Impact of the Problem

Mary A. Steiner, BSN, RN

Community Health Partnership
Coordinator, Coalition for Prevention, Addiction Education and
Recovery (CPAR)

Colorado Springs City Council Meeting

January 22, 2018

Objectives

- Understand the scope of the prescription opioid drug misuse and heroin use problem in Colorado and El Paso County
- Discuss factors contributing to the growth in prescription opioid drug misuse and heroin use
- Highlight community efforts to address the opioid crisis in our community

What's the big deal?

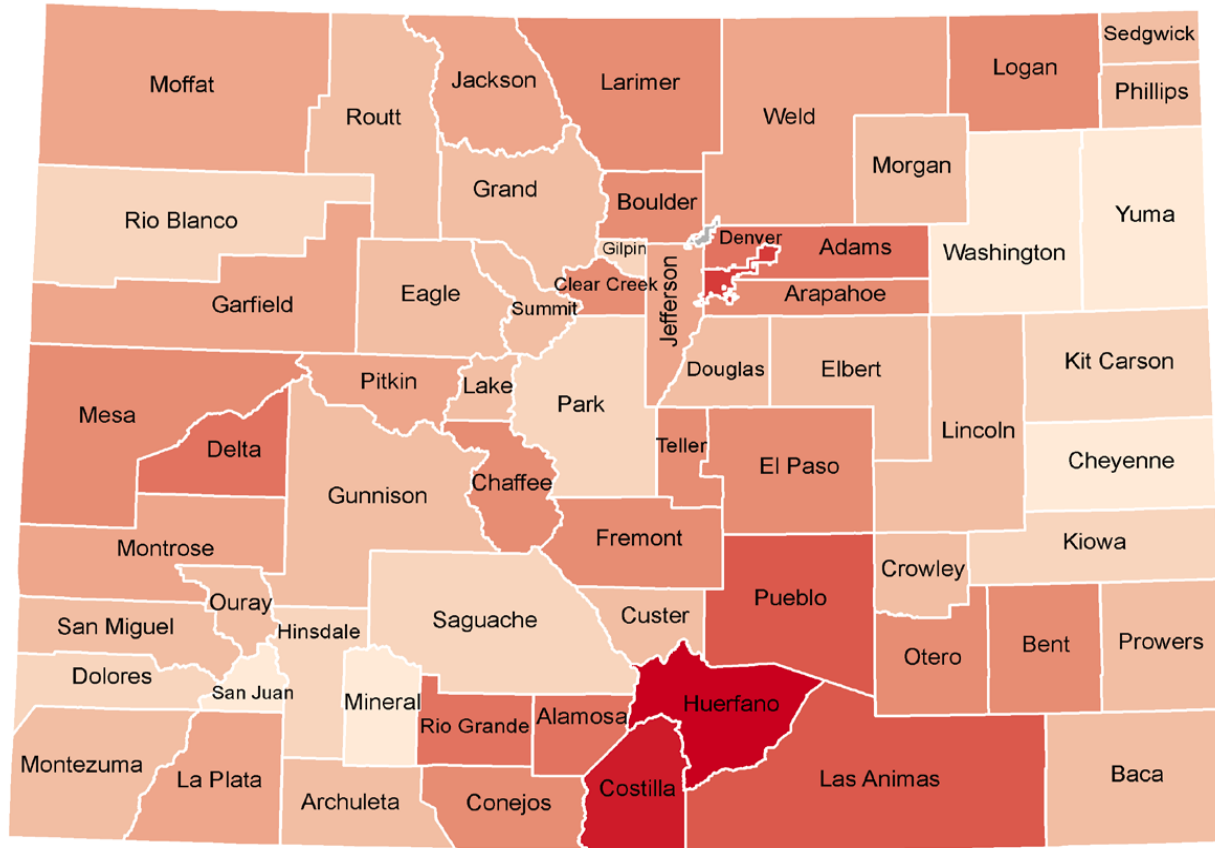
Drug Overdose Mortality

- In 2016, over 51,000 people died from drug overdoses in the United States
 - ❖ One every 10 minutes
 - ❖ Nearly 60% of those deaths involved prescription drugs
 - ❖ Painkillers (opioids) were involved in 75% of those deaths
- In Colorado, opioid related drug overdose deaths now number ~600/year
- In 2016, 120 people died from an opioid related overdose in El Paso County

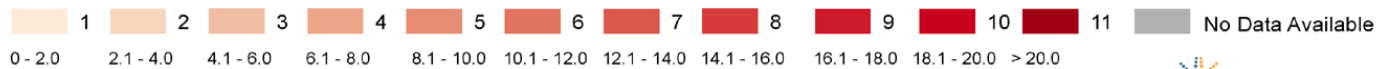
Drug Overdose Mortality (cont.)

- Since 2003, more overdose deaths have involved opioids than heroin and cocaine combined
- The problem knows no regional, gender, age, income, or other bounds: it is truly an epidemic (CDC: top four)

Colorado Drug Overdose Death Rate, 2002



Legend (rate per 100,000)

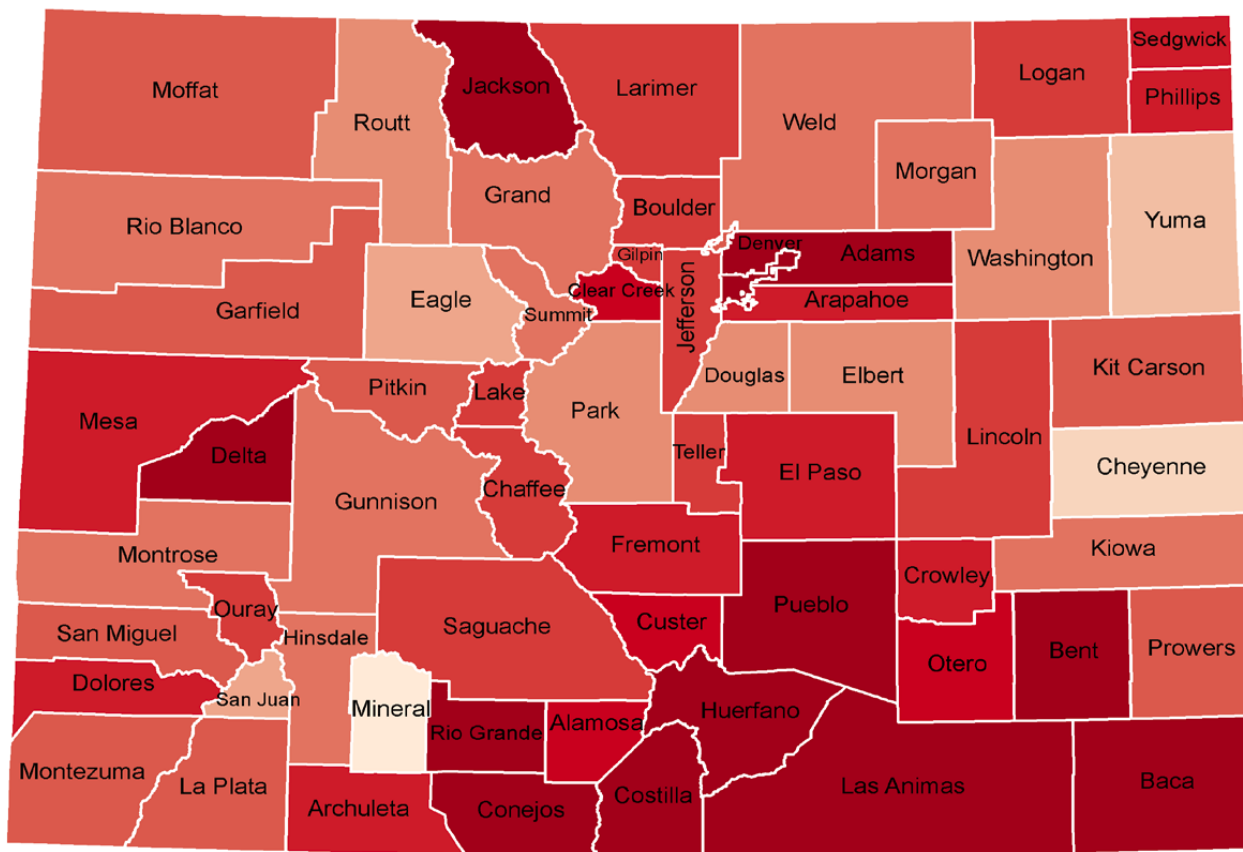


Source: CHI analysis of CDC National Vital Statistics System Mortality Data



Improving the health and wellbeing of the Pikes Peak community through collaboration

Colorado Drug Overdose Death Rate, 2014



Legend (rate per 100,000)

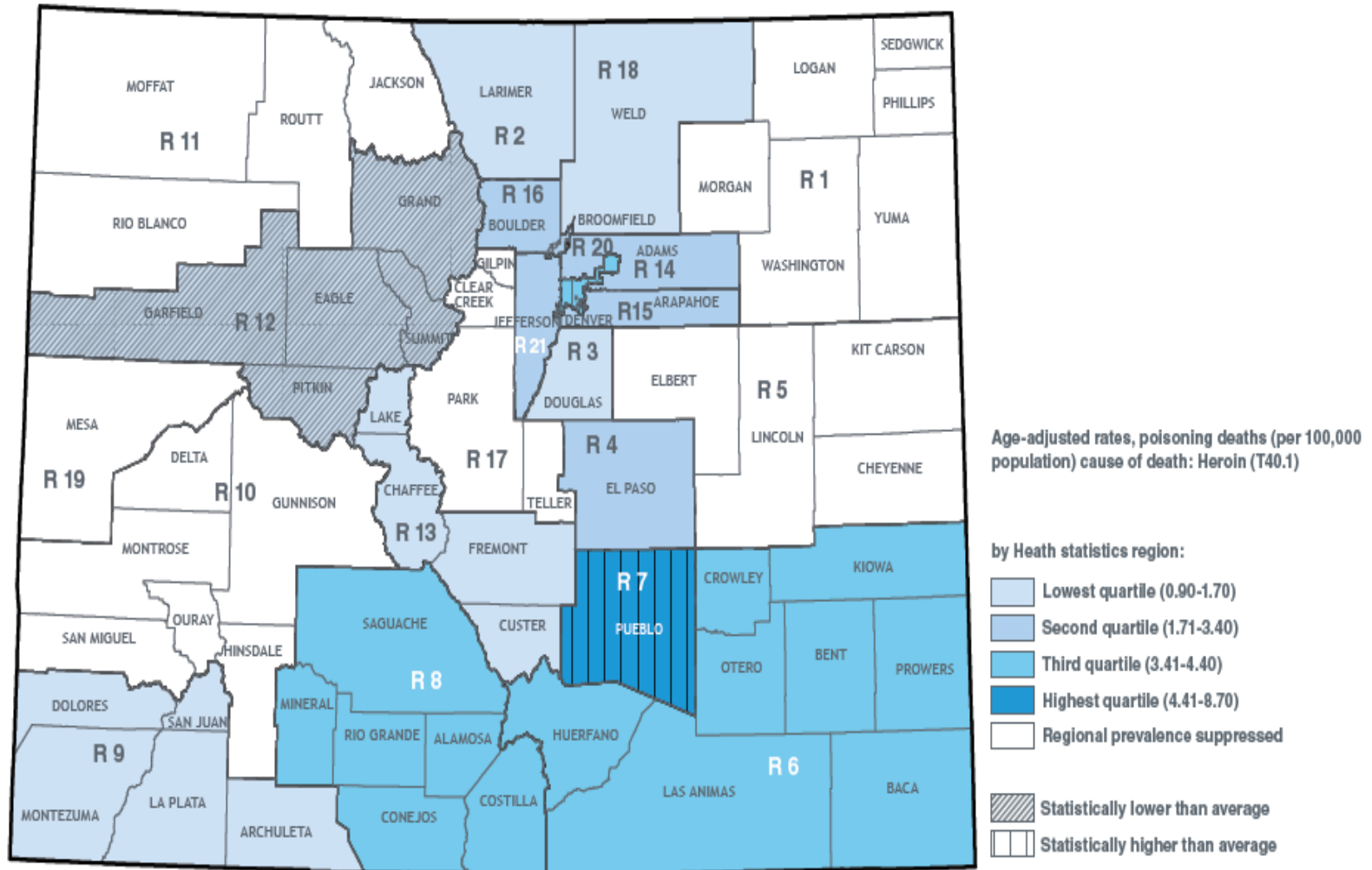


Drug Overdose Mortality in Colorado

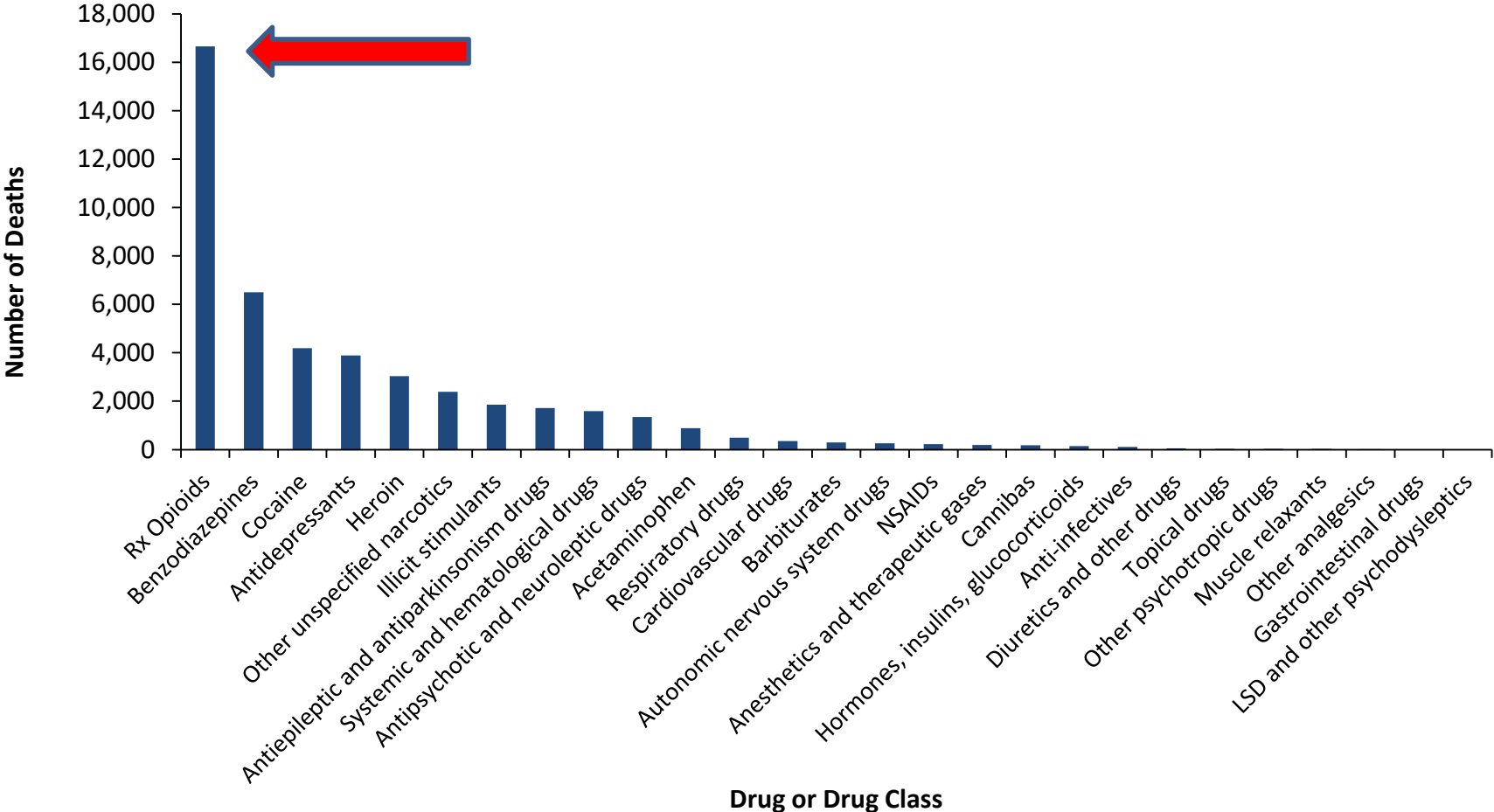
Colorado Drug Overdose Death Rate, 2014



Heroin Overdose Death Rates: 2013 - 2015

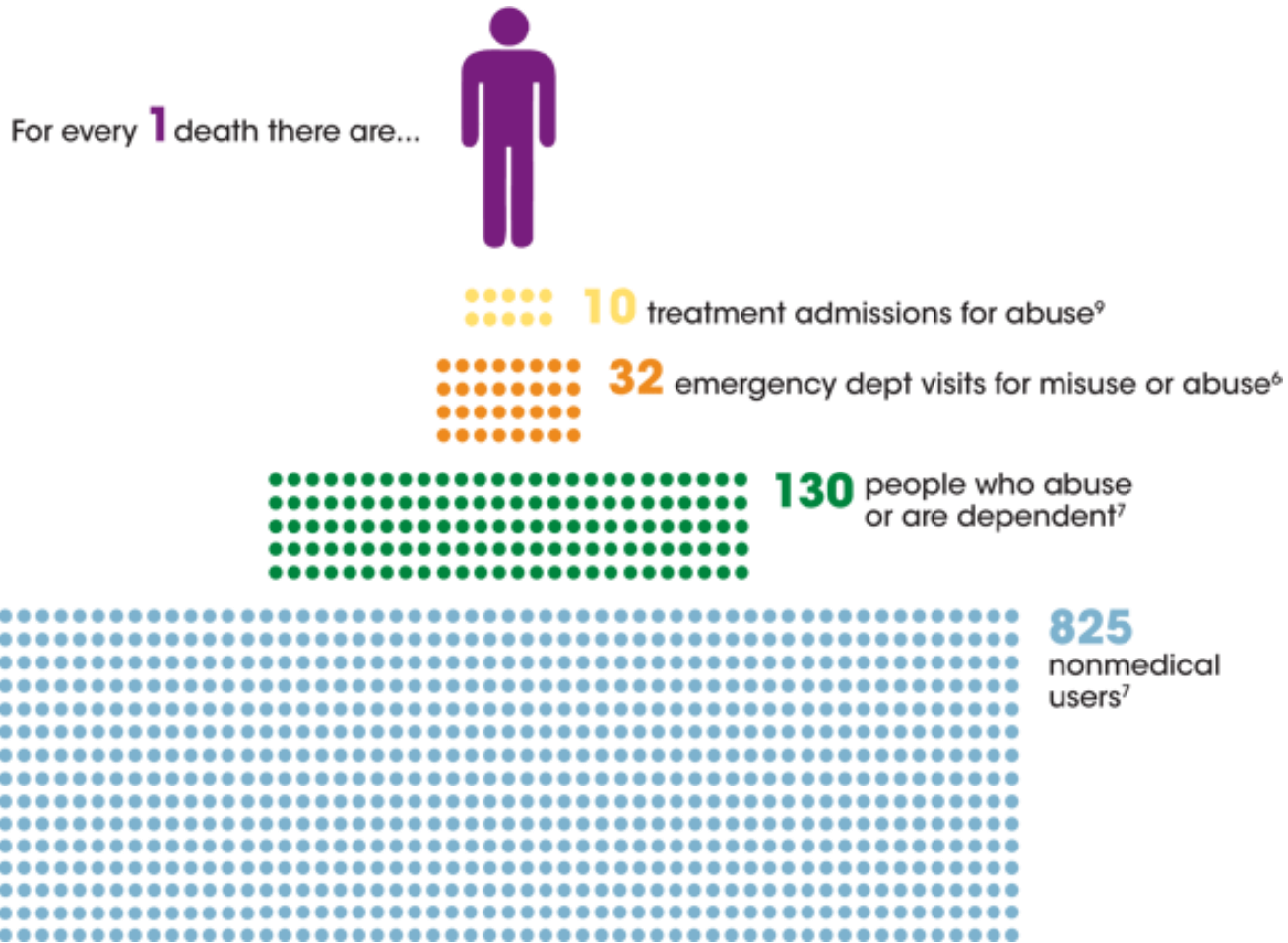


Prescription Drugs: primary driver of Overdose Deaths in United States



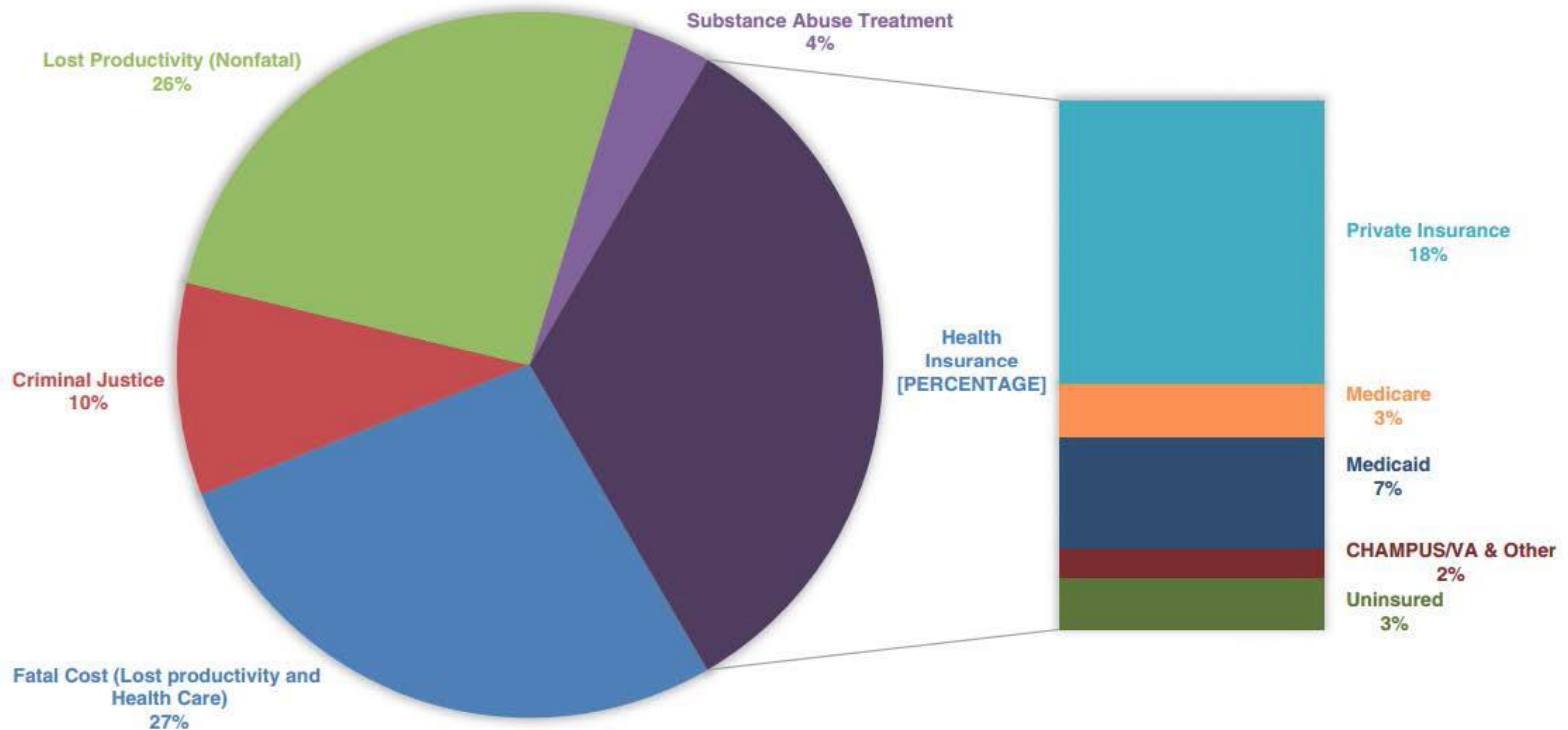
Deaths are the Tip of the Iceberg

For every opioid overdose death in 2013 there were. . .



Cost to the System: Prescription Opioids

Distribution of the Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse and Dependence



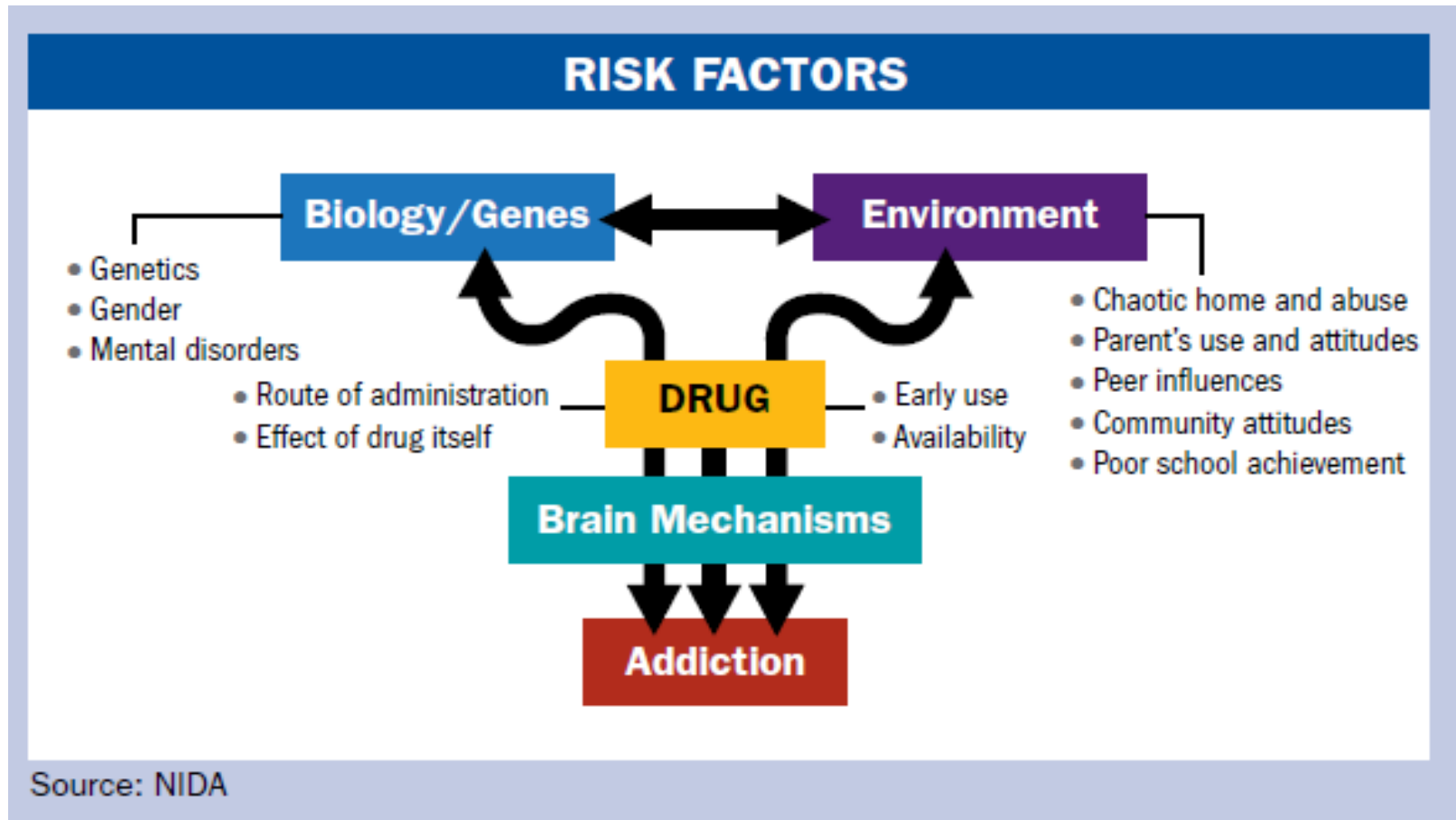
How did we get here?

The “Perfect Storm” of Opioids

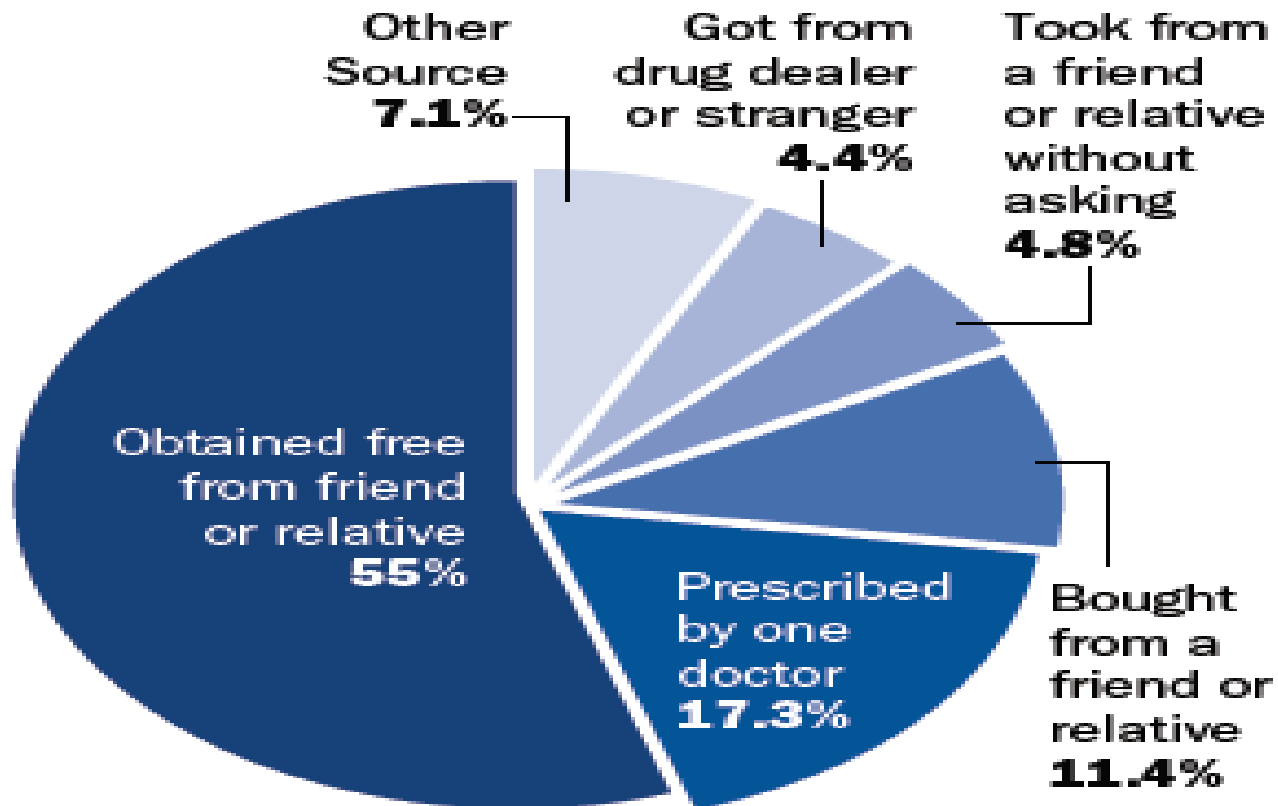
- Over past 25 years: rapid increase in amount of opioids being prescribed and dispensed
- Causes of the increase?
 - Increased recognition of pain, under-treatment of pain
 - Pain as the “fifth vital sign”, JCAHO quality measure, etc.
 - Drug company advertising and promotion
 - Practitioners are not well trained in pain management, opioid pharmacology, and addiction
 - Drugs are very powerful, highly addictive if not used properly
 - Scamming, doctor/pharmacy shopping, black market for opioids

How does this problem start?

Risk Factors for Prescription Opioid Drug Misuse and Heroin Use



Sources of Opioids among Nonmedical Users

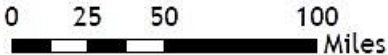
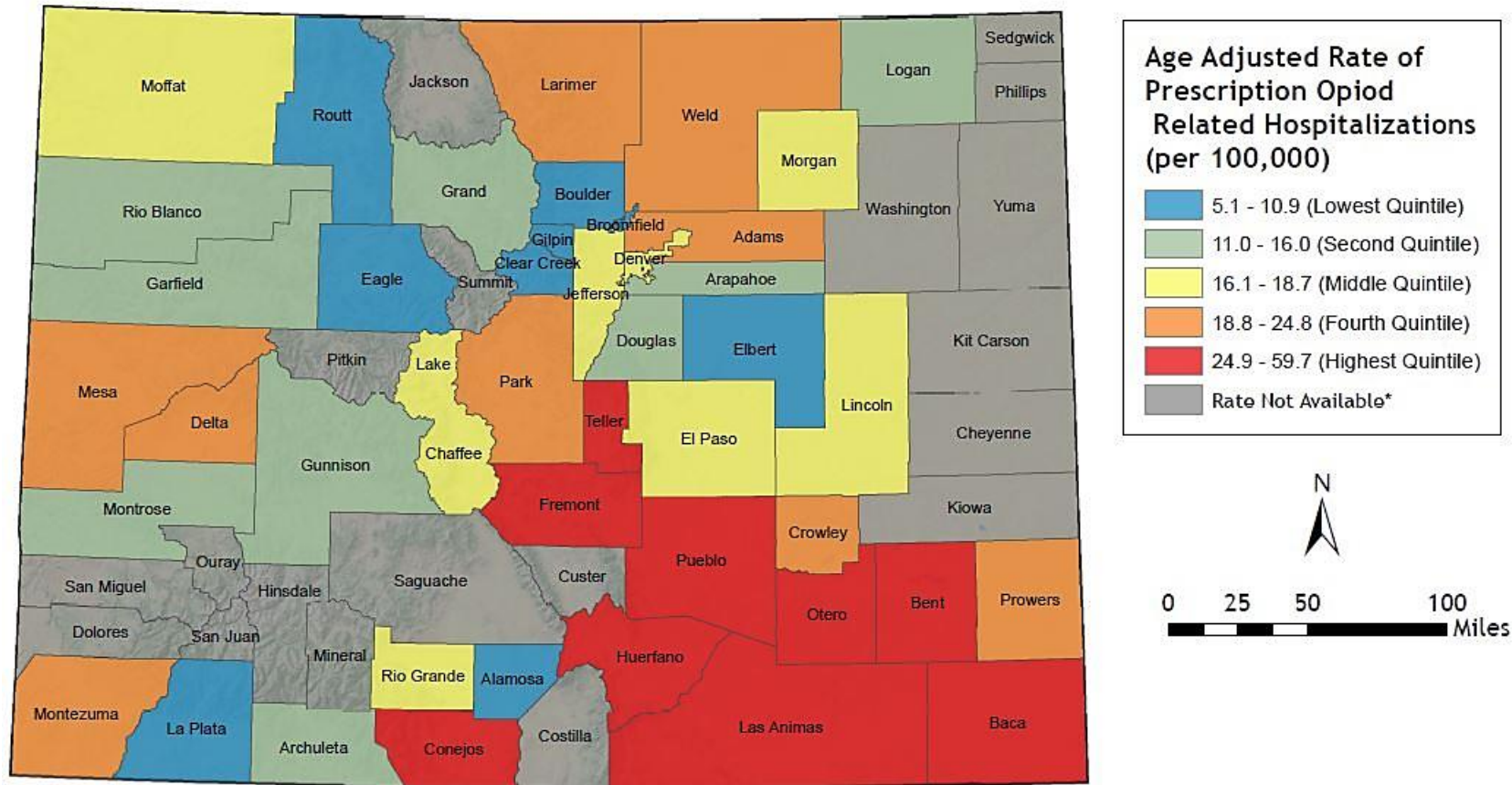


What does the problem look like in El Paso County?

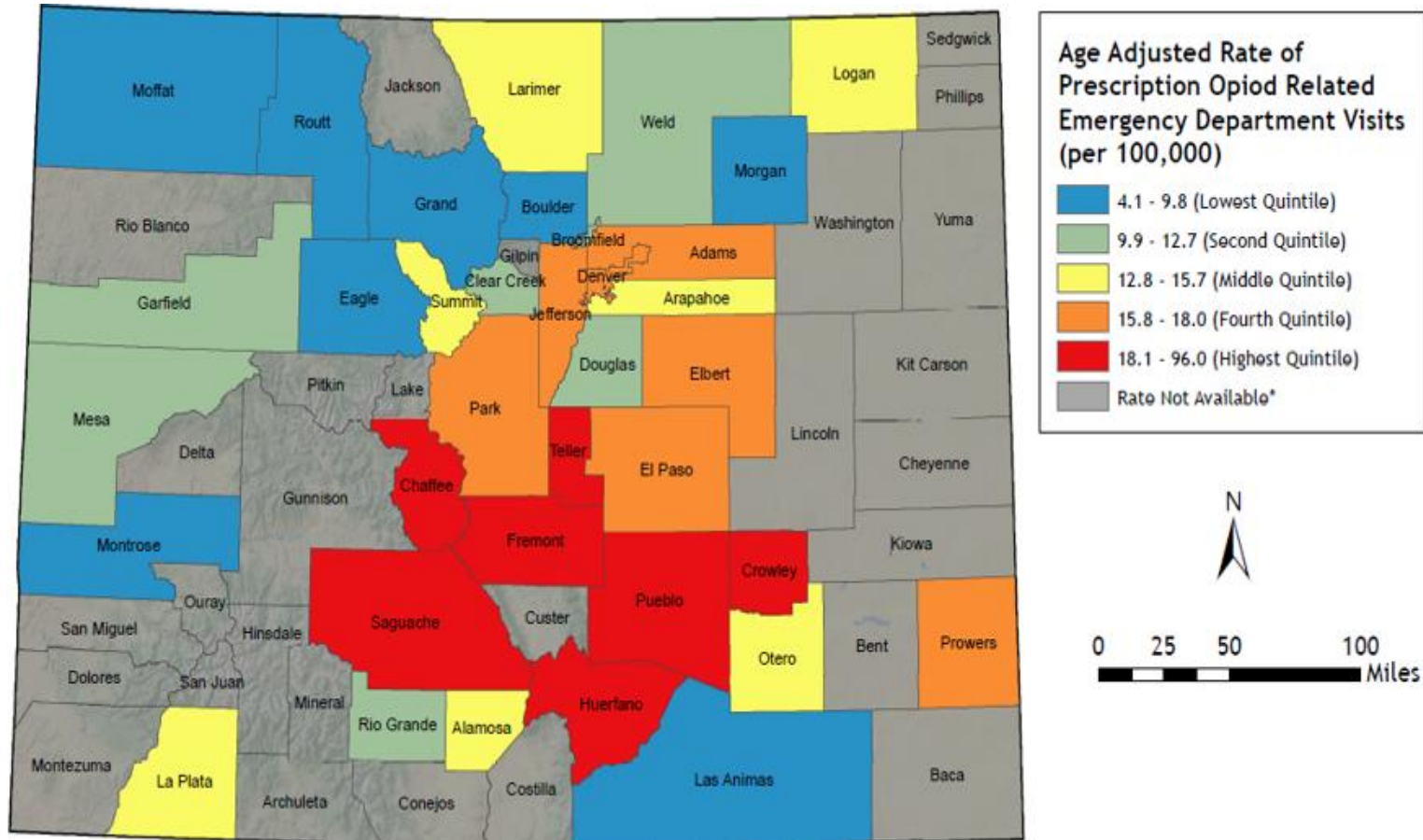
Controlled Substance Prescriptions Dispensed in El Paso County in 2016

- 767 opioid prescriptions written per 1,000 residents; nearly **538,000** prescriptions in total (based on an approximate population of 688,000)
- Over **30,606,000** opioid pills were dispensed based on the “average of 58 pills per prescription”
- Over **2,000** pounds of opioid pills were dispensed

Opioid Overdose Hospitalizations: 2013-2015



Opioid Overdose ED Visits: 2013-2015



What is being done in El Paso County?

Coalition for Prevention, Addiction Education and Recovery

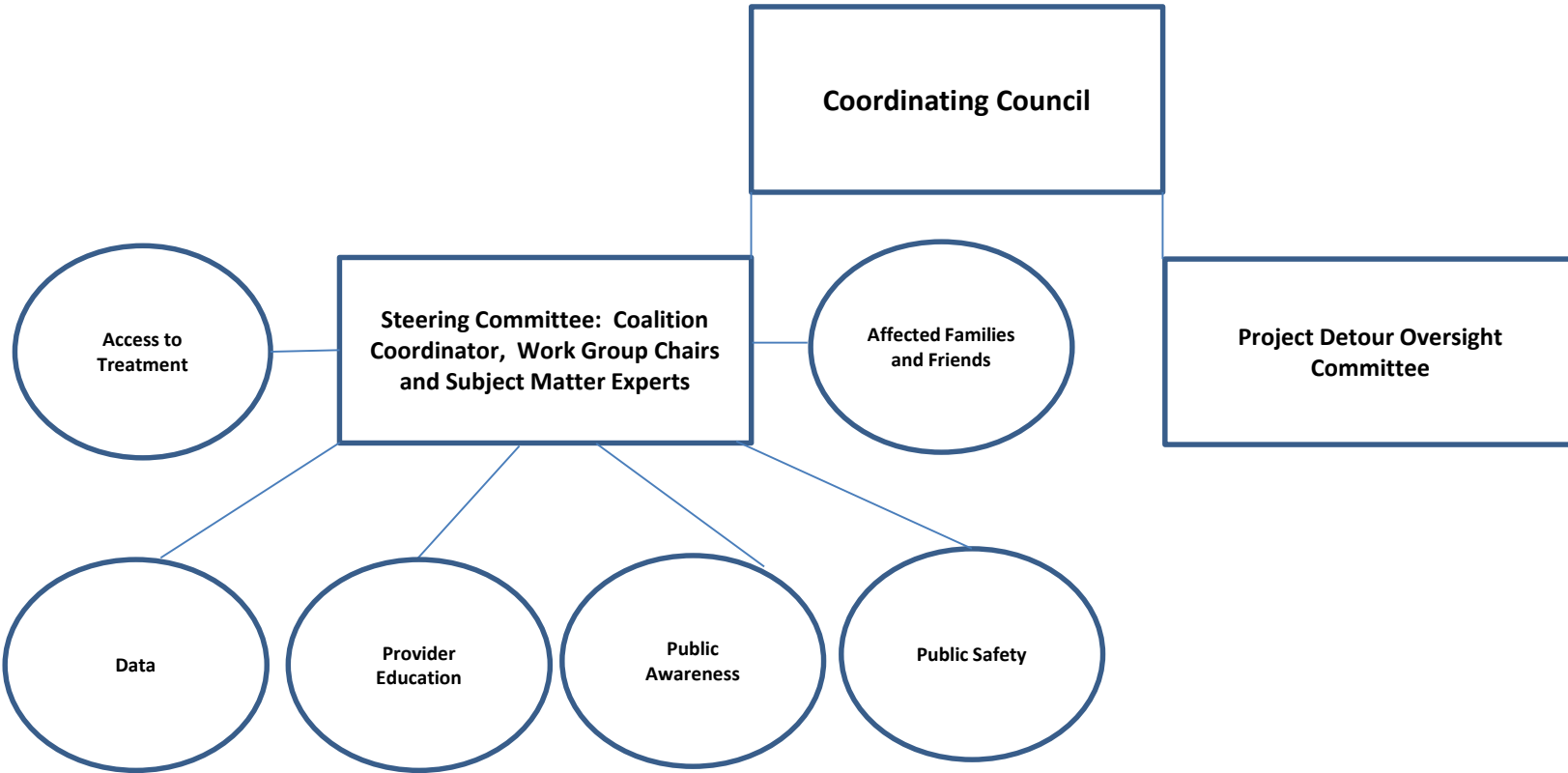
Vision Statement:

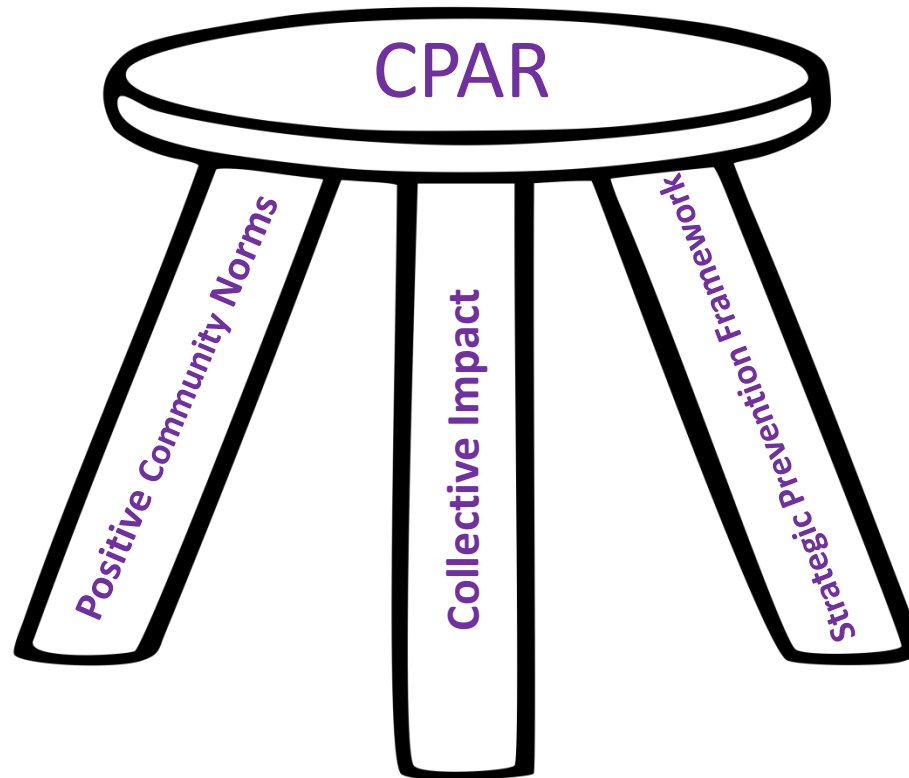
We are a safe, informed, and thriving community of engaged individuals making healthy choices free of substance misuse.

Mission Statement:

To build a sustainable community of partnerships committed to preventing and reducing substance misuse by promoting a culture of wellness through education, prevention, treatment and recovery support.

Organizational Structure of CPAR





Grants Received by Community Health Partnership

- Community Readiness Assessment, funded by the Colorado Health Foundation, to identify El Paso County's level of readiness to address the opioid crisis
- Project Detour: National Grant from BUILD Funders to fund a pilot program for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, addicted to alcohol or opioids, and involved with the criminal justice system

Questions?

Contact Mary Steiner at
mary.steiner@ppchp.org

719-632-5094 x 107