A Failure in Translation: When Evidence Based Interventions Fail to Reach Patients

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Overdose Death Rates

1999

2016

Evolution of the Opioid Crisis

1. Over prescription of opioid medications led to misuse
2. Addiction to prescription opioids led to heroin
3. Emergence of fentanyl(s), with higher potency and greater profitability in the black market than heroin.
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Opioid Effect

- **Full Agonist**: Methadone: Daily Dosing
- **Partial Agonist**: Buprenorphine: 3-4X week
- **Antagonist**: Naltrexone: ER 1 month

Log Dose

DECREASES:
- Opioid use
- Opioid-related overdose deaths
- Criminal activity
- Infectious disease transmission

INCREASES
- Social functioning
- Retention in treatment

MAT is highly underutilized!
Relapse rates are very high (50% in 6 months)

OUD Cascade of Care in USA

Williams AR, Nunes E, Olfson M. Health Affairs Blog, 2017