



# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS:

The Epidemiology, Conceptual Issues &  
A Pragmatic Approach to Treatment

Sunil Khushalani, MD

7<sup>th</sup> November 2015

# CASE EXAMPLE-1

- *63 year old white male*
- *Recurrent major depression and dysthymia*
- *Generalized anxiety*
- *Alcohol use disorder*
- *Presented with suicidal plan to cut his wrists*

## CASE EXAMPLE-2

- *49 year old single female*
- *Who has been admitted to the hospital more than a dozen times*
- *With h/o suicidal behavior, aggressive behavior*

## CASE EXAMPLE-2

- *She has a h/o Bipolar I disorder*
- *Eating disorder*
- *Post-traumatic Disorder*
- *Borderline Personality Disorder*

## CASE EXAMPLE-2

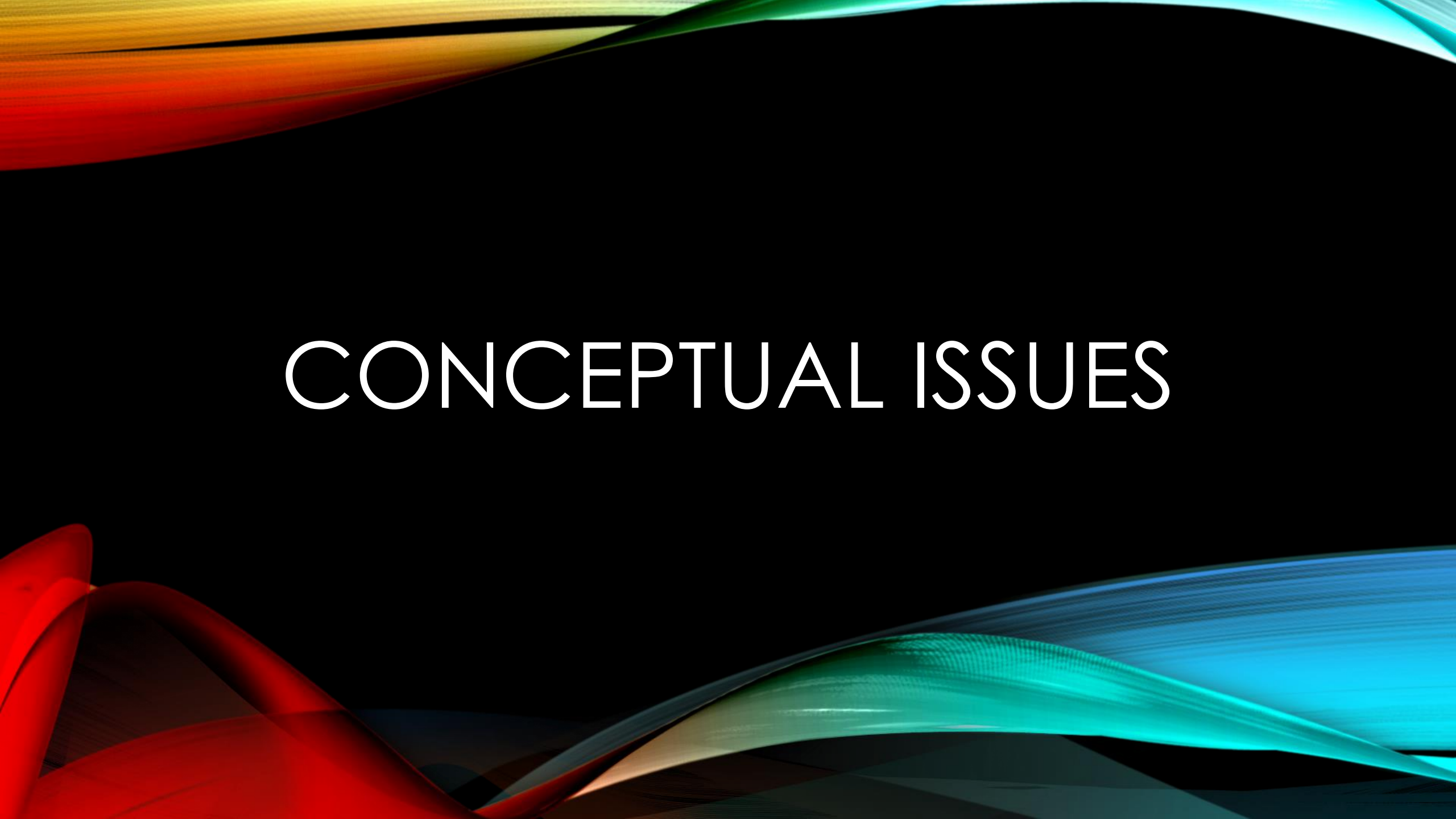
- *Chronic Pain*
- *On very high doses of opioids*
- *H/o cocaine abuse*
- *Heavy smoker*

## CASE EXAMPLE-3

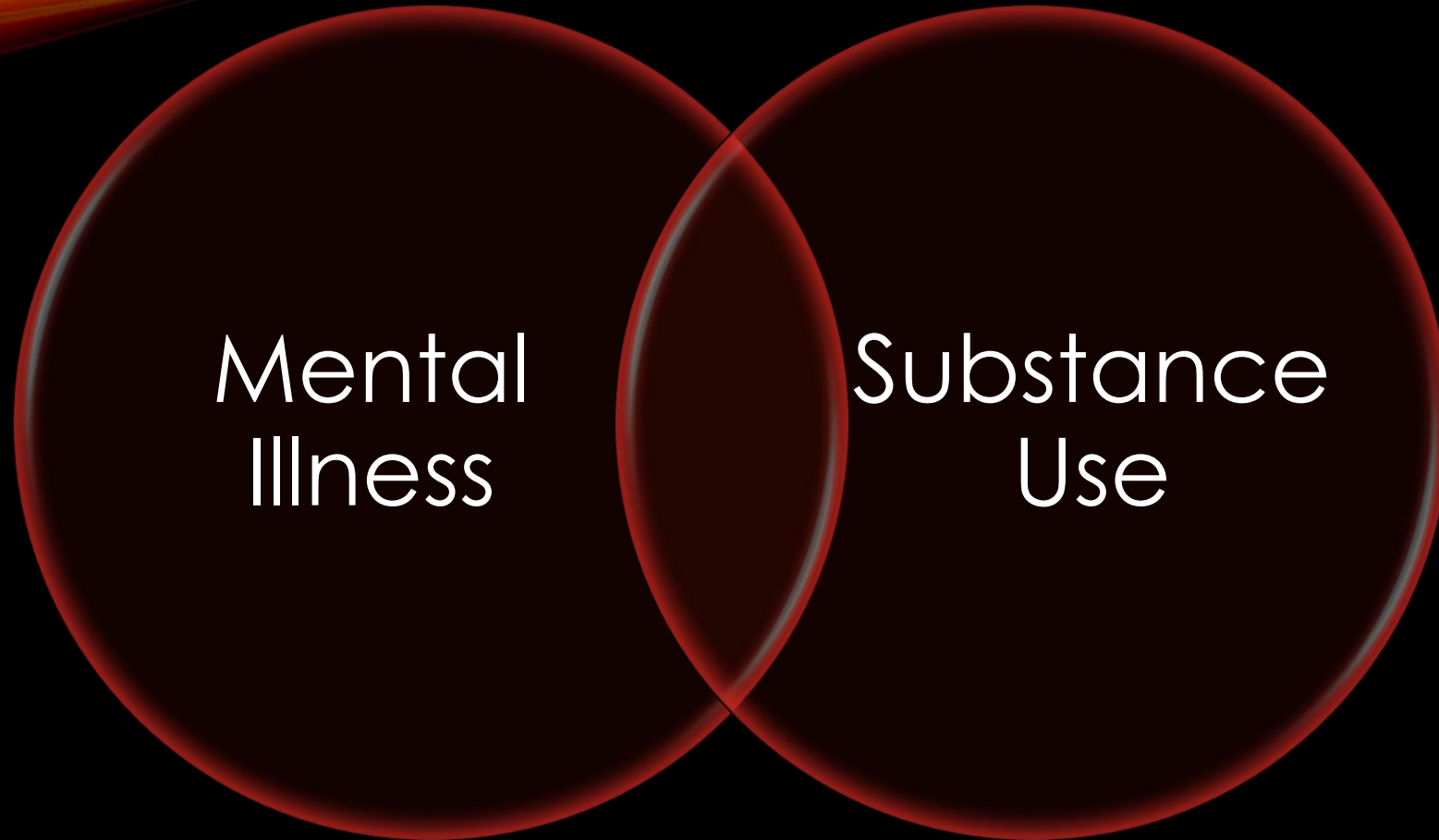
- *36 year old male*
- *H/o schizoaffective disorder, Bipolar type*
- *Has been living on the streets*
- *H/o non-adherence to his medications*

## CASE EXAMPLE-3

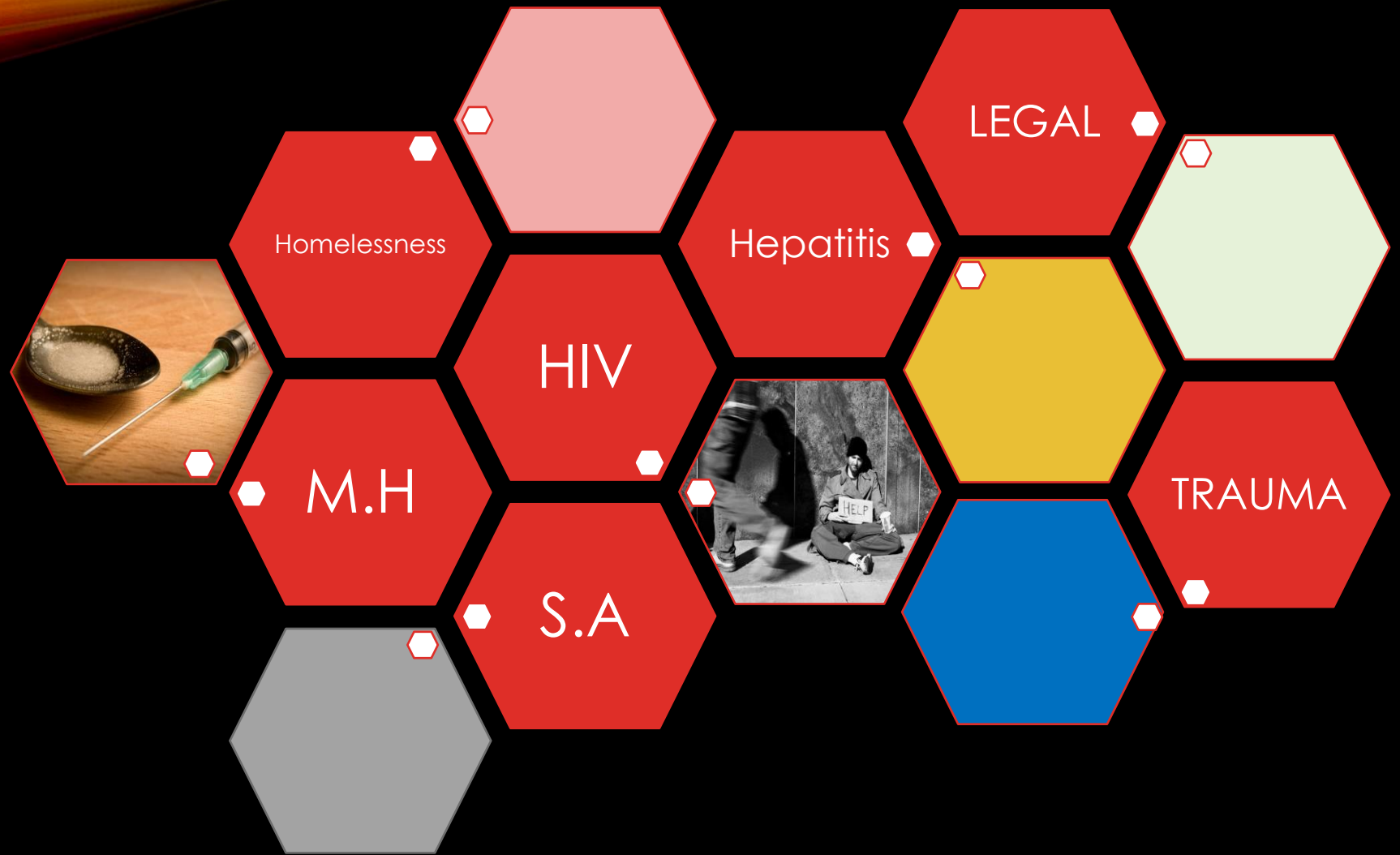
- *Has heavy alcohol use, 4 or more times a week*
- *H/o cannabis abuse and cocaine abuse*
- *Smokes cigarettes daily*



# CONCEPTUAL ISSUES



Is **this** the population we work with?



Or is this the population we work with?

# DUAL DIAGNOSIS?

- Terms used to describe dual diagnosis
  - MICA (mentally ill chemically addicted)
  - CAMI (chemical abusing mentally ill)
  - MISA (mentally ill substance abusing)
  - SMI/CD (seriously mentally ill/chemically dependent)
  - COMBID (co-occurring addictive and mental disorders)
  - ACD (addiction and co-occurring disorders)

**These conditions are common and complex**

# DUAL DIAGNOSIS?

The term 'dual diagnosis' is an 'unfortunate misnomer'

Firstly, the term has been used to describe other combination of illnesses, such as individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities

# DUAL DIAGNOSIS?

Secondly, individuals *rarely experience only two disorders*

They have “multiple interacting disabilities, psychosocial problems, and disadvantages”

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

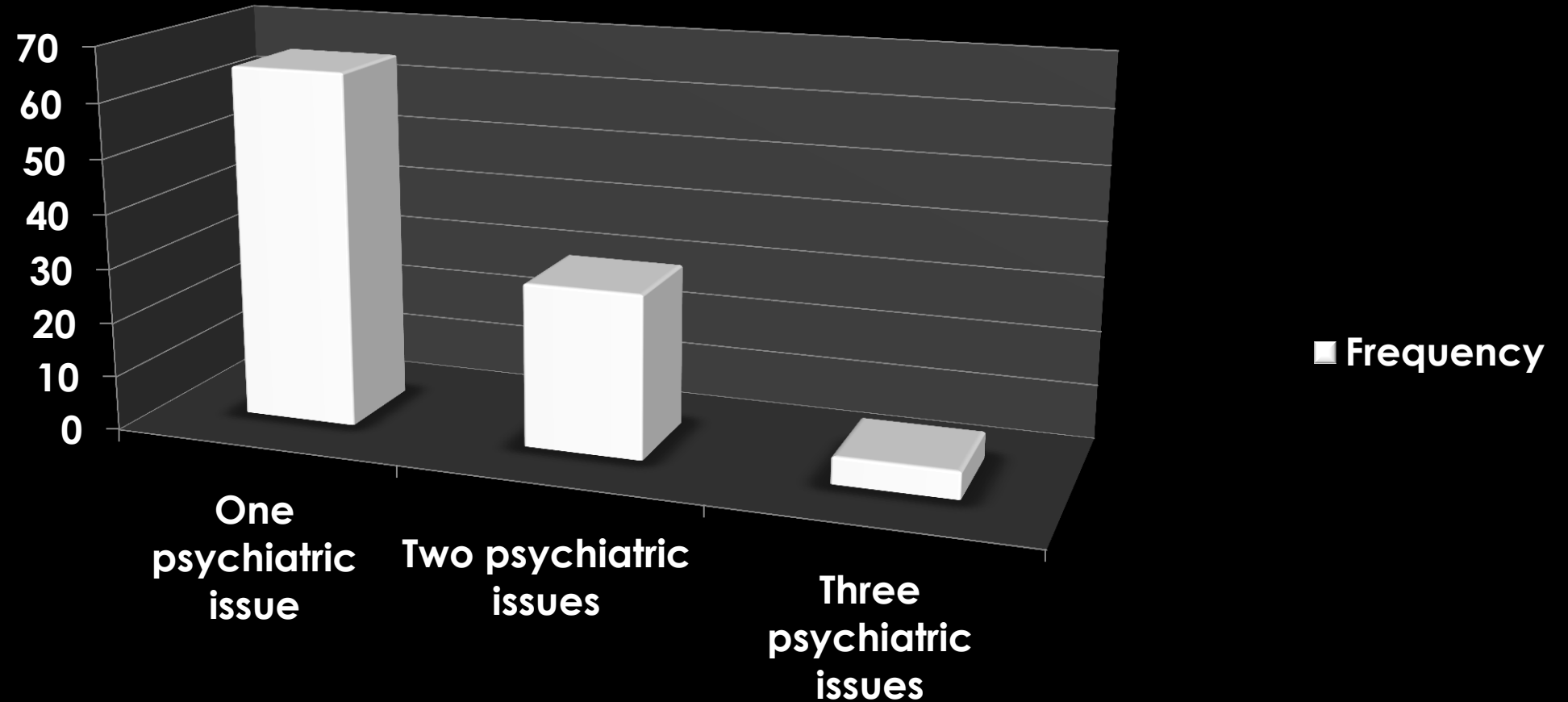
Individuals who have **at least one mental disorder** as well as **alcohol or drug use disorder**

At least one disorder of **each type can be diagnosed independently of the other**

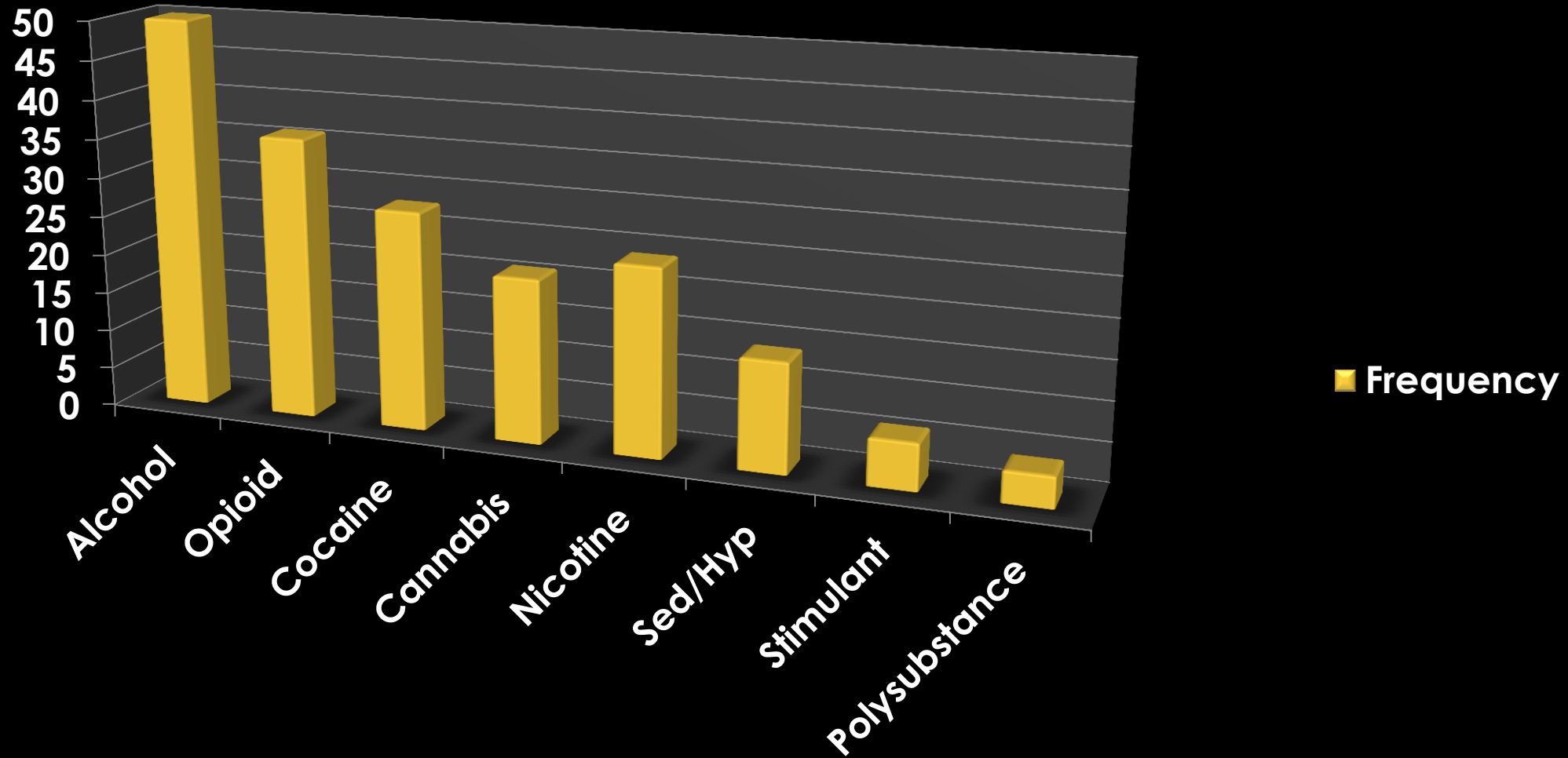
# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Co-occurring disorders **vary** by severity, chronicity, symptomatology, degree of impairment, and motivation to address the problem

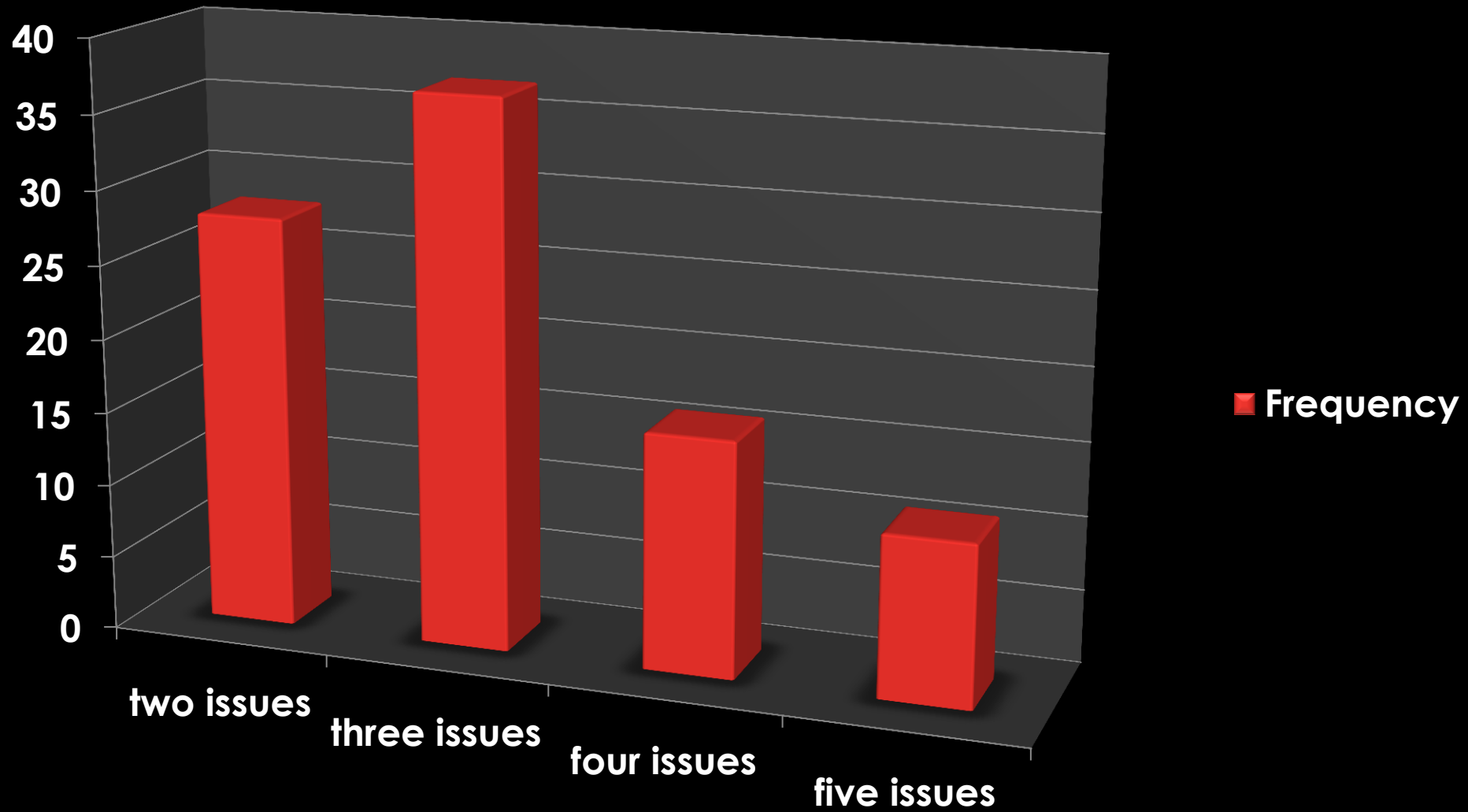
## Multiple Psychiatric Issues Axis 1 & 2

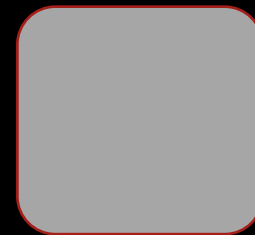
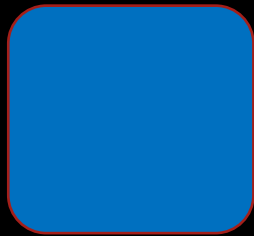
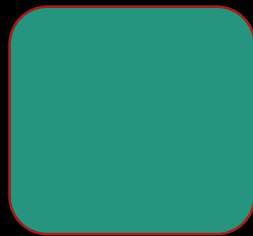
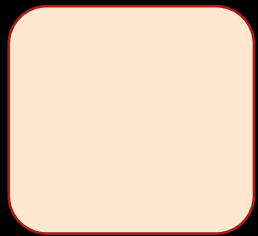


## Substance Use



## Mental Health plus Substance Use





**M.H**

**S.U**



# EPIDEMIOLOGY

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

*How many* people suffer from  
co-occurring disorders?

## 3 Generations of Epidemiologic Studies

**1<sup>ST</sup> GEN:** Pre World-War II- From Professional informants  
(likely to miss untreated cases)

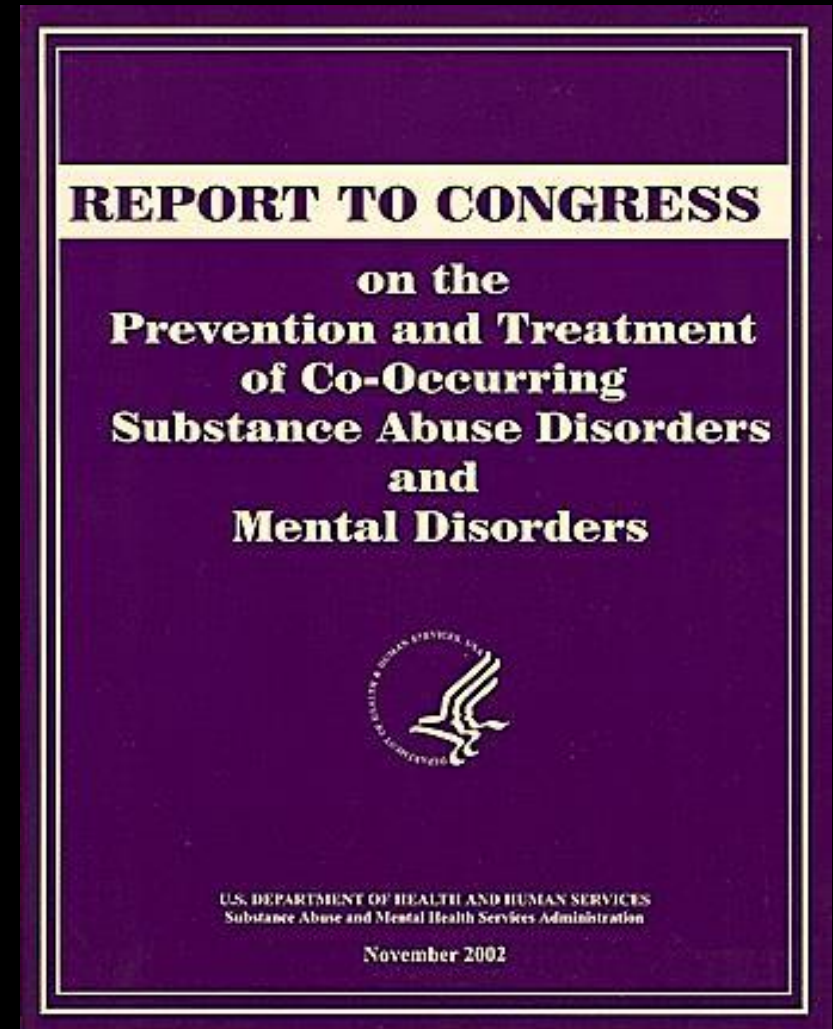
**2<sup>nd</sup> GEN:** Midtown Manhattan and Stirling County Studies  
(focus was on non-substance psychopathology)

**3<sup>rd</sup> GEN:** **ECA** survey (79-81); **NCS** (91-92); **NCS-R** (2001-2003):  
**NESARC** (Wave 1- 2001-2003), (Wave 2- five years  
later), (Wave 3- 2012-2013)

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Common and highly complex

Affect 7 to 10 million adult Americans  
in any one year



# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

According to the U.S Surgeon General report in 1999,  
41-65% of individuals with a lifetime substance abuse  
disorder also have a lifetime history of at least  
one mental disorder

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Also, **51% or more lifetime mental disorders** also have a lifetime history of at least one substance abuse disorder

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

According to the National Co-morbidity Survey,

- 47% of individuals with schizophrenia also had a substance abuse disorder (4 times more than the general population)
- 61% of Individuals with Bipolar disorder also had a substance abuse disorder (5 times as likely as the general population)

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Individuals with co-occurring disorders **should be the expectation, not the exception** in addiction and mental health treatment systems

If that is the expectation, **does having separate treatment systems, make sense?**

“Our consumers do not have the opportunity to separate their addiction from their mental illness, so **why should we** do so administratively and programmatically”

-Fred Osher , M.D



# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

These individuals have particular **difficulty seeking and receiving diagnostic and treatment services**

They present **significant challenges** to the Nation's public health and to health policy makers as well- they are a **high cost, high risk and high priority population**

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

The difficulty is compounded by the existence of **two separate service systems**, one for mental health services and another for substance abuse treatment

**They are excluded** from many mental health programs due to substance use and from many addiction programs due to mental health issues

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

These two service systems **differ markedly** with respect to staffing, philosophy of treatment, funding sources, community political factors, types of assessments and procedures performed and treatment approaches



“Behavioral health systems have historically been organized to see people and families with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders – and other complex needs - **as misfits**”

- Kenneth Minkoff, M.D.

“America’s mental health service delivery system *is in shambles.*”

...*access* problems

...individuals who are *incarcerated or homeless*

...a nearly *total disconnect* between substance abuse and mental health treatment”

The American Psychiatric Association  
Presents

*A Vision for the Mental Health  
System*

April 3, 2003

Prepared by APA Task Force for a Vision for the Mental Health System

Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D., Chair  
Norman A. Clemens, M.D.  
Anita S. Everett, M.D.  
David Fassler, M.D.  
Susan L. Padrino, M.D.  
Roger Peele, M.D.  
Darrel A. Regier, M.D.  
Michelle B. Riba, M.D.

Paul S. Appelbaum, M.D., President

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

If **one** of the co-occurring disorders goes **untreated**, **both usually get worse** and additional complications often arise



# IMPLICATIONS

- Increased risk of relapse and hospitalizations
- Poor treatment adherence and worse outcomes
- Increased risk of suicide



# IMPLICATIONS

- Increased burdens on family, interpersonal conflicts
- More hostility, aggression, violence
- Housing instability and homelessness




# IMPLICATIONS

- More legal encounters
- Increase high risk behaviors- leading to HIV, Hepatitis
- Prone to victimization
- Considerable morbidity and early mortality

# IMPLICATIONS

Co-occurring disorders are frequently **interactive and cyclical**: Substance abuse can worsen the course of psychiatric illness, and worsening psychiatric disorders can lead to increased substance abuse

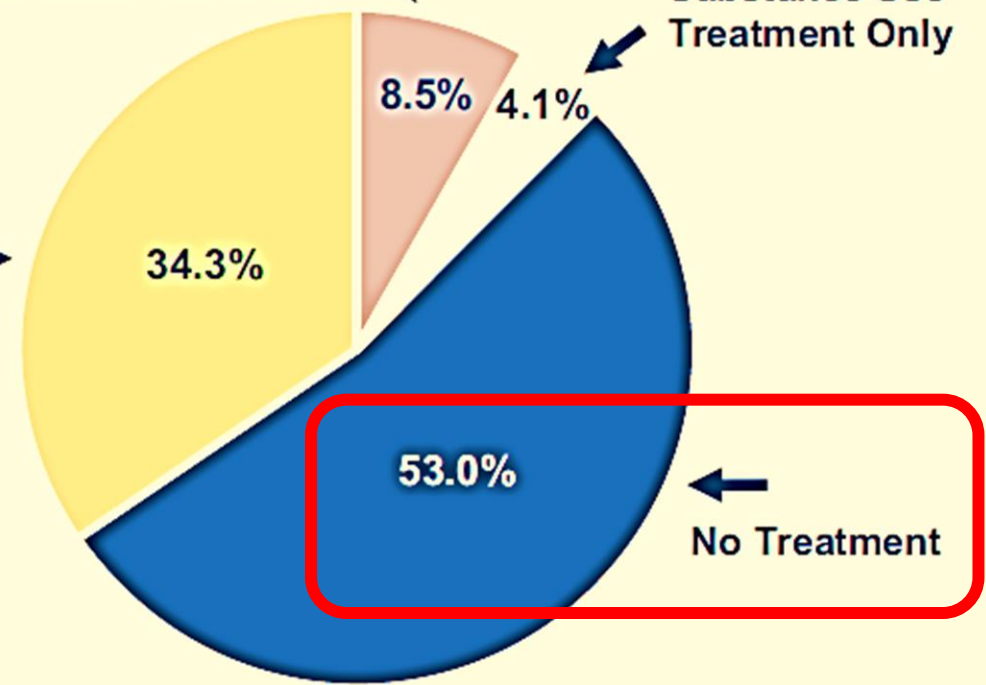
- 
- The NASMHPD-NASADAD National dialogue recognized in 1999
    - There is no single locus of responsibility for people with COD
    - Both MH and SA systems largely operate independent of each other
    - Lack of coordination means that neither consumers nor providers move easily among service settings

**Figure 1: Past Year Treatment Among Adults Aged 18 or Older With Both Serious Psychological Distress (SPD) and a Substance Use Disorder, 2005.**

Treatment for Both Mental Health and Substance Use Problems

Substance Use Treatment Only

Treatment Only for Mental Health Problems



5.2 Million Adults with Co-Occurring SPD and Substance Use Disorder

Source: (SAMHSA, 2006)



# A PRAGMATIC APPROACH

# Substance Abuse Treatment For Persons With Co-Occurring Disorders

A Treatment  
Improvement  
Protocol  
**TIP**  
**42**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)



# Integrated Treatment *for Dual Disorders*

A GUIDE TO  
EFFECTIVE  
PRACTICE

KIM T. MUESER | DOUGLAS L. NOORDSY | ROBERT E. DRAKE | LINDY FOX

# EVOLUTION OF TREATMENT MODELS

- Serial or Sequential
- Parallel
- Integrated

# SERIAL OR SEQUENTIAL MODEL

## “Ping-Pong Therapy”

- If their mental health issues are more than the S.A facility can handle many a times instead of sending the patient back they are just discharged
- In essence this becomes “No treatment”

# SERIAL OR SEQUENTIAL MODEL

Many mental health professionals are **not well trained** to deal with addictions and vice versa

# SERIAL OR SEQUENTIAL MODEL

Many mental health professionals

- Feel Ineffective
- Feel patient is resistant or unmotivated
- As long as patient is using they can't be helped
- Significant negative attributions to this population which leads to significant counter-transference issues

# SERIAL OR SEQUENTIAL MODEL

**Philosophical differences** in the two separate systems leaves the client confused



# PARALLEL MODEL

The tough task of navigating two systems, with different appointments, different philosophies, conflicting advice, and multiple providers falls on the fragile and already challenged patient

# PARALLEL MODEL

Various funding sources provide widely disparate benefits for mental health and substance abuse treatment, **forcing clinicians to decide which of the disorders is primary**

# PARALLEL MODEL

The current state of how our health care system is designed **only tends to focus on acute states** leaving many aspects of care for the chronically ill unfulfilled

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Despite strides in research over last 20 years, little remains known about the etiology and temporal ordering of co-occurring disorders

For this reason, many researchers and clinicians believe that **both disorders must be considered as primary** and treated as such

# INTEGRATED MODEL

- Clinically **more effective**
- Better outcomes
- Has evidence base to support it

# INTEGRATED MODEL

- Fiscally more sound
- Much more **patient centered**
- Recognizes that there is a need to make clinical decisions and interventions even in the context of diagnostic uncertainty

# INTEGRATED MODEL

An integrated framework recognizes that quality evidence-based individualized care can be provided within a behavioral health delivery system using existing resources and partnerships (TIP 42 )



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

October 31, 2014

Dear Stakeholders,

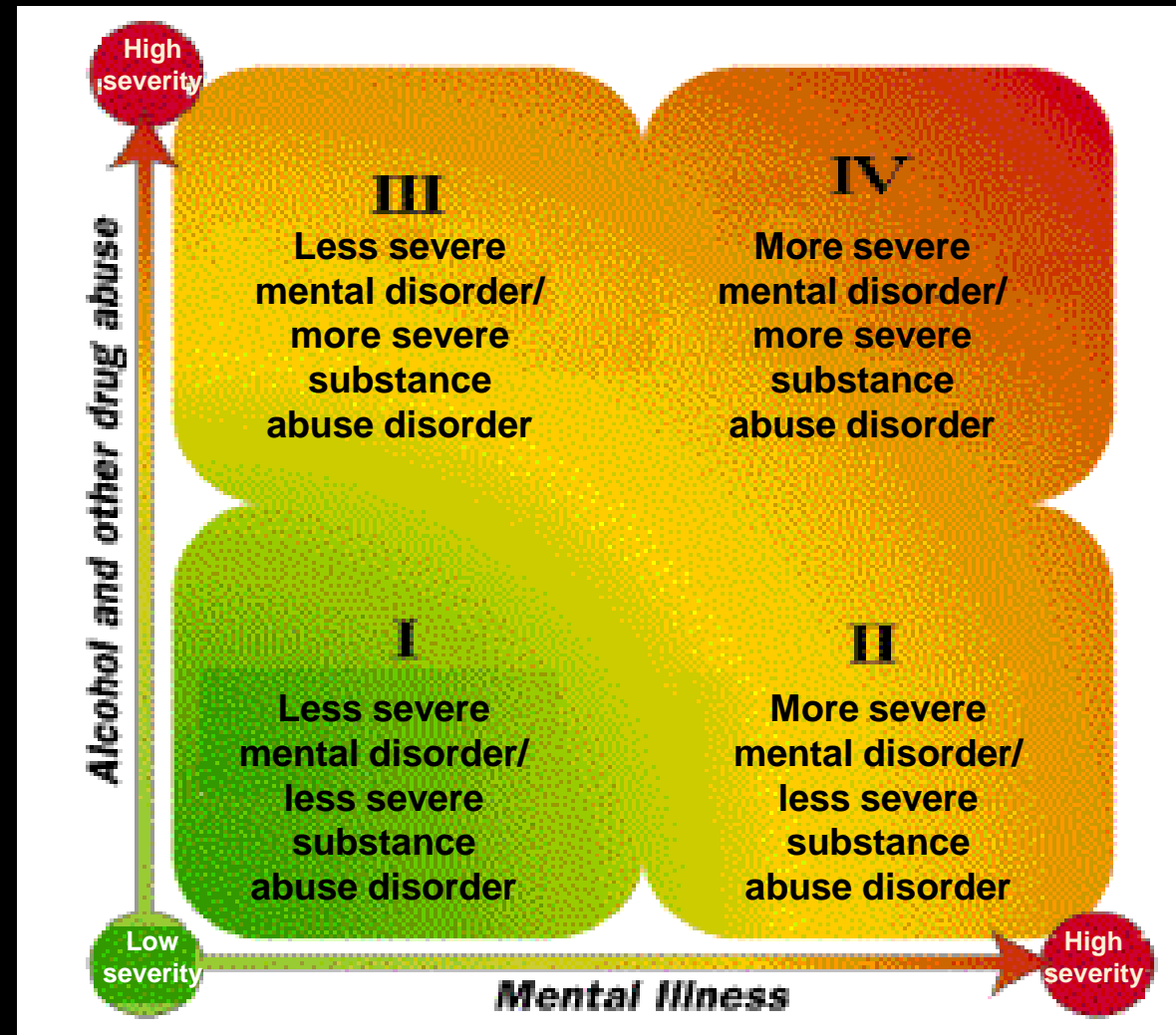
I am writing to provide you with an update on the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) ongoing efforts to integrate the State's mental health and substance use disorder services and systems.

**DHMH is on track to implement an integrated system**

**on January 1, 2015.**

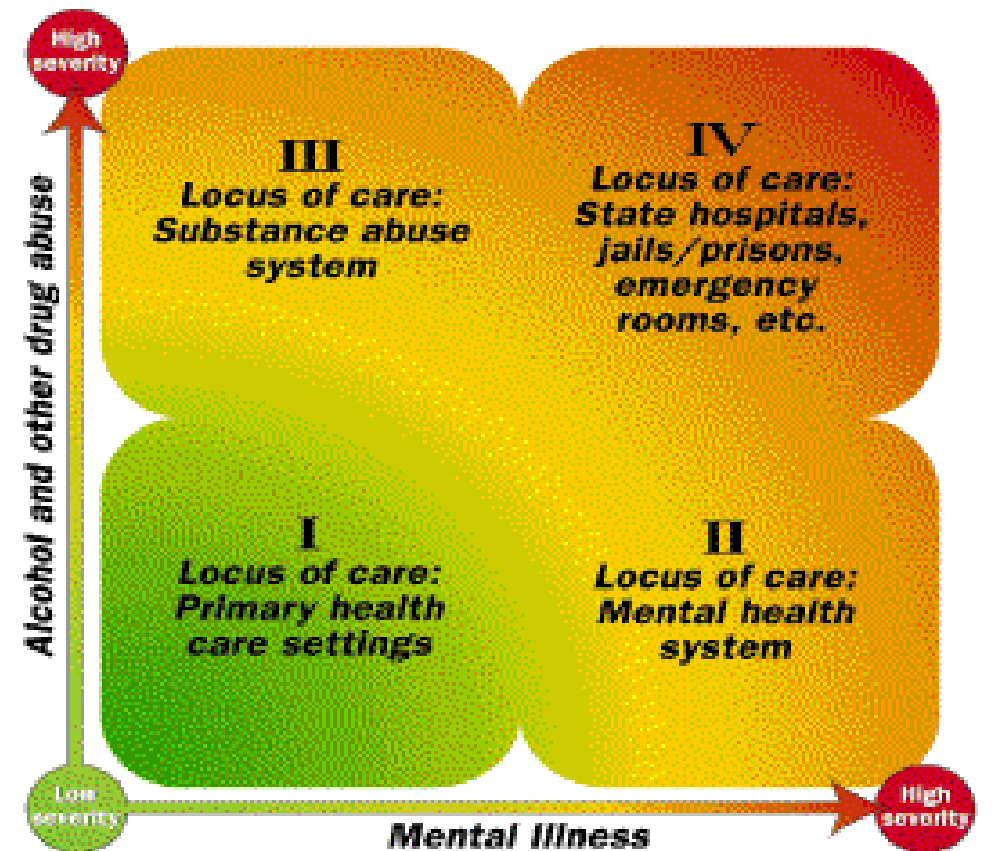
Health and substance use services. This contract was unanimously approved by the Board of Health, and DHMH is on track to implement an integrated system

# The **Four Quadrant** Framework for Co-Occurring Disorders



The four-quadrant conceptual framework is meant to guide systems integration and resource allocation in treating Individuals with co-occurring disorders

## Service coordination by Severity



## Mental Health/Substance Abuse Severity Quadrants

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		Mental Health Severity	
		Low	High
Substance Abuse Severity	High	QIII <i>n</i> = 40	QIV <i>n</i> = 80
	Low	QI <i>n</i> = 84	QII <i>n</i> = 39

---

- Study participants classified into 4 mutually exclusive groups, defined by high or low severity on mental health and substance abuse disorders
- Because mental health and substance abuse are highly correlated, the low-low and high-high categories are the largest
- Gabriel R unpub '04

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Low MH in an acute psych ER might be High MH in an Addictions  
Outpatient clinic

Low Addiction in a Methadone program might be High Addiction  
in a primary care clinic



# STAGES OF TREATMENT

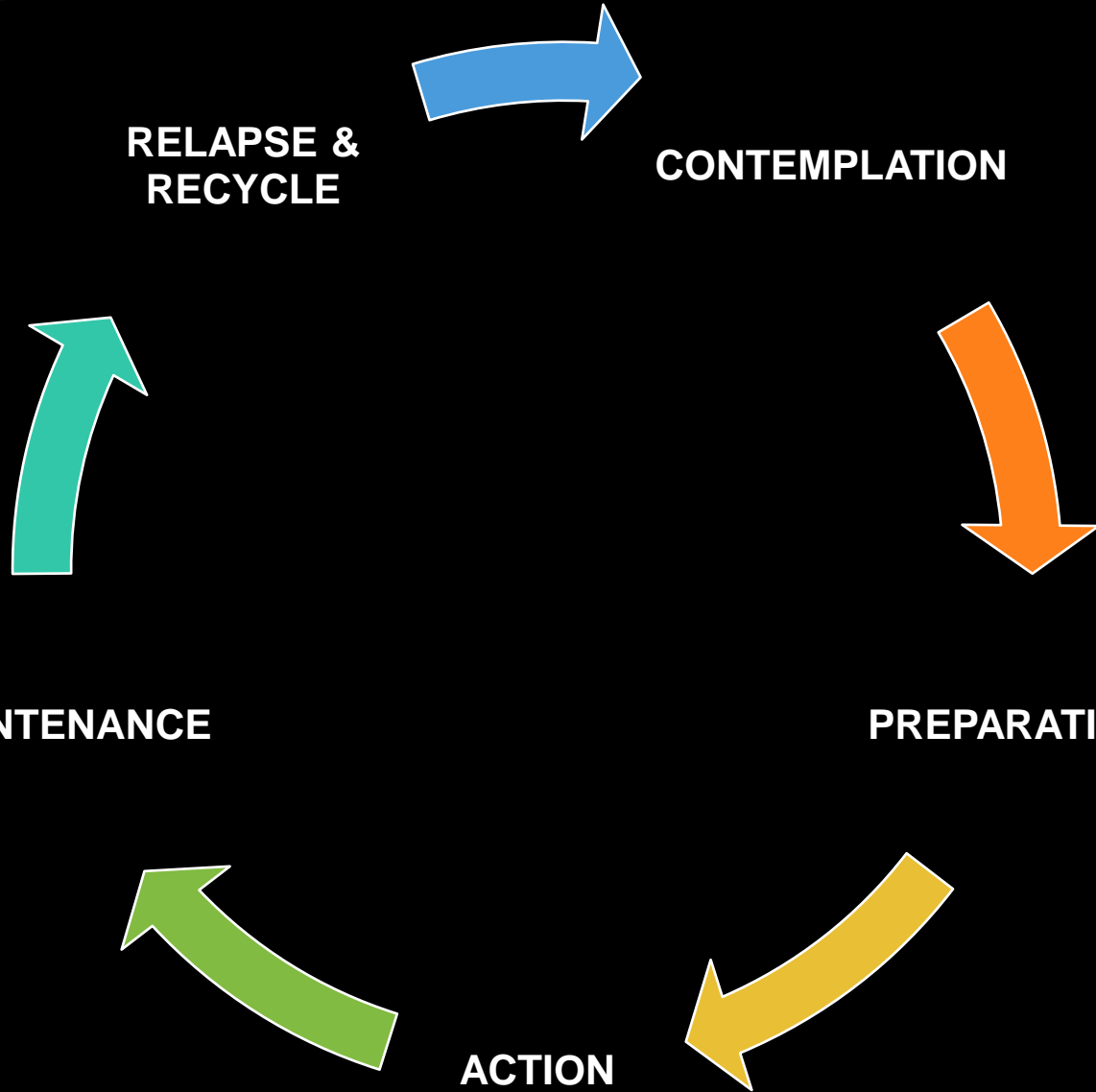
# STAGES OF CHANGE

RELAPSE & RECYCLE

CONTEMPLATION

PREPARATION

ACTION





**Engagement**

**Persuasion**

**Active Treatment**

**Relapse Prevention**

## DEFINITION

Patient does not have regular contact with  
clinician

## GOAL

To establish a working alliance with the patient



**Engagement**

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

Outreach

Practical Assistance (food, clothing, housing,  
benefits, transportation)

Crisis Intervention

Support and assistance to social networks



**Engagement**

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

Stabilization of psychiatric symptoms

Advocating in legal situations

Family meetings

Close Monitoring



**Engagement**

## DEFINITION

Patient has regular contact with clinician, but does not want to work on reduction substance use

## GOAL

To develop the client's awareness that substance use is a problem and increase motivation

**Persuasion**

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

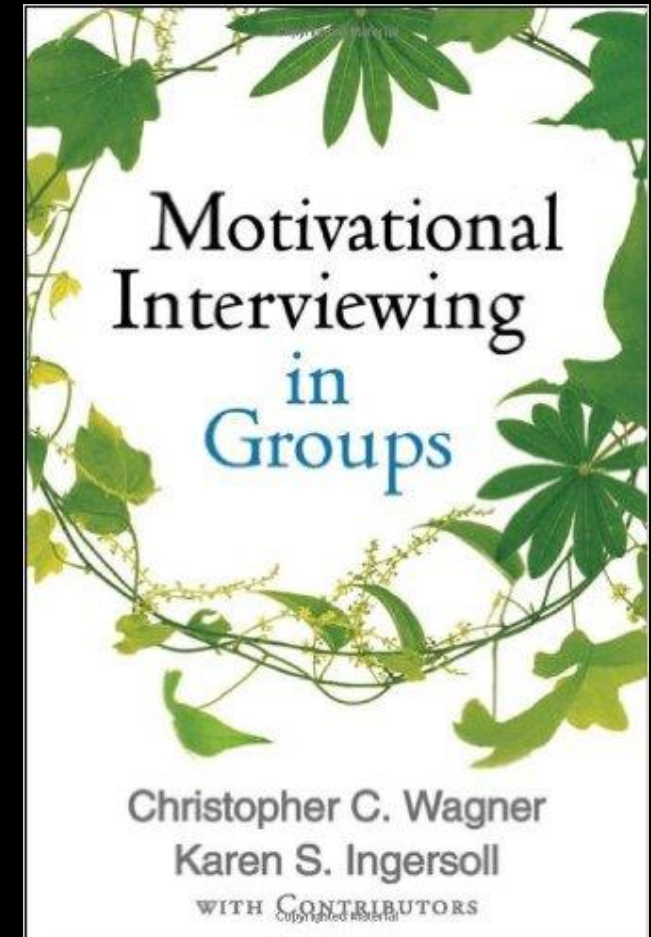
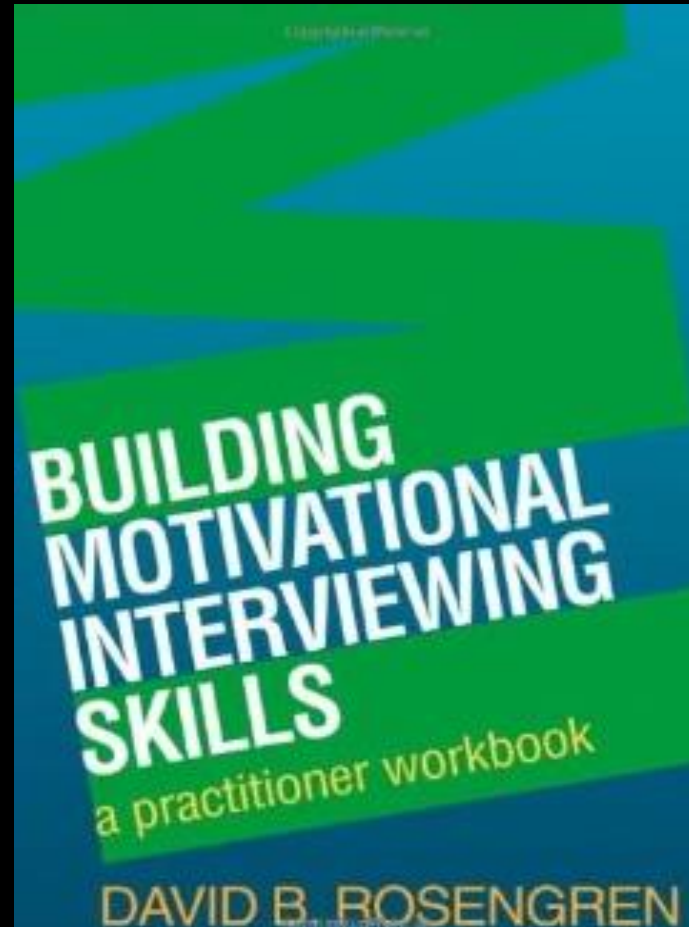
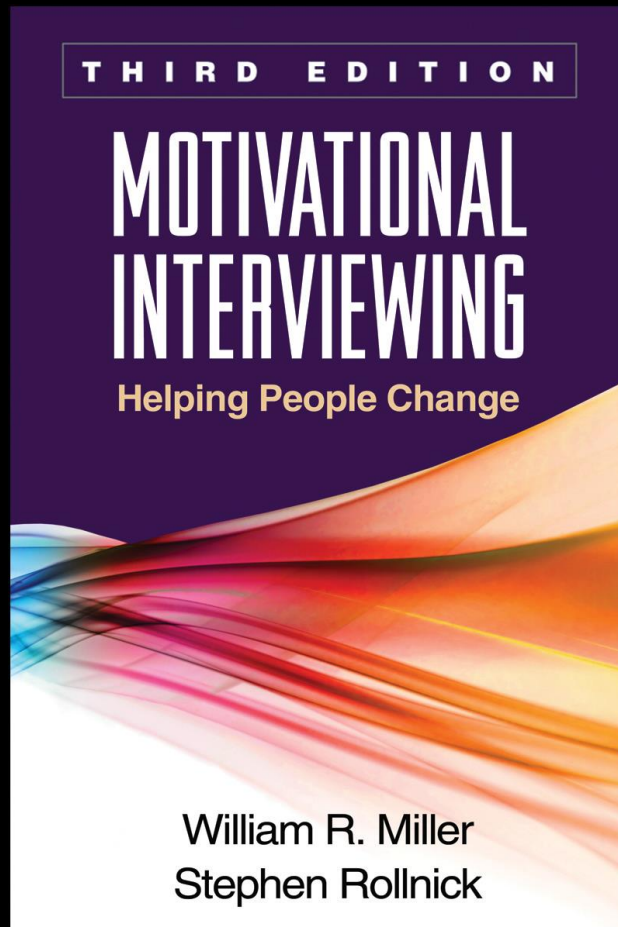
Individual and Family Education

Peer groups

Social skills training (to address  
non-substance-related conditions)

Motivational Interviewing

**Persuasion**



## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

Structured Activity (supported employment, volunteering, hobbies etc.,)

Sampling constructive activities (social & recreational)

Medications to treat psychiatric disorders

**Persuasion**

## DEFINITION

Patient is motivated to reduce substance abuse,  
at least for a month, but less than 6 months

## GOAL

To help the patient further reduce substance  
use and, if possible, attain abstinence

**Active  
Treatment**

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

Self Help Groups (12 step, Smart Recovery)

Cognitive-Behavioral counseling

Psychoeducation

Coping Skills

Social skills to address substance-related  
conditions



**Active  
Treatment**

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

Stress Management

Medications to support abstinence

Safe 'dry' housing

Substituting Activities (work, sports)



**Active  
Treatment**

## DEFINITION

Patient has not experienced problems related  
substance use for at least 6 months

## GOAL

To maintain awareness that relapse can  
happen, and to extend recovery to other  
areas (e.g., social relationships and work)

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

Continuous Care Groups (Active treatment  
or Relapse Prevention)

Independent Housing

Self Help Groups (12 step, Smart Recovery)

Social skills groups to address other areas

**Relapse  
Prevention**

## EXAMPLES OF CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

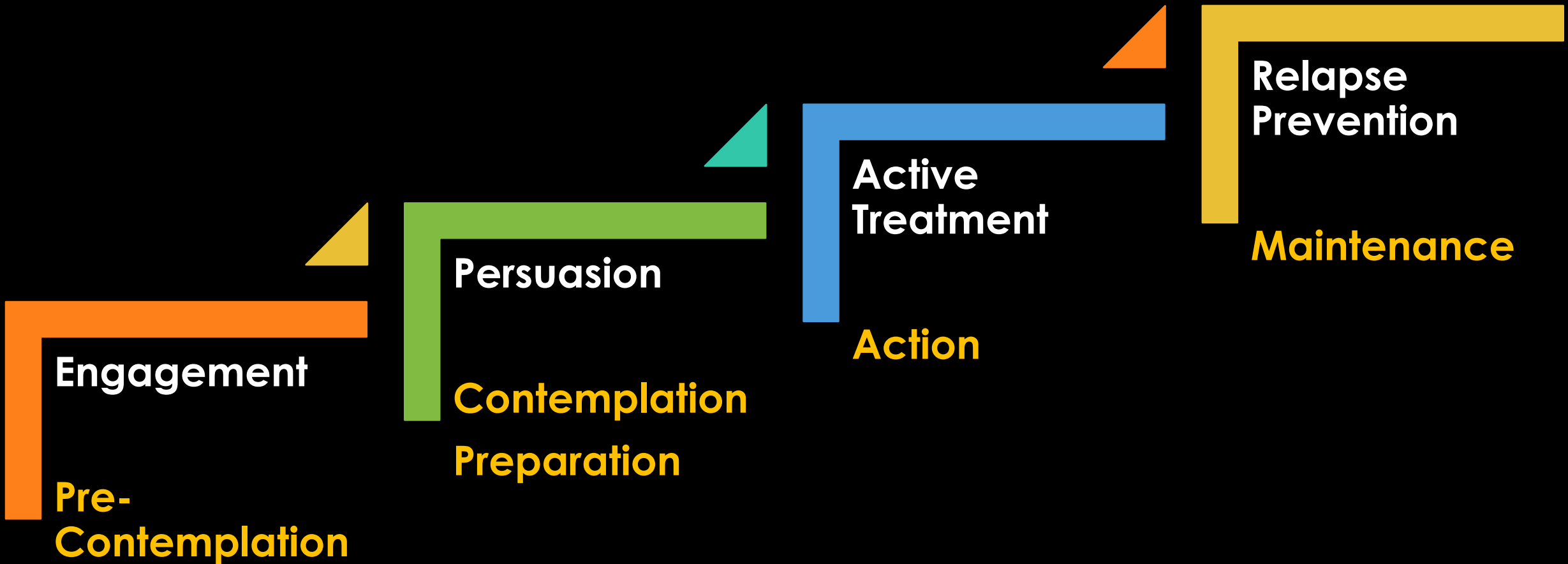
Becoming a role model for others

Family problem solving

Lifestyle improvements

Expanding involvement in employment

**Relapse  
Prevention**





# ASSESSMENT

```
graph LR; A[Detection] --> B[Classification]; B --> C[Functional Assessment]; C --> D[Functional Analysis]; D --> E[Treatment Planning];
```

**Detection**

**Classification**

**Functional  
Assessment**

**Functional  
Analysis**

**Treatment  
Planning**



Cast a wide net, assume substance use is likely

Explore past use before current use

Use lab tests to screen

If use is detected, discuss negative consequences

**Detection**

A SAMPLE FROM  
OUR CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS  
PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION PROGRAM

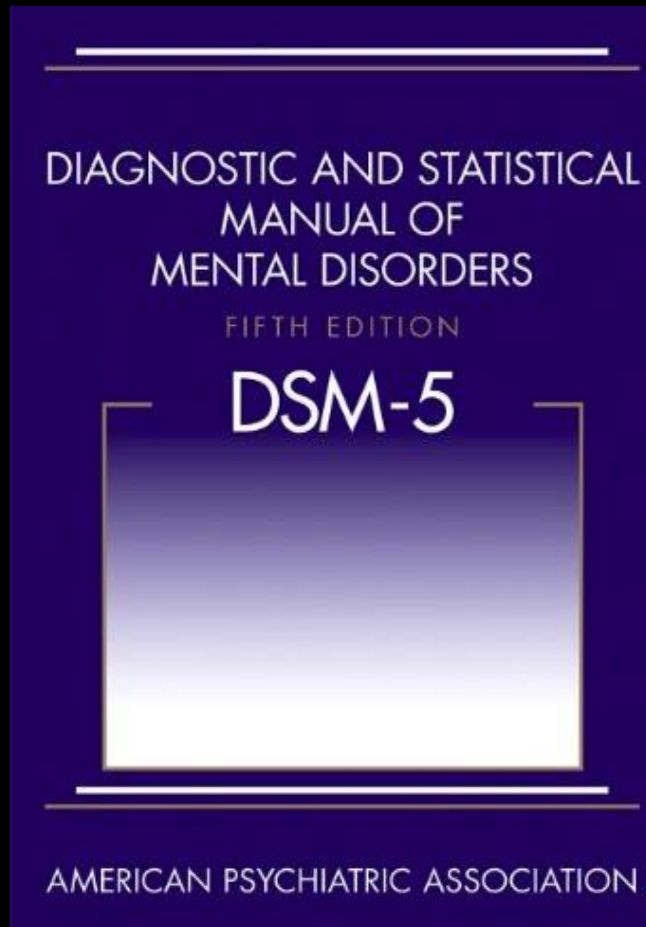
270 of the 393 samples submitted were positive  
146 were positive for cannabinoids  
116 were positive for benzodiazepines  
35 were positive for opiates  
12 were positive for cocaine

# CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS



Presence of severe mental illness may create additional vulnerability so that even small amounts of psychoactive substances may have adverse consequences for individuals with schizophrenia and other brain disorders

-Robert Drake, M.D



Determine which diagnoses apply

Tap **multiple sources** of information

**Classification**



Gather information across various domains of  
functioning

Assess range of needs

Identify their strengths

**Functional  
Assessment**

Identify **factors** that maintain substance use,  
interfere with sobriety or pose a risk of relapse

**Functional  
Analysis**

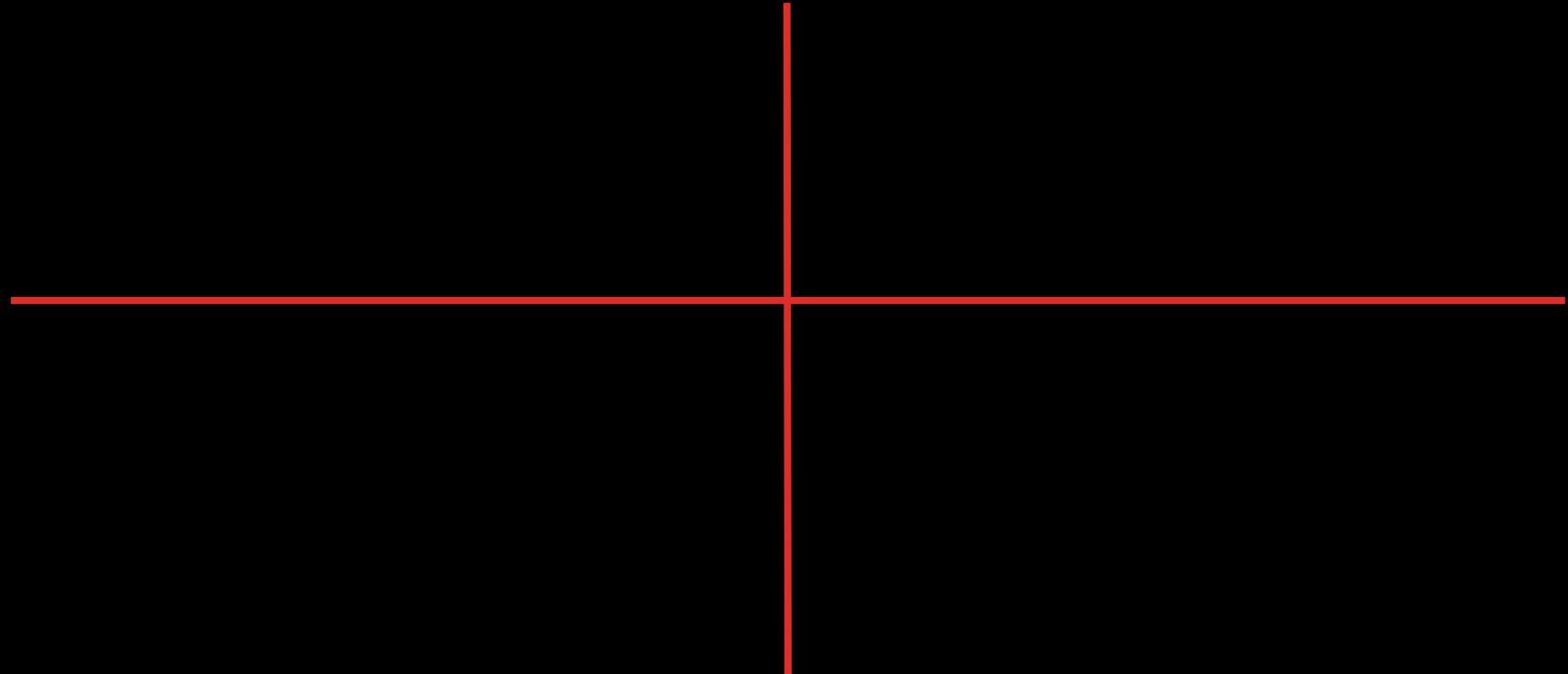
# PAYOFF MATRIX


Using Substances

Not Using Substances

Advantages

Disadvantages





Develop an **integrated treatment** plan  
that addresses substance abuse and  
mental illness through concurrent  
treatment

Evaluate **patient's goals** &  
**motivation** to deal with various issues

**Treatment  
Planning**



# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Patients with persistent psychiatric syndromes do respond to medications, but their substance abuse does not automatically improve

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

The most serious concerns

Medication **non-adherence**

Substance-medication **interactions**

Potential for some meds to be **abused**

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

The most common difficulty is that physicians **fail to identify** and appreciate comorbid substance use disorders and the related non-adherence to medications



# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Some guidelines

Use medications with **low-abuse potential**

Use medications with **low-lethality** in overdose

**Dispense limited amounts** of medications

**Consider medications** specific for the treatment of  
addiction

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Patients with severe or persistent psychiatric symptoms, such as psychosis, mania, may require pharmacological treatment for those symptoms, **regardless of presumed cause or regardless of continued use**

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

Distinguishing the effects of substances from psychiatric illness can be **difficult or impossible**

Do not wait for **diagnostic certainty**. It is ok to work with a **presumptive diagnosis** which can be re-evaluated periodically

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

If one needs to consider stopping medication treatment, one can try **slow tapering of medications after 6-24 months** of sustained remission of symptoms, with careful monitoring and observation

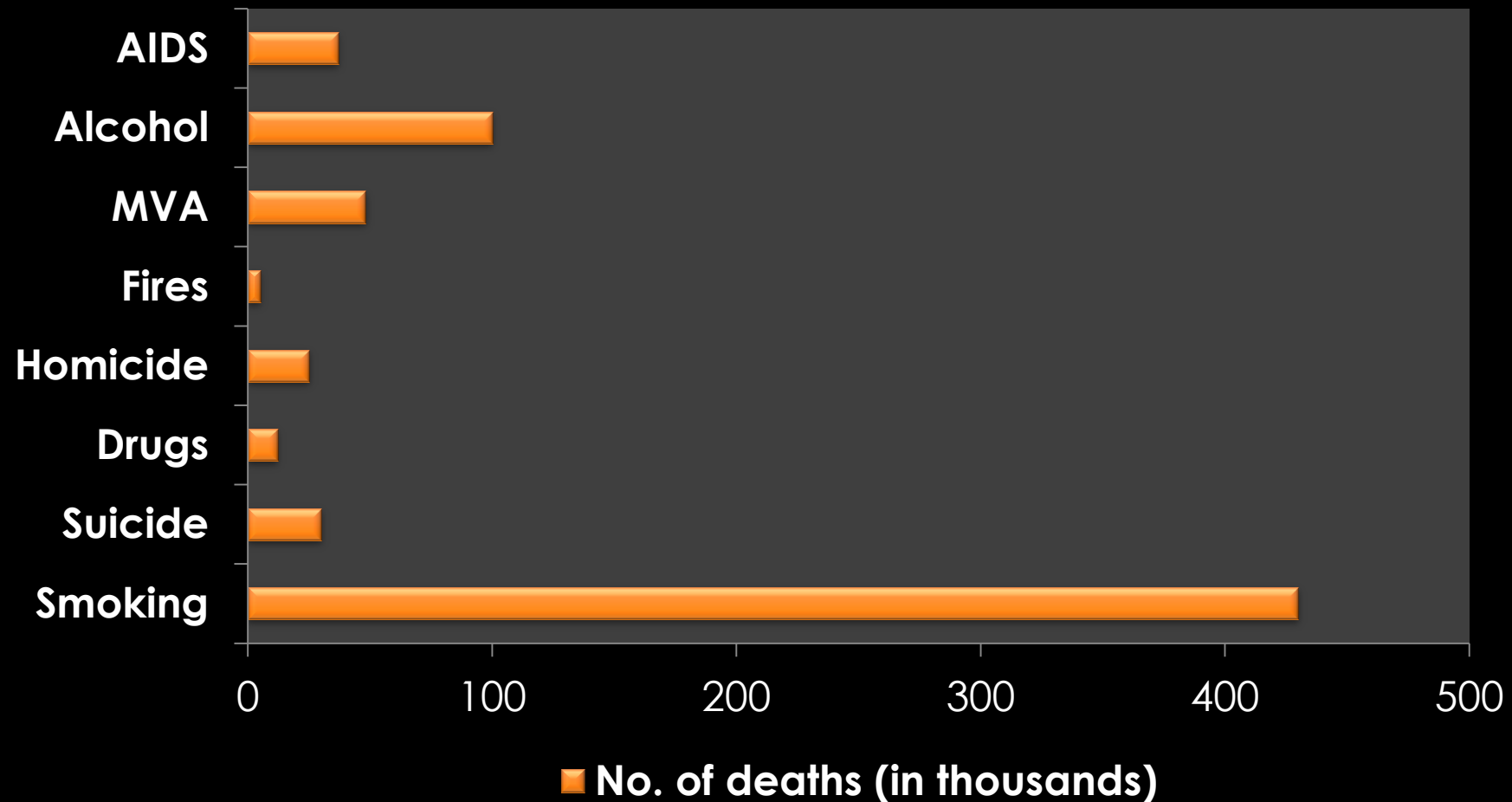
# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

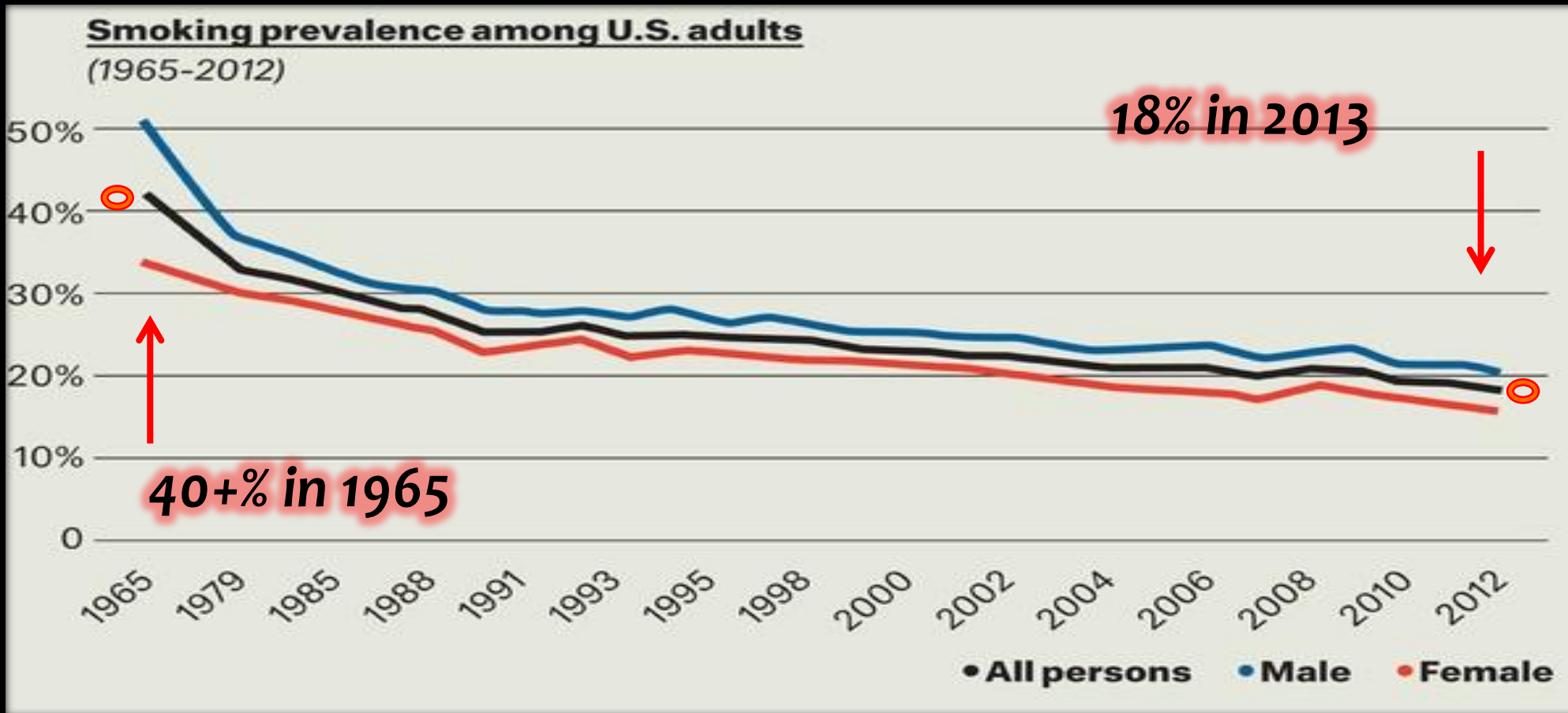
Medication is generally **discontinued only** when a patient has experienced a sustained remission of symptoms, and when psychosocial functioning is no longer impaired, usually in the context of sustained remission of substance use

# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

**This rarely occurs;** when it does, it tends to be in individuals with fairly recent onset of a psychiatric disorder, precipitated or complicated by substance use

# THE DEADLIEST & MOST UNDERTREATED CO-MORBIDITY





“Data from the **National Health Interview Survey**”

# THE DEADLIEST & MOST UNDERTREATED CO-MORBIDITY

The percentage of patients on our co-occurring disorders inpatient unit that smoked were a staggering 81%

# SMOKERLYZER

Breath **Carbon Monoxide Monitor** (It measures CO which is a measure of blood carboxyhaemoglobin (%COHb))

Audio visually **motivational**

**Instant feedback** to patients which can facilitate the conversation about quitting





# PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY

## PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATIONS:

POTENTIAL RISKS AND INTERACTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH  
CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

# CONVENTIONAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS

Risk of hyperpyrexia in combination with stimulants

Smoking can reduce blood levels (also true for clozapine, olanzapine)

Prolongation of QTc interval, could interact with cardiac effects of cocaine

# ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS

Risk of respiratory depression when combining clozapine,  
opioids and benzodiazepines

Alcohol can increase sedative effects of Clozapine

# ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Venlafaxine can raise BP, as does alcohol use  
and withdrawal

Bupropion can reduce seizure threshold, if combined with  
cocaine or alcohol withdrawal

# ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Chronic alcohol use can induce metabolism and reduce  
TCA levels

TCAs can have additive cardiotoxicity with cocaine

# ANTIDEPRESSANTS

Tyramine levels in alcohol can raise BP and cause hypertensive crises in patients with MAOIs

Potential of sympathomimetic effects of stimulants- causing hypertension or hyperpyrexia



# LIVER TOXICITY

Possible in combination with Valproic Acid, Carbamazepine,  
Antabuse, Naltrexone



# ABUSE POTENTIAL

Benzodiazepines


Stimulants

Antiparkinsonian medications

Carisoprodol (soma)

Sedative-hypnotics like Zolpidem

Promethazine (Phenergan)




**Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System  
of Care (CCISC) Model**

**Kenneth Minkoff, M.D.**

The foundation of a  
recovery partnership is an  
empathic, hopeful,  
integrated, strength-based  
relationship






All people with co-occurring conditions **are not the same**, so different parts of the system have responsibility to provide co-occurring capable services for different populations



When co-occurring  
issues and conditions  
co-exist, each issue  
or condition is  
considered to  
**be primary**

Recovery involves moving through **stages of change** and **phases of recovery** for each co-occurring condition or issue






Progress occurs through adequately supported,  
adequately rewarded **skill-based learning** for each  
co-occurring condition or issue



Recovery plans, interventions, and outcomes must be **individualized**. Consequently, there is **no one correct co-occurring program or intervention for everyone**



All policies, procedures, practices, programs, and clinicians need to become **welcoming, recovery- or resiliency-oriented, and co-occurring capable**

# INTEGRATED MODEL

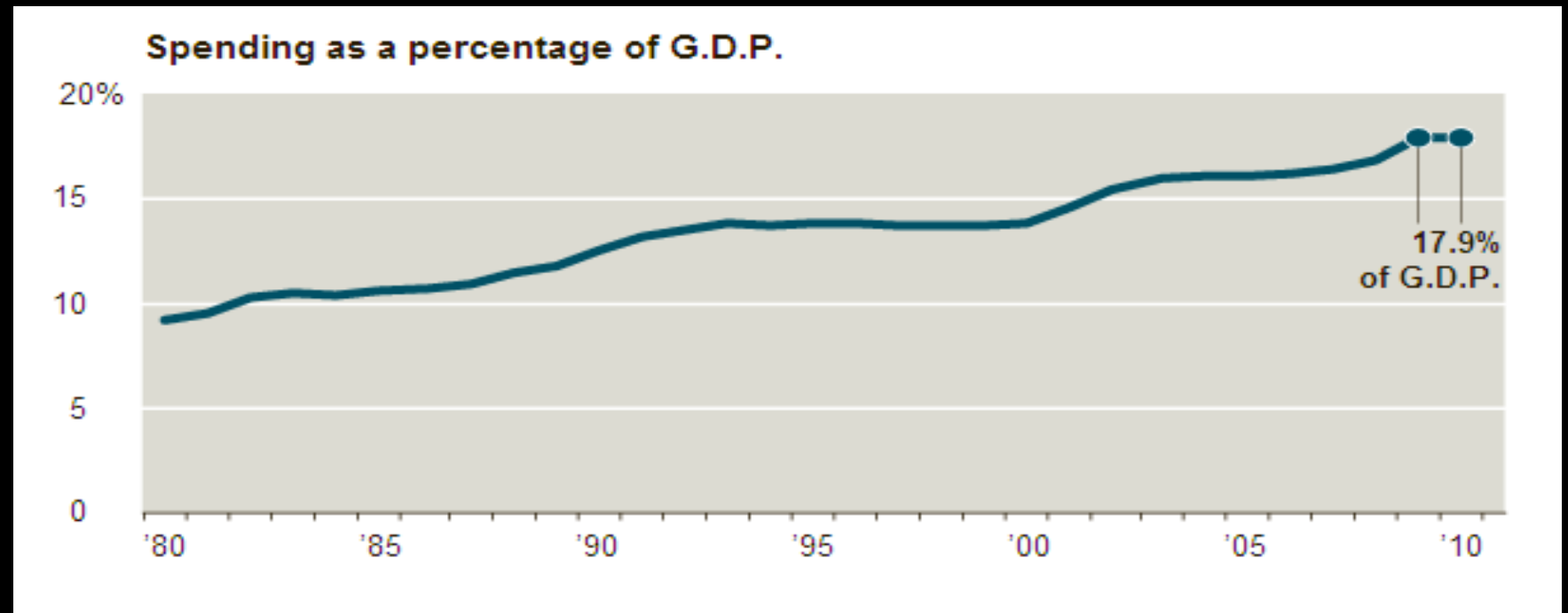
Each provider with the healthcare delivery system has a responsibility to address the range of client needs wherever and whenever a client presents for care

(CSAT 2000a)



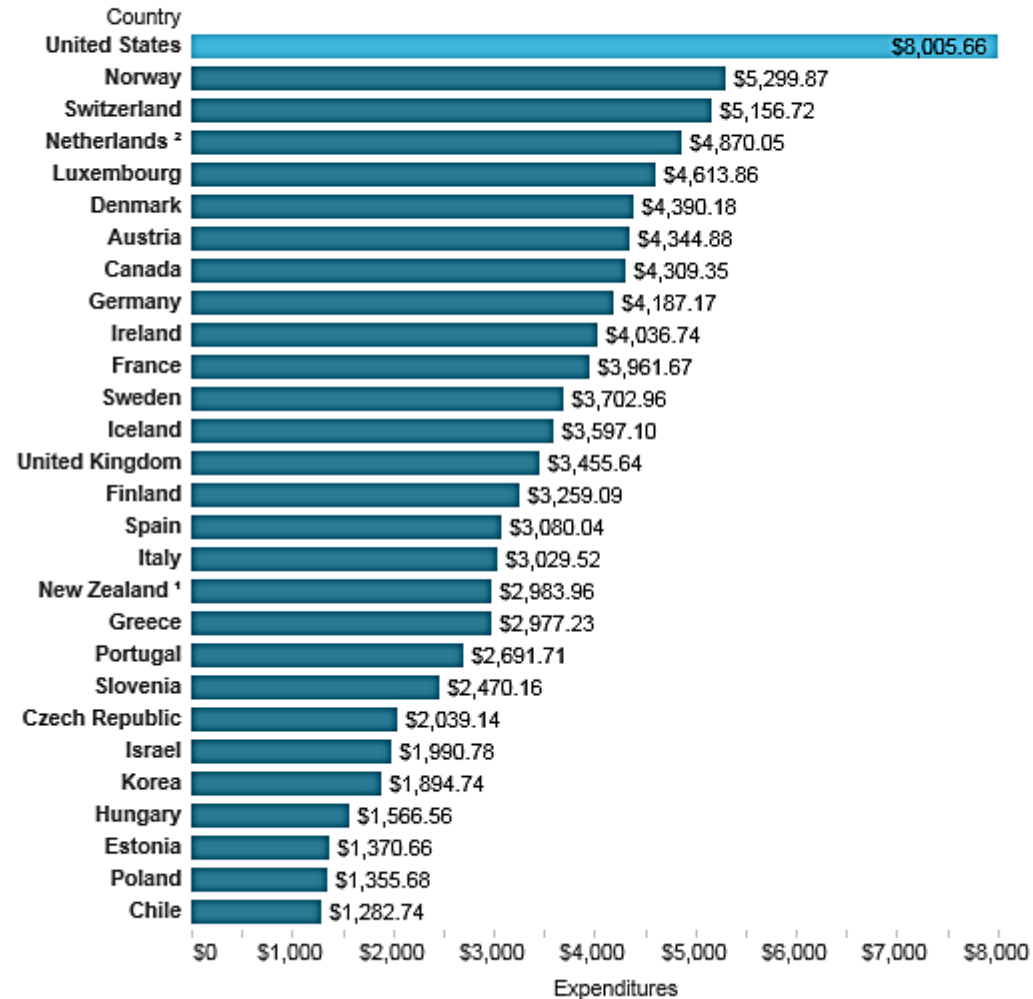
**THERE SHOULD BE NO “WRONG DOOR”**






- New York Times , 04-28-12

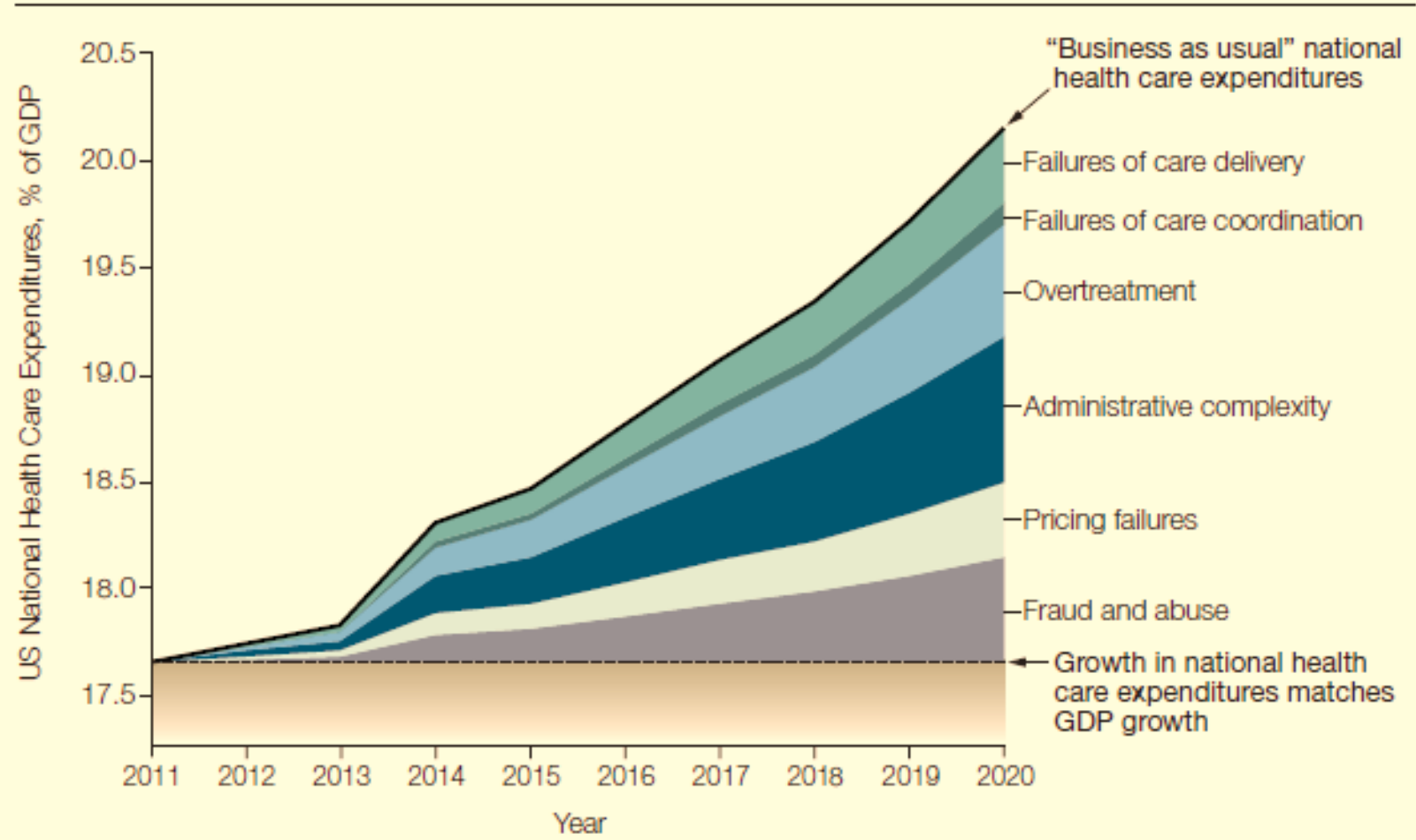
## Per Capita Health Expenditures: U.S. and Selected Countries, 2010






According to CMS our National Healthcare Expenditure (NHE) is projected to hit **\$3.207 trillion** this year. 2015 looks to be the first year healthcare spending will reach **\$10,000 per person**

**Figure.** Proposed “Wedges” Model for US Health Care, With Theoretical Spending Reduction Targets for 6 Categories of Waste





Just 5% of Americans accounting for nearly 50% of costs and 1% accounting for more than 20% of costs. In Camden, a city where 38% of the population lives below the poverty level, 13% of the population accounts for 80% of healthcare costs citywide



Camden  
Coalition  
of Healthcare Providers

## Welcome to the Hotspotting Data Toolkit

Created with support from the Commonwealth Fund

