



## **Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition (RCADC)**

**January 6, 2021**

**Members/Guests Present: Beth Sams, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Nathan Wray, Leonora Spangler, Ashley Freeberg, Sarah Harrison, LaDonna Booker, Shawn Scalf, Catherine Brunson, Allen Lutz, Brad Goss, Kenneth Morgan, Kathleen Cherry, Ashlee Crouse, Nancy Chrisman, Hylene Pankey, Terry Stevens, Marilyn Calfee, Sara Lawson, Sherry Samples, Kaitlyn Stephens, Scott Verschueren, Doug Jackson**

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our January coalition meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting began with introductions and was followed by an ice breaker. Nathan Wray showed coalition members the updated RCADC website ([roaneantidrug.org](http://roaneantidrug.org)).

Catherine Brunson with ASAP of Anderson provided information on nonfatal overdoses as well as upcoming Narcan training. Catherine is provided with a heat map which shows real time overdoses and overdoses in Roane County have been high for the past two months. In 2020 there were 144 nonfatal overdoses in Roane County. 90% of people who die of a fatal overdose had a nonfatal overdose in the previous year which puts those 144 individuals at an increased risk. Catherine reminded everyone that Narcan kits are available at RCADC and she has virtual Narcan trainings several times per month. Catherine advised that the previously issued stimulus checks caused a spike in overdoses, so we are anticipating another spike. Catherine reported that isolation can also cause an increase in overdoses, and that nationwide there was an 18% increase in overdoses during 2020. Catherine expressed her thanks to the Kingston Police Department for carrying, using and submitting reports on Narcan.

Jeanna Steele-Mack provided an update on the last DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which occurred on October 24, 2020. Roane County had two collection sites and collected 307.2 pounds of medication for safe disposal. Nationwide there were 4,587 collection sites and 492.7 tons of medication was collected. The next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for the last Saturday in April from 10am-2pm. Sarah Harrison provided information on the number of fatal overdoses in Roane County during 2020. Overdose deaths increased nationwide and Roane County was no exception. In 2019 there were 21 overdose deaths in Roane County and in 2020 there were 35 overdose deaths in Roane County, which is a 67% increase. Sarah's fatal overdose data comes from Dr. Boduch who is the Medical Examiner for Roane County. Nathan Wray presented on Stimulants: Flying Under the Radar. Methamphetamine overdose deaths have continued to rise as meth use has increased. Methamphetamine with opioid use has increased the number of overdose deaths as most overdoses contain polydrug use. The PowerPoint presentation is below these minutes and the meeting is also available on the RCADC Facebook page.

Beth Sams with the Roane County Sheriff's Office stated that the permanent disposal bin at their office states that they can accept inhalers in the bin while law enforcement officers stated that inhalers can't be accepted because they would explode when sent into the incinerator. Sarah Harrison confirmed that the permanent disposal bin at the Roane County Sheriff's Office was provided by a different organization than the other bins throughout the county, so that would explain why it has different guidelines. Sarah will follow-up with Beth regarding the organization who provided the permanent disposal bin. For the time being, Sarah recommended covering the section with tape which states that inhalers can be placed in the bin.

Our next coalition meeting will be Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00pm via Zoom. Our speaker will be Tabatha Curtis who is the Statewide Coordinator for Tennessee Alliance For Drug Endangered Children.

# STIMULANTS

Flying Under the Radar





# While Americans struggle with managing day-to-day life in the era of COVID-19

**The added challenge of prescription drug misuse remains ever-present.**

The impact of coronavirus on misuse of medications is not fully known at this time, but the social, physical, and economic influences of the pandemic have already presented significant health and safety challenges for individuals across the board.



Despite the potential health and judicial consequences, misuse of prescription stimulants, typically defined as taking stimulants without a valid prescription, or use of stimulants other than as prescribed, has become a serious problem in the United States.





Yet the perceived risk of the harmfulness of amphetamine use (inclusive of stimulants) among 19-year-olds declined by **25% between 2001 and 2016.**

 **News Release**

# Five million American adults misusing prescription stimulants

Science Spotlight

April 16, 2018

Scientists at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have completed the first comprehensive analysis of the prevalence of prescription stimulant use, misuse, use disorders, and motivations for misuse in the U.S. adult population. Looking at annual averages, approximately 6.6% (or 16 million) of U.S. adults used prescription stimulants in the preceding year; 4.5% (or 11 million) used prescription stimulants appropriately (without misuse); 2.1% (or 5 million) misused prescription stimulants at least once; and 0.2% (or 0.4 million) had prescription stimulant use disorders. The article analyzed data from the 2015 and 2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA).



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# NON MEDICAL USE OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION PRESENTS SPECIAL CHALLENGES TO DRUG PREVENTION SPECIALISTS.

- Anecdotal reports speculate that, because these drugs have been approved for medical use they are perceived to be inherently “safer” than illicit drugs





# COCAINE USE ON THE RISE AS WELL.

- According to the Drug Enforcement Administration's 2018 [National Drug Threat Assessment](#), the rise in cocaine use can be attributed to increases in availability.
- The assessment further pinpoints increases in supply to heightened Colombian cultivation of coca and production of cocaine.

**Cocaine use is on the rise: Research highlights troubling trends**





“RECORD LEVELS OF COCA CULTIVATION AND COCAINE PRODUCTION IN COLOMBIA, THE PRIMARY SOURCE FOR COCAINE SEIZED AND TESTED IN THE UNITED STATES, HAS WIDENED THE COCAINE MARKET, LEADING TO INCREASED DOMESTIC ABUSE.”

THE 2018 NATIONAL DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT STATES. “INCREASED AVAILABILITY LEVELS AND CONCURRENT LOWERED DOMESTIC PRICES WILL LIKELY PROPEL THIS TREND THROUGH THE NEAR-TERM.”



# THE PRESENCE OF FENTANYL-CONTAMINATED COCAINE IS ALSO RISING.

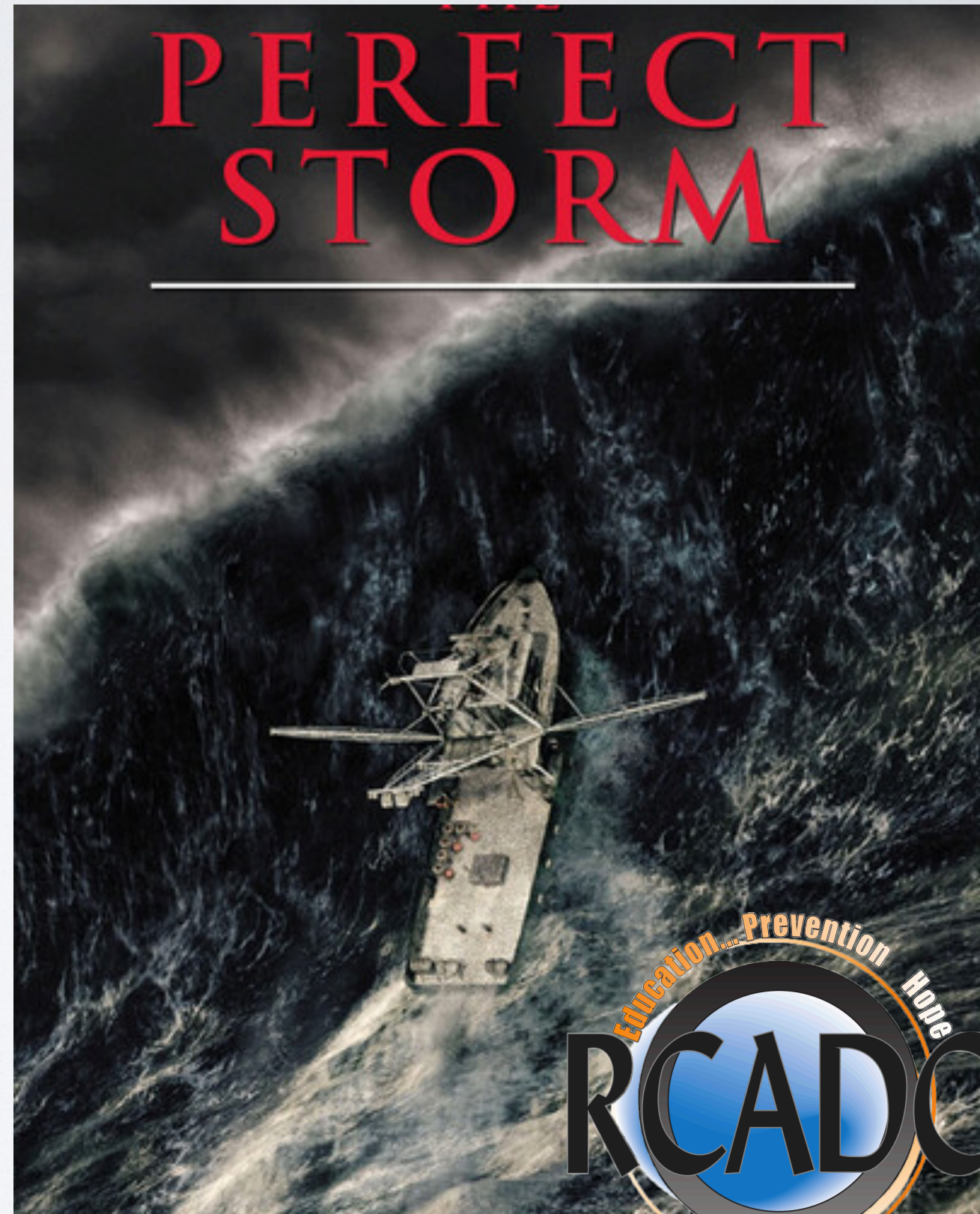
- “Previously, the threat was primarily concentrated in traditional cocaine markets, such as Florida, New York, Massachusetts, and Maryland; however, it has now moved beyond cocaine-dominated areas into states with high opiate proliferation, such as Ohio and West Virginia,”
- “Additionally, examples of cocaine and fentanyl mixtures have been analyzed in states with neither a high synthetic opioid presence nor a high cocaine presence, such as Arkansas, Washington, and Missouri, extending the reach of both drugs outside of their traditional markets.”





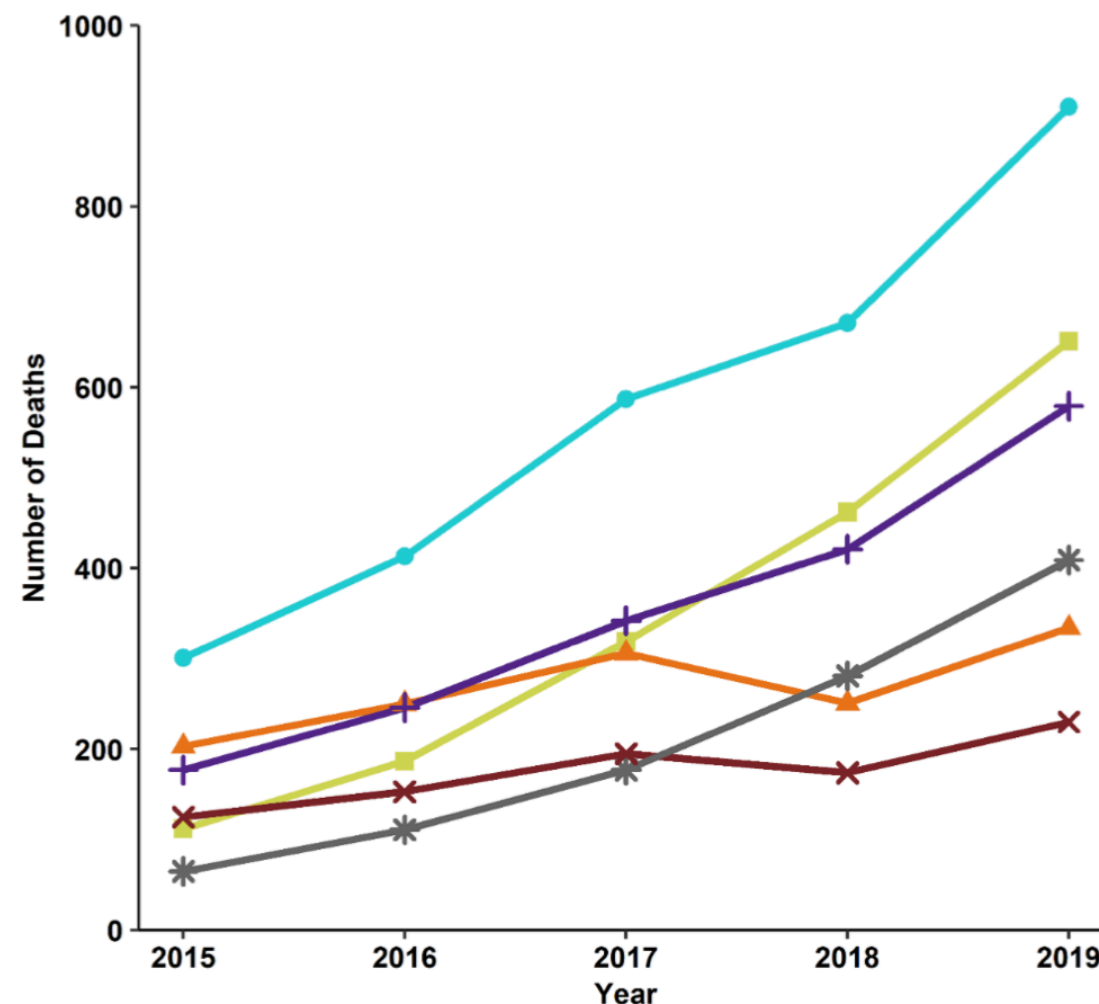
## 2020 IS LIKE "THE PERFECT STORM".

- Meth overdose deaths have continued to rise.
- This increase in methamphetamine deaths is particularly worrisome as meth use has increased both in parts of the country where it was less traditionally available and in areas that are already hard hit by the opioid epidemic.
- The current wave of meth is purier, more potent, and cheaper than the first wave.





# Stimulant Overdose Deaths in Tennessee



**202%** increase from 2015 to 2019  
in Any Stimulant overdose death.

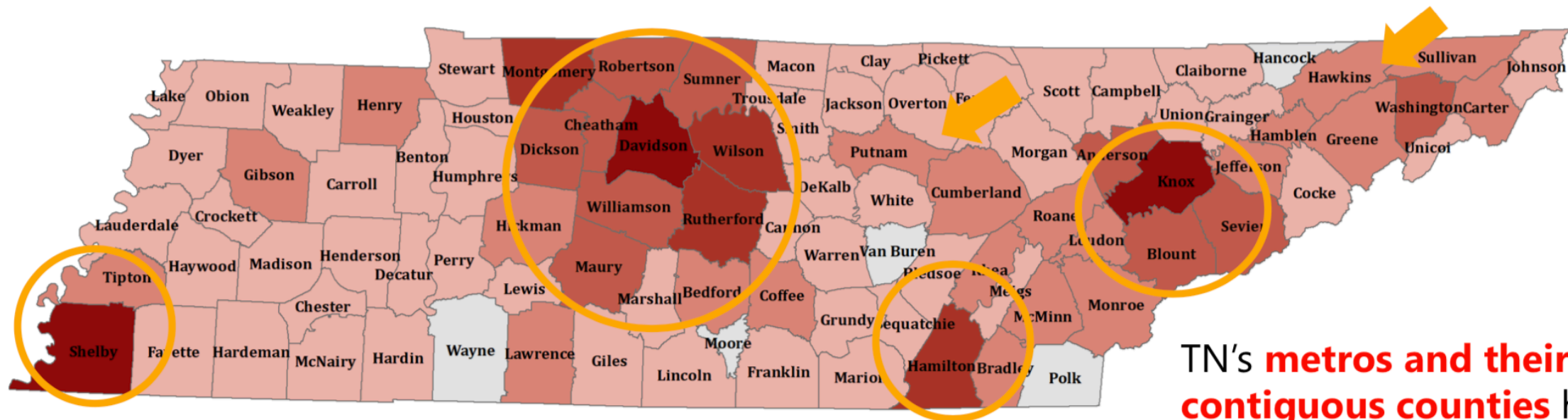
An **increasing** number  
of overdoses involve  
both opioids and  
stimulants.

METHAMPHETAMINE: IT'S HERE, NOW WHAT? TENNESSEE'S EXPERIENCE AND EXPECTATIONS  
TBI AND THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

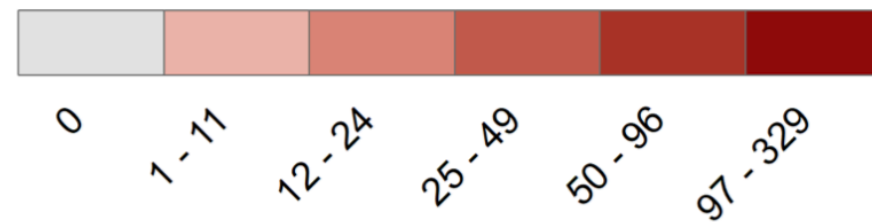




# All Drug Overdose Deaths in Tennessee, 2019



Number of overdose deaths

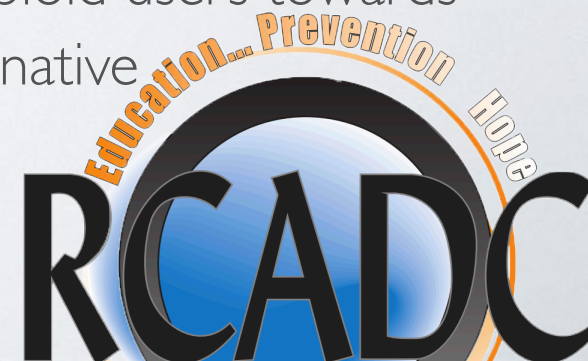


TN's **metros and their contiguous counties** have more drug overdose deaths; however, **rural regions** also have drug overdose deaths including Upper Cumberland region and Northeast region.

METHAMPHETAMINE: IT'S HERE, NOW WHAT? TENNESSEE'S EXPERIENCE AND EXPECTATIONS  
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# DECREASE IN FENTANYL PRODUCTION CAUSING INCREASE IN METH USE

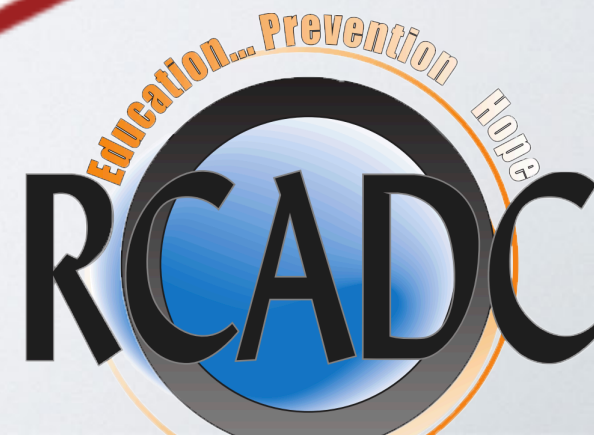
- The COVID-19 pandemic is limiting the supply of Chinese-manufactured fentanyl.
- An estimated ninety percent of illicit fentanyl in the United States comes from China, the vast majority shipped via mail or as cargo.
- But the COVID-19 epidemic has severely disrupted Chinese manufacturing, with quarantines and factory closures limiting manufacturing capacity and stifling trade routes.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, imports from China to the U.S. in March 2020 came in at a lower level than any month in the past ten years.
- Several reports have already documented the increasing street price of fentanyl in response to its limited supply. An increase in the price of opioids threatens to usher even more opioid users towards methamphetamine, or meth, which remains an abundant and relatively cheap alternative





# ROANE COUNTY

- THIS YEAR 24 OF 35 (68.6%) OVERDOSE DEATHS IN ROANE COUNTY HAD METHAMPHETAMINE IN THEIR TOXICOLOGY REPORT.
- THE OTHERS WERE METH AND ONE OR MORE OTHER SUBSTANCES.



# WHAT PREVENTION EFFORTS LOOK LIKE MOVING FORWARD.

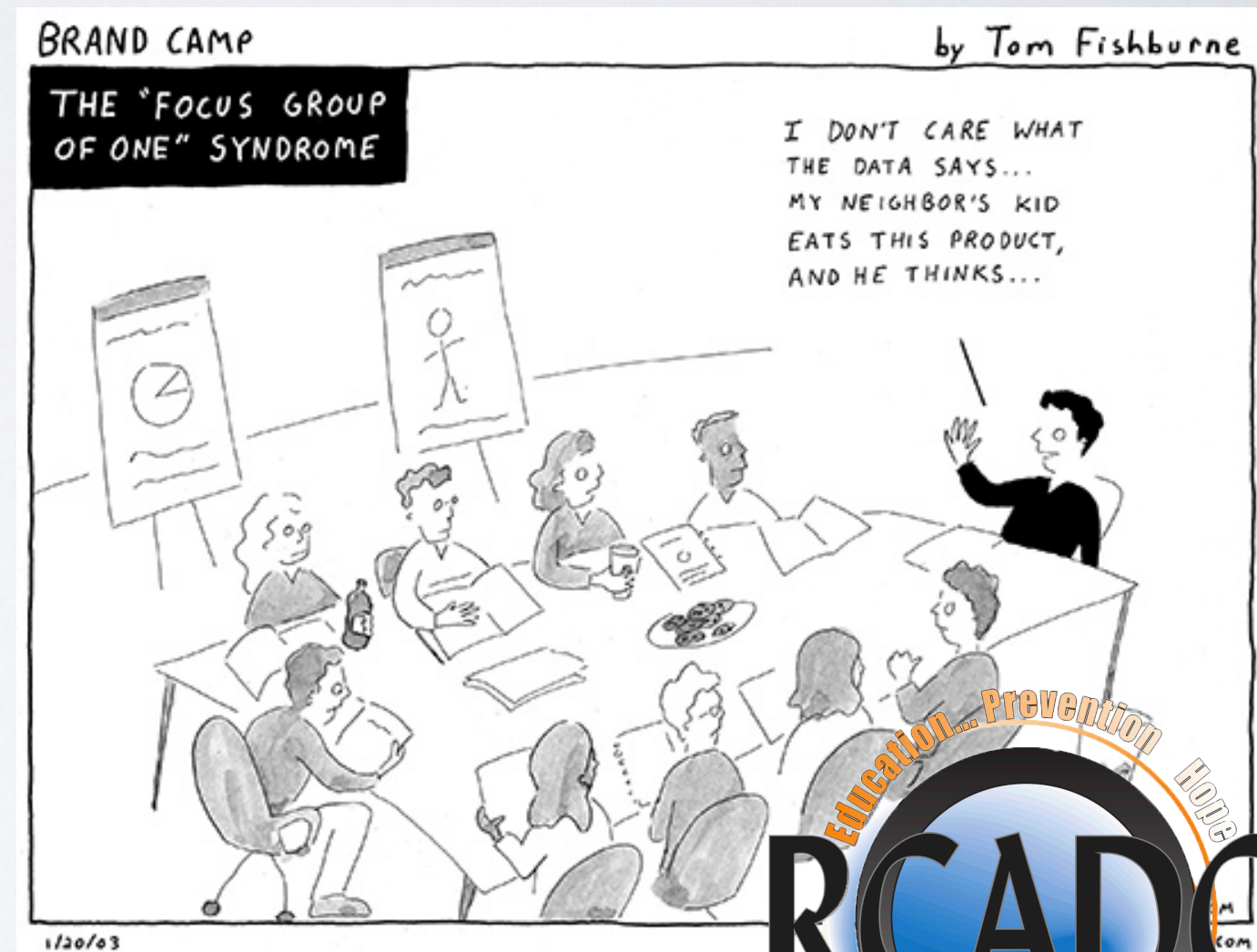
- Increase public awareness and patient education about Rx stimulant misuse and abuse.
- Promote responsible prescribing and dispensing policies and practices.
- Enhance assessment and referral to substance abuse treatment.
- Increase awareness about mixing drugs.
- Decrease stigma associated with substance use disorder.





# CONTINUE AND IMPLEMENT NEW RESEARCH BASED PROGRAMS

- “Life Skills” is a school-based intervention designed to foster general life skills as well as teach students tactics for resisting pressure to use drugs.
- “Preparing for the Drug Free Years” teaches young parents the importance of building strong brains as well as serve and return.
- The “Iowa Strengthening Families Project and Strengthening Family Program for Parents and Youth” target the enhancement of family protective factors and the reduction of family risk processes.
- All of these programs are important. It’s also important to remember that the coalition model includes systemic change that these programs are a part of.



# WHAT SECTOR DO YOU REPRESENT?

## WHO COULD YOU INVITE?

- Parents
- Law enforcement
- Schools
- Businesses
- Media
- Youth-serving organizations
- Religious and fraternal organizations
- Civic and volunteer groups
- Healthcare professionals
- State, local, and tribal agencies with expertise in substance abuse
- Other organizations involved in reducing substance abuse





# WHY ARE YOU A PART OF THIS COALITION?

- Kids?
- Direct Impact?
- Values?
- Volunteerism?



# COVID 19 HAS PRESENTED MANY CHALLENGES

- FEAR
- ANXIETY
- WORRY
- SOCIAL ISOLATION
- DISRUPTED WORK ROUTINE
- ECONOMIC INSTABILITY
- INCREASED DRUG USE
- INCREASED (Nationwide) OVERDOSE DEATHS





SO WE HAVE TO REDIRECT OUR  
ENERGY TOWARDS PURPOSE.

“When you know your ‘why’  
then your ‘what’ has more  
impact, because you’re working  
towards your purpose.” –  
Michael Jr.

