Perceptions on the Opioid Epidemic: A Qualitative Study

Rebecca Leach  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Brittany Chapman  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Ailish Hanly  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium)

Part of the Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Community-Based Research Commons, Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons, Emergency Medicine Commons, Health Services Administration Commons, Health Services Research Commons, Psychiatry and Psychology Commons, Substance Abuse and Addiction Commons, and the Translational Medical Research Commons

**Repository Citation:**  
Leach, Rebecca; Chapman, Brittany; Hanly, Ailish; and Carreiro, Stephanie, "Perceptions on the Opioid Epidemic: A Qualitative Study" (2019). Community Engagement and Research Symposia. 15.  
[https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2019/posters/15](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2019/posters/15)  
[https://doi.org/10.13028/cewv-fw91](https://doi.org/10.13028/cewv-fw91)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Community Engagement and Research Symposia by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Presenter Information
Rebecca Leach, Brittany Chapman, Ailish Hanly, and Stephanie Carreiro

Keywords
opioid use disorder, qualitative study, patient and provider perspectives, patient recruitment, healthcare providers, emergency department

Creative Commons License
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 License.

Rights and Permissions
Copyright 2019 the Authors
Perceptions on the Opioid Epidemic: A Qualitative Study
Rebecca Leach BA, Brittany Chapman BSc, Ailish Hanly BA, Stephanie Carreiro MD
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester MA

**Background**
- Opioid use disorder (OUD) and resultant opioid overdoses have amplified over the last 20 years, despite efforts to identify best practices for prevention and treatment
- A significant divide has emerged between patients with OUD and their providers, particularly in emergency, acute care settings
- While work has been done exploring the impact stigma and distrust has on patient outcomes, little research has focused on direct comparisons of patient and provider perspectives of OUD

**Objectives**
1. Evaluate: knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions towards OUD
2. Identify: perceived barriers and facilitators to OUD treatment
3. Describe & Integrate: discrepancies between the two study populations that can be used to inform future healthcare models
4. Rectify: generally unfavorable patient-provider relationships to improve health outcomes and design more effective interventions

**Methods**
- We will sample two populations to obtain qualitative data on a variety of topics related to OUD (Table 1)
- Healthcare Providers:
  - Criteria: UMass ED Physician/Registered Nurse or UMass Memorial EMT/Paramedic
  - Recruitment Strategy: online emails to targeted UMass listservs
  - Data Source: online surveys, with semi-structured interviews in a subset of participants
- Individuals with OUD
  - Criteria: adults with non-medicinal opioid use
  - Recruitment Strategy: respondent driven sampling (RDS) (Figure 1)
  - Data Source: semi-structured interviews, with online surveys from a subset of participants

**Results**
- Recruitment will continue until thematic saturation is reached
- Recruitment to date has focused on individuals with OUD:
  - 6 seeds have been enrolled
  - Wave recruitment has been a challenge: there has only been one response out of a total of 18 possible referrals
- The healthcare provider survey will be distributed in April 2019
- Next steps: explore barriers to recruiting peers from their social network with seeds to enhance wave recruitment, expand recruitment of seeds outside the ED

**Community Engagement**
- We suspect the failure of propagation of the RDS chain is due to the emergency department-based seed recruitment strategy and seek to expand seed recruitment into the Worcester community
- We are specifically looking to partner with community based-harm reduction agencies and other groups that engage individuals with active or past OUD