

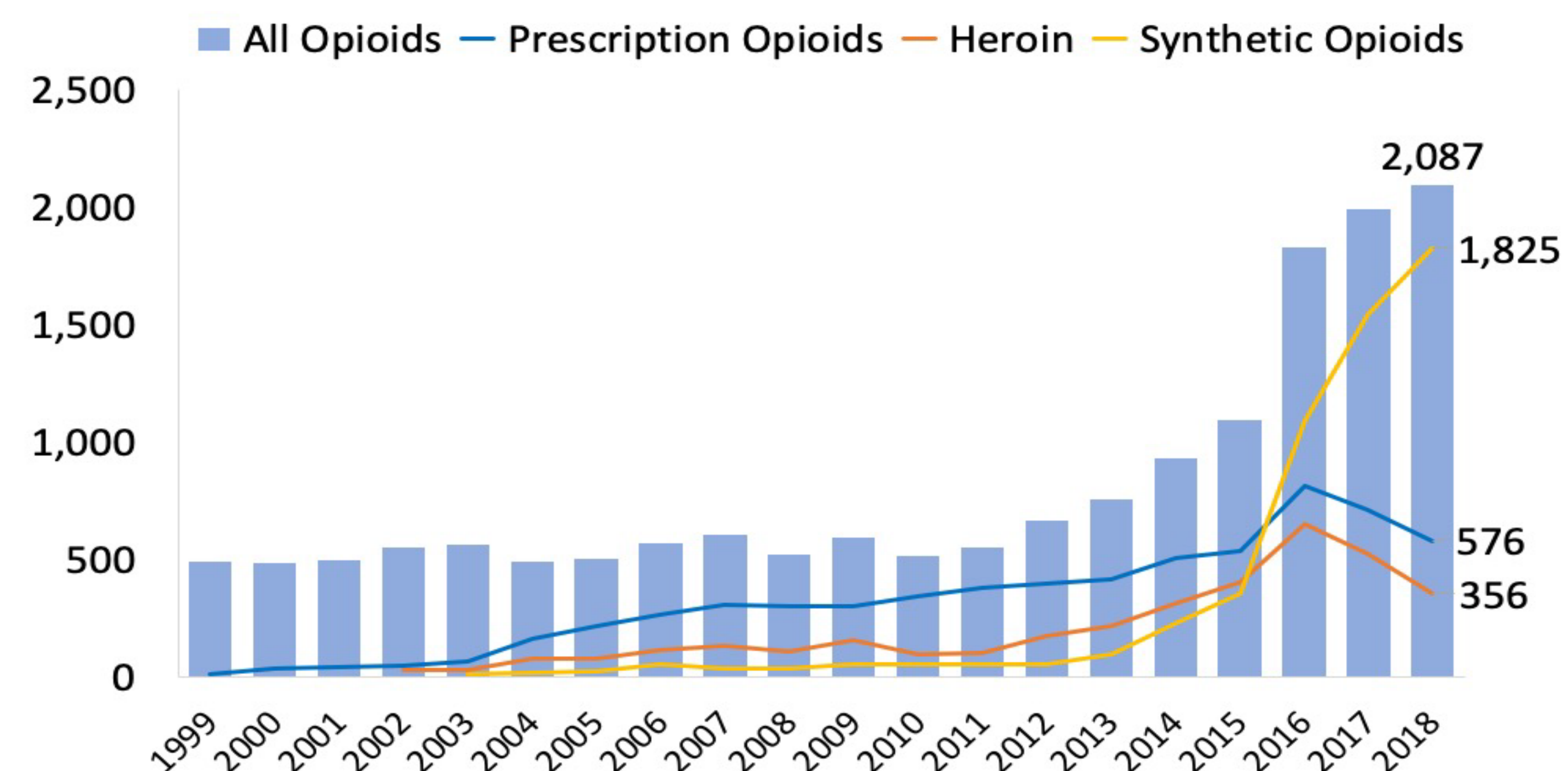
# Project iM.A.T.T.E.R (Incorporating Medication Assisted Treatment and Telehealth Educational Resources in PA Curriculum)

Brittany Stokes Francis, MS PA-C; Hyun-Jin Jun, PhD, MSW; Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MBA, PA-C  
University of Maryland Baltimore Graduate School Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy (PALLA)

## Background

- Over 81,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in the 12 months ending in May 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- In Maryland, estimated 90% of drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved opioids<sup>2</sup>.
- As of March 2020, 5,083 PAs hold waivers for 30, 100, or 275 patients, for a total of 3.6% of PAs. Both MOUD and telehealth enabled care are effective for treating OUD.<sup>4</sup>
- Various initiatives on the use of telehealth and Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) have been developed and shown to be effective in treating opioid use disorder (OUD) patients.
- In consideration of current limitations to SUD treatment complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential and timely for health professionals including physician assistants (PAs) to be familiar with telehealth enabled treatment practices.

Maryland: Opioid-Involved Deaths and Related Harms



## Project Objectives

- To create an innovative evidence-based, patient-centered, culturally sensitive, and sustainable MOUD telehealth course that can be adopted and incorporated into the curriculum of health professionals
- To disseminate evidence-based information on telehealth enabled MOUD practices within the four Maryland PA programs and associated clinics
- To increase the number of buprenorphine waived PAs particularly in underserved settings of Maryland

## Methods

### Phase I

- Development of a scoping review on the current evidence of opioid treatment and telehealth-enabled MOUD

### Phase II (Mar-May)

- Needs assessment for PA students and instructors, acquired by online survey
- Resulting data used for curriculum mapping

### Phase II (May-Dec)

- OUD and telehealth-enabled course developed
- Implementation through virtual modalities using standardized patients simulations
- Participant's evaluation of curriculum

## Results and Anticipated Impacts

- Project iM.A.T.T.E.R. needs assessment noted a scarcity of clinical sites and resources for the instruction of MOUD.
- Addiction health assessments and standardized patient activities have been scheduled for PA students in a University of Maryland PA program.
- Pending data acquired via future learning event(s), additional resources will be disseminated providing supplementation with service-learning modules bolstering learner's knowledge, skills and attitudes about managing OUD patients utilizing a telehealth model.
- Curated MOUD course materials have been made available on a public database for self-paced student centered instruction

## References

<sup>1</sup> Yang YT, Weintraub E, Haffajee RL. Telemedicine's Role in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic. Mayo Clinic Proceedings. 2018;(9):1177-1180. doi:10.1016/j.mayocp.2018.07.001

<sup>2</sup> Abuse NI on D. Maryland: Opioid-Involved Deaths and Related Harms | National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). National Institute on Drug Abuse. Published April 3, 2020. Accessed November 3, 2020. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drug-topics/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/maryland-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>

<sup>3</sup> Telebehavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorder - RHlhub Toolkit. Rural Health Information Hub. Published May 21, 2019. Accessed November 3, 2020. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/telehealth/2/specific-populations/behavioral-health/opioids>

<sup>4</sup> Increasing Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Abuse in Rural Primary Care Practices | Agency for Health Research and Quality. Home | Agency for Health Research and Quality. Published February 2017. Accessed November 3, 2020. <https://www.ahrq.gov/ncepcr/primary-care-research/opioids.html>

