

**Criminal Justice Institute**  
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**THE OPIOID CRISIS**

Dr. Cheryl May, Director  
Criminal Justice Institute

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**NATIONAL STATISTICS**

- More than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016.
  - 175 people everyday
  - More deaths than caused by gun violence and vehicular accidents combined
  - Leading cause of death in individuals under 50 YOA
- About 2/3 of drug overdose deaths involve opioids
  - 40,000 (2016 data)
  - 110 people everyday
  - One overdose every 12.5 minutes

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- From 2002 to 2015 there has been a 2.8 fold increase in the number of deaths involving opioids
- Why did this happen?
  - Not a single reason
  - Shift in policies dealing with pain
    - Personal story
  - Drug Companies
  - Prescribers
  - Patients
- Take all of us working together to have an impact on this crisis

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## FENTANYL

- Half of the opioid deaths in 2016 (20,000) were related to fentanyl and fentanyl analogues
  - Up to 100 times stronger than morphine and many times that of heroin
  - Risk for anyone who has contact
    - Touch
    - Airborne
    - Law Enforcement Safety
    - "PINK"

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## ARKANSAS

- 401 Overdose deaths in 2016
  - New England states, Ohio, West Virginia particularly hard hit
  - Underestimated?
- Worry:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> highest prescribing rate of pain meds in the U.S.
    - 114.7/100 people
  - Highest rate in the U.S. for kids 12-17 years of age who have used pain meds for non-medical purposes

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## Arkansas Accomplishments

- Standing Order for Naloxone
- All Prescribers Required to Use the PDMP
  - Allow law enforcement access to PDMP
- Good Samaritan Act
- Rx Take Back Program
- Arkansas Naloxone Project

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**Arkansas Naloxone Project**

- First Responders
  - Targeted Approach
  - Policy with CPR
  - Medical Director MOU
  - Narcan Administration Training with Kits
  - Emphasize the Dangers of Fentanyl
  - Provide Information about Local Treatment
- Families in Recovery
  - Very Vulnerable Time
  - Different Training than Law Enforcement
  - Support Structure

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**Arkansas Naloxone Project**

- Need Naloxone in Schools
  - Massachusetts
  - Pennsylvania also very progressive
  - LR Central High Incident
  - Working with Arkansas Nurses
- 68 Naloxone saves in Arkansas
- Community Prevention
  - Don't Run, Call 911
  - How to Talk to Your Doctor

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**Arkansas Drug Endangered Children Project**

- Kids who are born addicted or live in families where illicit drug activities occur
  - More kids die from neglect than from physical abuse
- Law enforcement and social services fundamentally need to change the way they work together
  - Breaking down the silos
- Many of these kids grow up to be child and drug abusers
- We need to break this cycle!!

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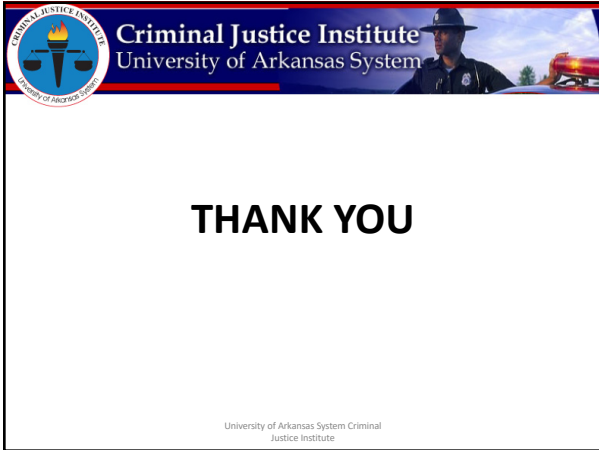
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