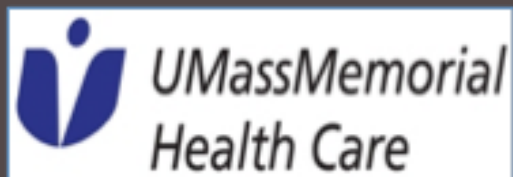


MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP



Population Health Clerkship
UMMS 2018

Shani Aharon
Erica Christenson
Jonathan Kassira
Harsha Kumar
Kevin O'Sullivan
Palak Walia

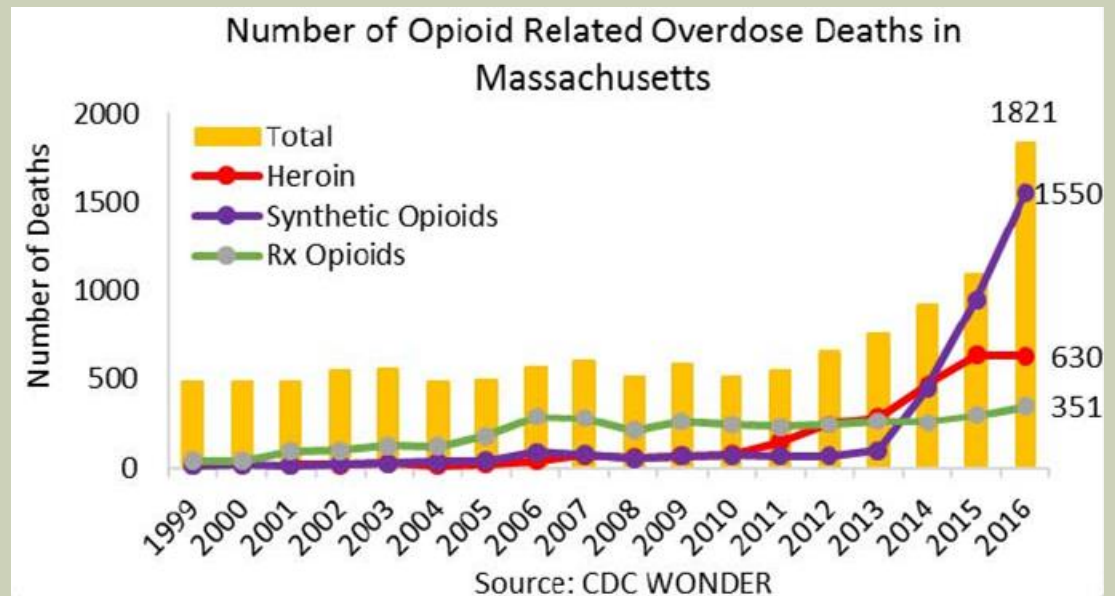
COMMUNITY LEGAL AID

- “Provides free legal help with non-criminal problems such as evictions, foreclosures, domestic violence, unfair consumer practices, and access to disability benefits.”
 - <150% Federal Poverty Line
 - Functional navigation through the legal process
 - Top concerns from previous PHC: 1. Paying bills, 2. Health insurance, 3. Food access

COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK

■ “Promoting, restoring, and maintaining the physical health, mental health and dignity of adults, children and families in Central Massachusetts who are experiencing mental illness, addiction or homelessness.”

- Inpatient and outpatient services
- Intensive and early intervention
- Regain/maintain patient health, dignity, and life stability



Other Local Support Organizations

- Learn to Cope
- Everyday Miracles Peer Recovery Center
- Worcester Division of Public Health
- Clean Slate Addiction Centers

CLERKSHIP PROJECT

- Goal: identify patterns of unmet needs in the community that could potentially benefit from legal aid resources.

- Needs assessment survey administered at three clinical sites:
 - Adult Outpatient Clinic
 - Substance Use Continuum
 - Youth and Family Services Outpatient Counseling

- Surveyed areas of concern:
 - Benefits/Finances
 - Housing/Utilities
 - Education/Employment
 - Personal and Family Stability

INTERPROFESSIONALISM

■ Case Managers & Social Workers

- Coordinate care transitions from acute to long term recovery
- Advocate for clients suffering from food, housing, or other resource insecurities

■ Mental Health Professionals

- Address underlying psychological comorbidities affecting inpatient and outpatient population

■ Legal Staff

- Navigate complex and esoteric system governing addiction recovery
- Advise *pro se* clients in housing, family, and other Worcester courts

■ Ancillary Inpatient/Outpatient Medical Staff

- Provide and administer opioid use disorder medical therapy
- Treat comorbidities disproportionately affecting those with opioid use disorder

OVERARCHING FINDINGS

■ 95 Completed Surveys:

- Substance Use Continuum (55)
- Adult Outpatient Clinic (38)
- Youth and Family Outpatient Counseling (2)*

■ Top 3 Concerns:

- Having enough money to pay bills each month
- Having enough healthy food to eat each day
- Medicare/Medicaid/health insurance

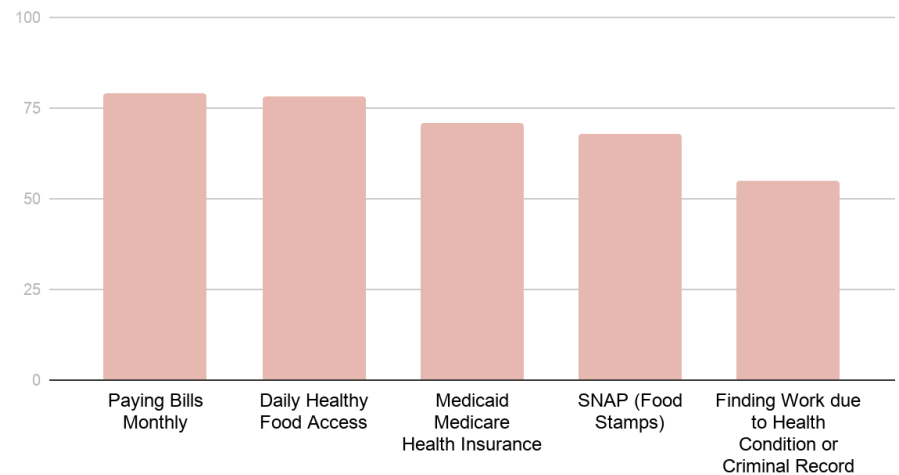
COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK SUBSTANCE USE CONTINUUM

■ 55 patient surveys

■ Endorsed Concerns for Themselves and/or Family Members:

- Benefits/Finances (100%)
- Housing/Utilities (67%)
- Education/Employment (60%)
- Personal/Family Stability (29%)

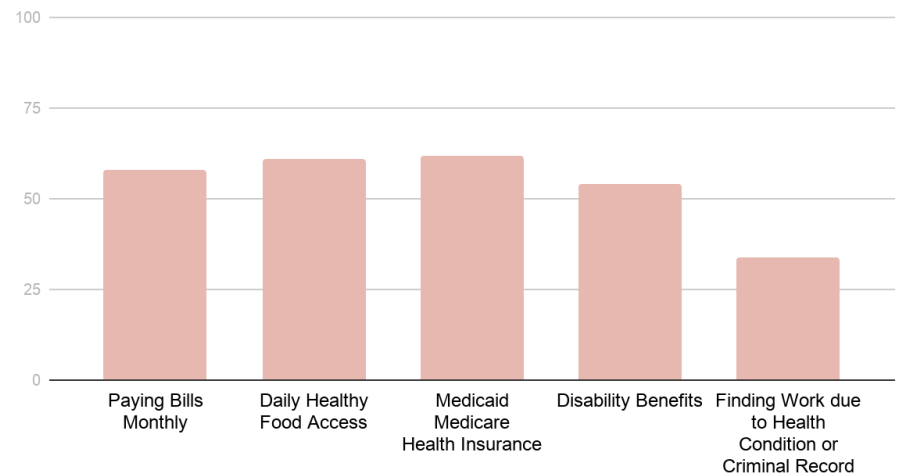
% Respondents Expressing Concern - Adult Outpatient Clinic



COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK OUTPATIENT THAYER BUILDING

- 38 patient surveys
- Endorsed Concerns for Themselves and/or Family Members:
 - Benefits/Finances (79%)
 - Housing/Utilities (55%)
 - Education/Employment (37%)
 - Personal/Family Stability (5%)

% Respondents Expressing Concern - Substance Use Continuum



TAKEAWAYS

- Overall: there was significant overlap of top 5 concerns
 - Monthly Bills > Healthy Food > Insurance > *** > Employment
 - Exception: SNAP (inpatient) vs Disability Benefits (outpatient)
- Future modifications
 - Establish optimal clinic hours for survey administration
 - Standardize guidelines for competency/guardianship
 - Interpreters/surveys in multiple languages

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Community Legal Aid (CLA) Team:

Kate Gannon, Staff Attorney

Blair Komar, Staff Attorney

CLA Staff

Population Health Clerkship Team:

Heather-Lyn Haley

Clinical Sites Team:

Mark McVaugh (Community Healthlink Substance Abuse Continuum)

Silvia Franco (Community Healthlink Outpatient Thayer Building)

Debra Grollman (Youth and Family Outpatient Counseling Services)

Any Questions?

