

Assessing and Incorporating Intervention Effectiveness in Systems Models of the Opioids Crisis

Virtual Workshop
October 20 - 22, 2020

Agenda

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are each working to refine systems-level models to understand the complexities of the opioids crisis and the potential impacts of policy intervention options. The modeling efforts undertaken by each of these organizations within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are complementary and function to support the development of decision-making tools that can be used to optimize the public health response to the opioid epidemic. Close collaboration among these modeling teams, as well as with other opioids modeling and data experts, is critical to ensuring the alignment, efficiency, and collective value of the models.

This meeting will support continued interagency collaboration and aims to facilitate the exchange of information about priority data needs and initial findings from modeling efforts. Discussion at the meeting will also focus on how policy interventions can be translated into model inputs and next steps to help modeling and intervention research support policy analysis. This meeting will build on the discussion held at the April 2019 meeting on the topic of Data Needs in Opioid Systems Modeling and aims to bolster the utility of systems models in helping decision-makers understand the outcomes and unintended consequences of potential policy interventions on the opioids system.

Tuesday, October 20 | Day 1: Developing Reliable Models of the Opioids System

12:55 p.m. Gather Online

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Overview

Speaker: Marta Wosińska, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy

1:10 p.m. Opening Remarks from HHS

Speaker: Doug Throckmorton, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

1:20 p.m. Session 1—Overview of HHS Opioids Systems Modeling Projects: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

Moderator: Marta Wosińska

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of each of the teams' modeling approaches, the status of their models, and planned next steps
- Describe policy questions and interventions planned for preliminary analyses
- Share preliminary results from modeling efforts, if applicable

Presentations:

- Tse Yang Lim, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Mark Roberts, University of Pittsburgh
- Margaret Brandeau, Stanford University

Open Discussion

2:15 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Session 2—Data Elements and Research Opportunities to Enhance Systems Models
Moderator: Marta Wosińska

Objectives:

- Identify and discuss the data characteristics necessary to address established modeler needs
- Consider how the models can be adapted and improved as data evolve and new data become available
- Explore potential researchable questions that could be informed by future iterations of the models (e.g., cost effectiveness, polysubstance use, socioeconomic factors)

Presentation:

- S. Mohammad Jalali, Harvard University

Reactant Remarks

Open Discussion

4:00 p.m. Day One Adjournment

Wednesday, October 21 | Day 2: Incorporating Policy Interventions into Systems Modeling

12:55 p.m. Gather Online

1:00 p.m. Synopsis of Day One Discussions

Speaker: Emily Ewing, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

1:10 p.m. Session 3—Defining Policy Interventions for Systems Model Analysis

Moderator: Marta Wosińska

Objectives:

- Identify and define policy interventions for systems modeling and discuss the process of transforming a policy into model inputs
- Discuss challenges and complexities associated with the translation of interventions into models
 - Discuss the need to assess and account for how variability in intervention implementation and variance of other factors at the state and local level can impact the estimation of intervention effectiveness at a national level
- Describe the types of interventions that can currently be explored using the models and provide a framework for assessing the readiness of a policy intervention for future testing in the model

Presentation:

- Erin Stringfellow, Harvard University

Reactant Remarks

Open Discussion

2:30 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Session 4 – Priority Policy Questions and Next Steps for Model Enhancement

Moderator: Marta Wosińska

Objective:

- Discuss next steps to refining validated and adaptive systems models of the opioids crisis, including how stakeholders in the modeling community can best engage with one another to leverage available data, address priority data needs, and build a better understanding of intervention effectiveness to support informed decision making
- Identify priority policy questions that could be informed by future iterations of the models

HHS Remarks

- Chris Jones, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Wilson Compton, National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Doug Throckmorton, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Open Discussion

3:45 p.m. Day Two Adjournment

Thursday, October 22 | Day 3: Understanding the Impact of Policy Interventions through Case Studies

12:55 p.m. Gather Online

1:00 p.m. Synopsis of Day One and Day Two Discussions
Speaker: Emily Ewing, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

1:10 p.m. Case Study 1 – Utilization of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
Moderator: Sara Eggers, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Objectives:

- Describe MOUD interventions being considered by the modeling teams and discuss their readiness for translation into the models, as well as what is needed to improve the readiness of each intervention for modeling
- Discuss the body of information available about each MOUD intervention, how available information is interpreted by modeling stakeholders, and what information needs remain

Case Study Presentation:

- Benjamin Linas, Boston Medical Center

Reactant Remarks

Open Discussion

2:15 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. Case Study 2 – Naloxone Distribution
Moderator: Sara Eggers

Objectives:

- Describe naloxone interventions being considered by the modeling teams and discuss their readiness for translation into the models, as well as what is needed to improve the readiness of each intervention for modeling
- Discuss the body of information available about each naloxone intervention, how available information is interpreted by modeling stakeholders, and what information needs remain

Case Study Presentation:

- Traci Green, Brandeis University
- Mike Irvine, University of British Columbia

Reactant Remarks

Open Discussion

3:45 p.m. Closing Remarks and Meeting Adjournment

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