

# The Opiate Crisis in Rural America

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- Fatal drug overdose is now the leading cause of injury death
- Almost 90% of poisoning deaths are caused by drugs
- Drug overdose caused more deaths than motor vehicle crashes in the 25-64 year old age group
- Only 10% of those with substance abuse disorder receive treatment

**National Statistics in America**

- Legally prescribed opioids are the most common narcotics abused
- The death rate from heroin overdose rose 270% between 2010 and 2013
- The death rate from prescription opioid-caused overdose has increased more than 400% between 1999 and 2013

**National Statistics in America**



**Why is Heroin  
Impacting Rural America?**

- High-risk behaviors
  - Lack of impulse control
  - Peer clustering
- Isolation
  - Family fragmentation
  - Poor family relationships
  - Peer rejection
  - Low self-esteem

## Personal Factors

- Low educational attainment
  - Failure to complete high school
  - Lower college matriculation rates
- Poverty
  - Low salaries
  - Single parent households
- Unemployment
  - Fewer job opportunities
  - Lack of repatriation of college graduates

## Personal Factors

- Alcohol, the most common drug of abuse, is inexpensive
- Methamphetamine can be made at home from readily available legal substances
- Fentanyl is often mixed with heroin and cocaine to amplify the potency and euphoria

## Economic Factors

## OXYCODONE

- Doctor's office visit: \$75
- Emergency department visit: \$900
- Oxycodone prescription: \$35
- Pharmacist tracking narcotic prescription use: **FREE**
- **TOTAL: \$110-\$935**
- Oxycodone on the street: \$10-\$80 per pill



## HEROIN

- Cost per dose of heroin: \$10-\$25
- Average daily cost of the heroin abuse: \$150
- Surcharge for added fentanyl: Often **FREE** or at a minimal additional charge
- No records tracking heroin use



# Economic Factors



- Shortage of primary care physicians
- Shortage of chronic pain management resources
- Less availability of hospitals
- Low number of available emergency departments impairs “doctor-shopping” for legal opioids
- Minimal availability of substance abuse and drug rehabilitation resources

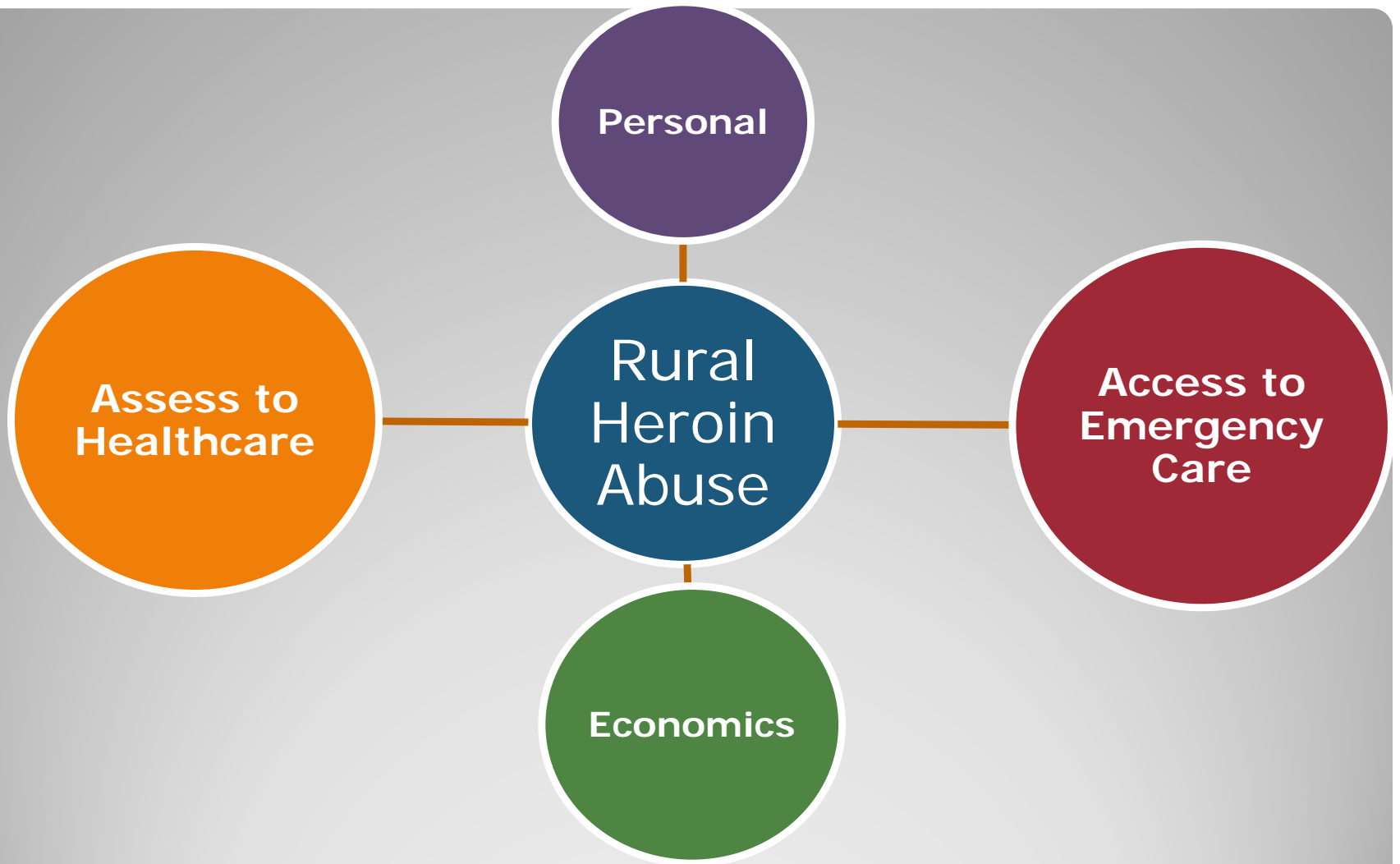
## **Access to Healthcare Facilities**

- Airway and CPR Training
- Naloxone
  - Intravenous: Requires an advanced EMT or Paramedic to administer
  - Intranasal
  - Intramuscular
  - Intramuscular via auto-injector:
    - Layperson
    - Law enforcement personnel
    - EMS providers/Basic life support units
    - EVZIO<sup>®</sup>: **\$400** per kit

**Access to Emergency Care**

- First responders (EMS and law enforcement) are challenged by:
  - Readily available manpower
  - Response times
  - Transport distances
  - Lack of advanced life support personnel (Paramedics)
  - Cost and availability of naloxone
  - Training resources for naloxone administration

**Access to Emergency Care**



## The Pieces to the Puzzle

- National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Brief:
- *The Use of Naloxone in Out-of-Hospital Settings*
- [www.nasemso.org](http://www.nasemso.org)



**A Proposal for Solutions**