

Integrated Care “Lunch & Learn”

Medication for Substance Use Disorders

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July 2025

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session the participant should be able to:

- Explain the rationale for using medications to treat Opioid Use Disorder
- Describe key findings that support MOUD treatment
- Understand the landscape of OUD treatment within DMHAS

Outline

- Conceptualizing OUD Care
 - “Spectrum of Treatment”
 - OUD in Context
- Medications for OUD (MOUD)
 - A Note on Language
 - Common Questions

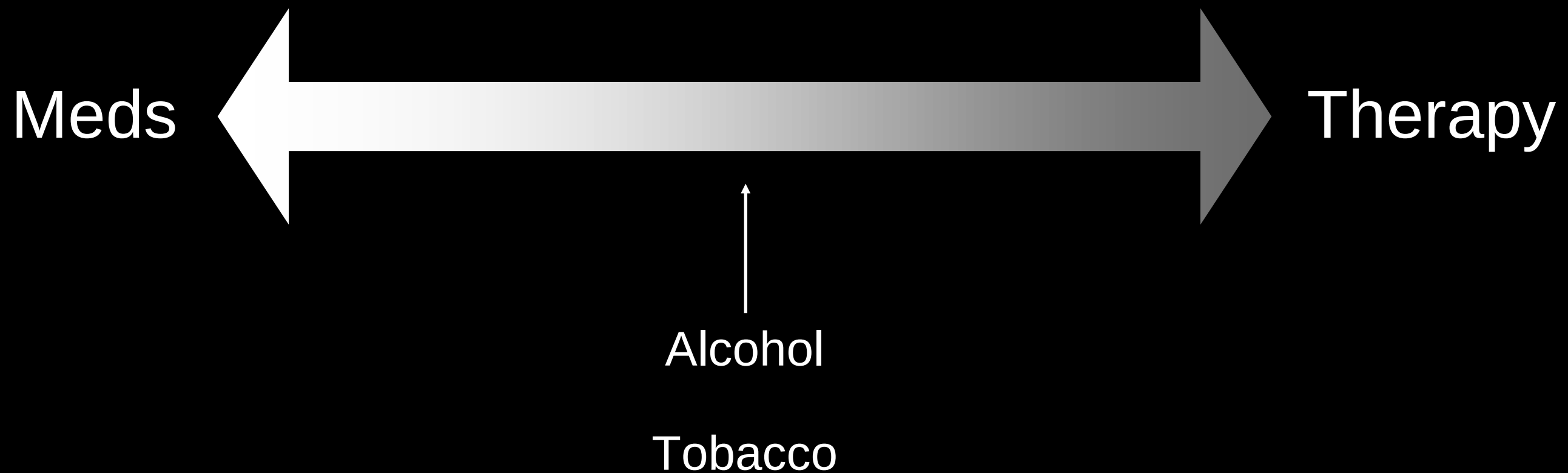
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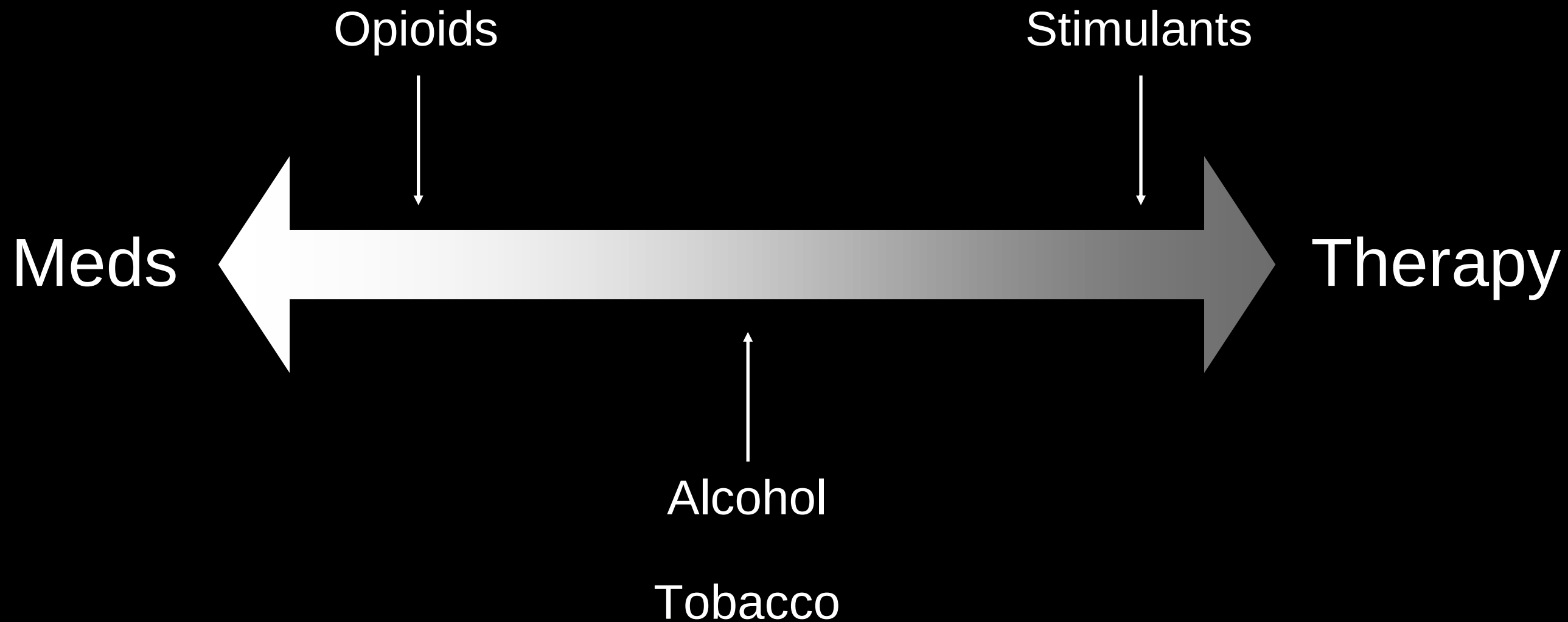
Conceptualizing OUD Care:
“Spectrum of Treatment”



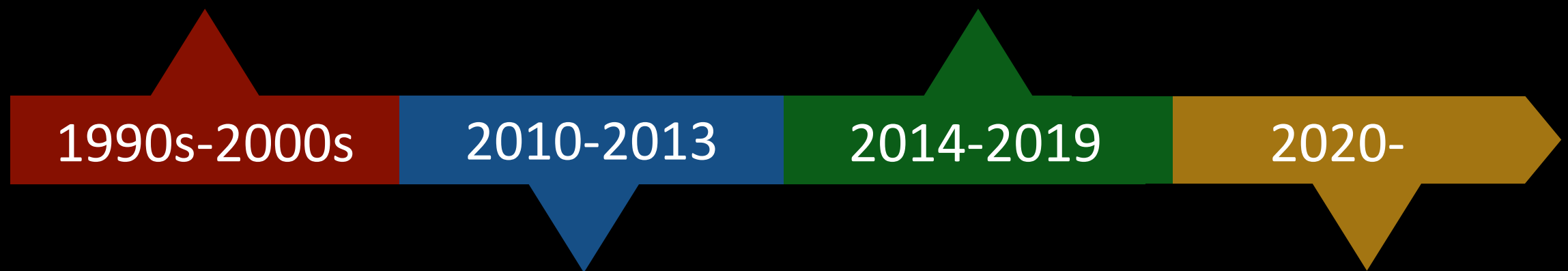
Conceptualizing OUD Care: “Spectrum of Treatment”



Conceptualizing OUD Care: “Spectrum of Treatment”



Conceptualizing OUD Care: OUD in Context

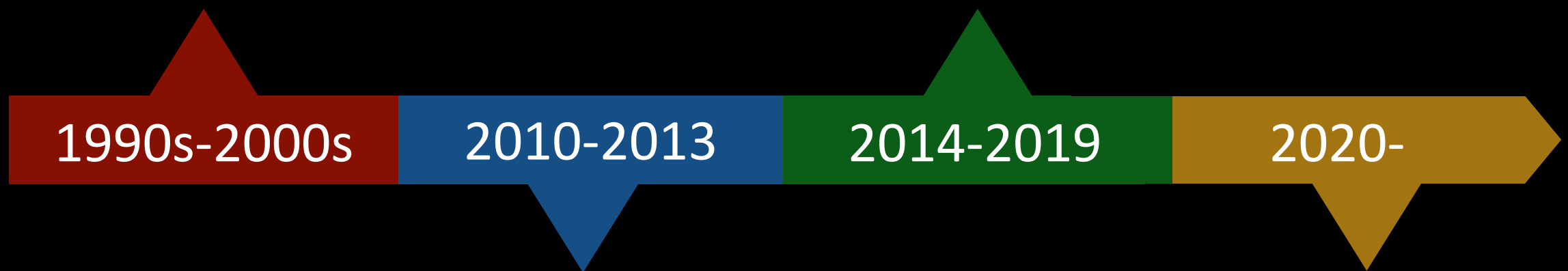


Conceptualizing OUD Care:

OUD in Context

Prescription
Analgesics

OxyContin-1996



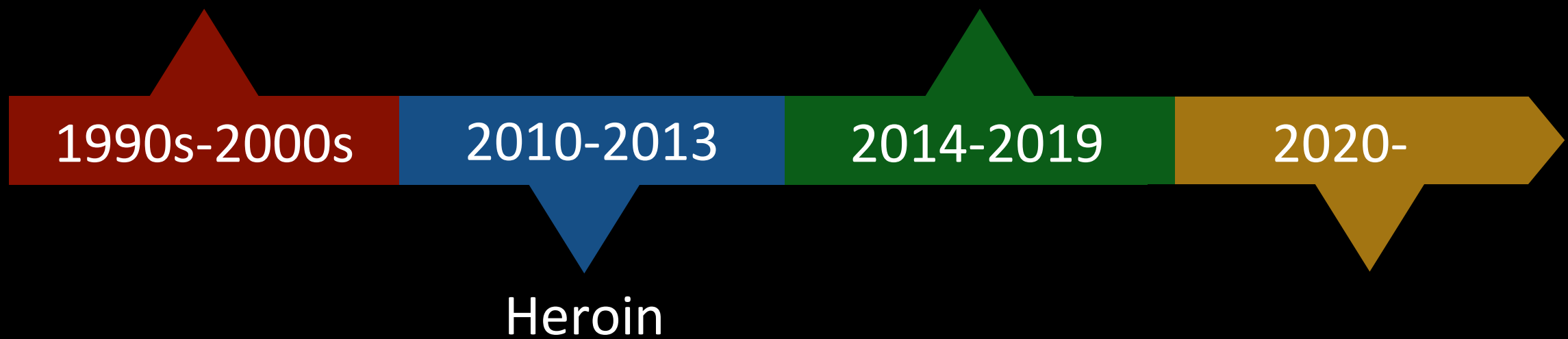
CDC Injury Center, 2022

Ciccarone D, Current Opin Psychiatry. 2021; 34(4):344-350

Conceptualizing OUD Care: OUD in Context

Prescription
Analgesics

OxyContin-1996



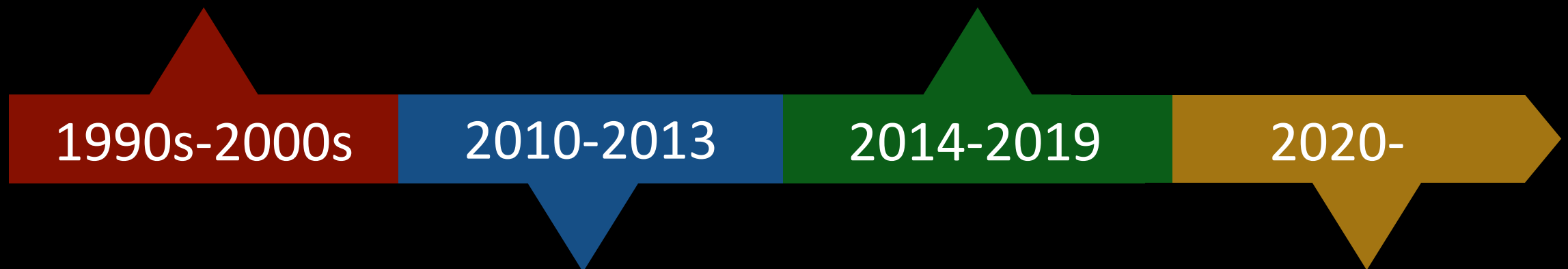
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OUD in Context

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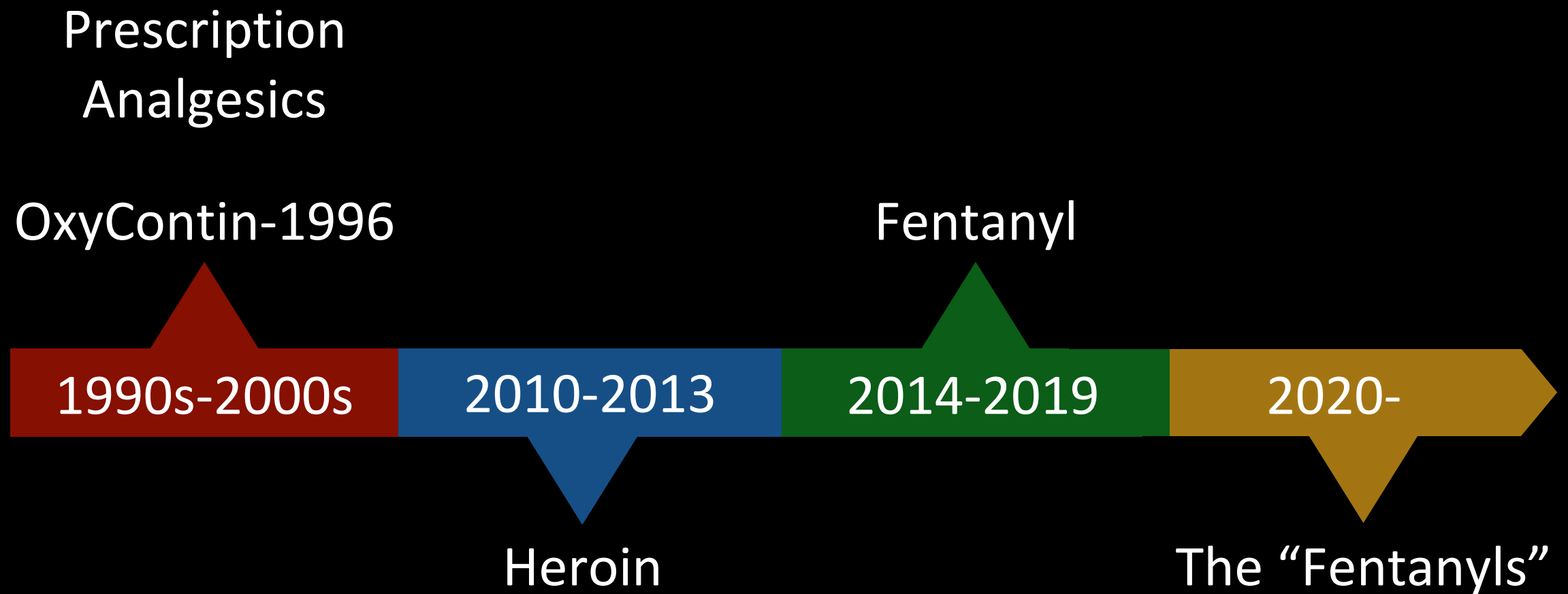
Fentanyl



Heroin

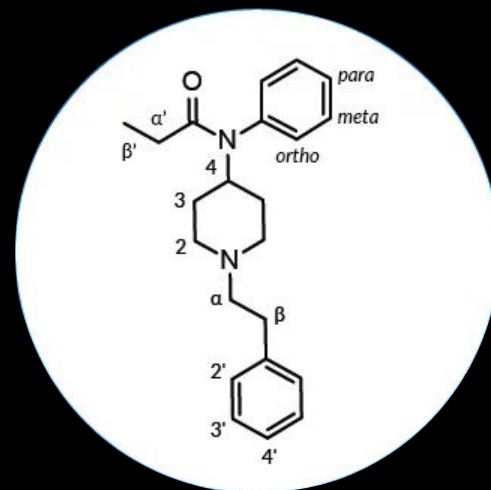
Conceptualizing OUD Care:

OUD in Context



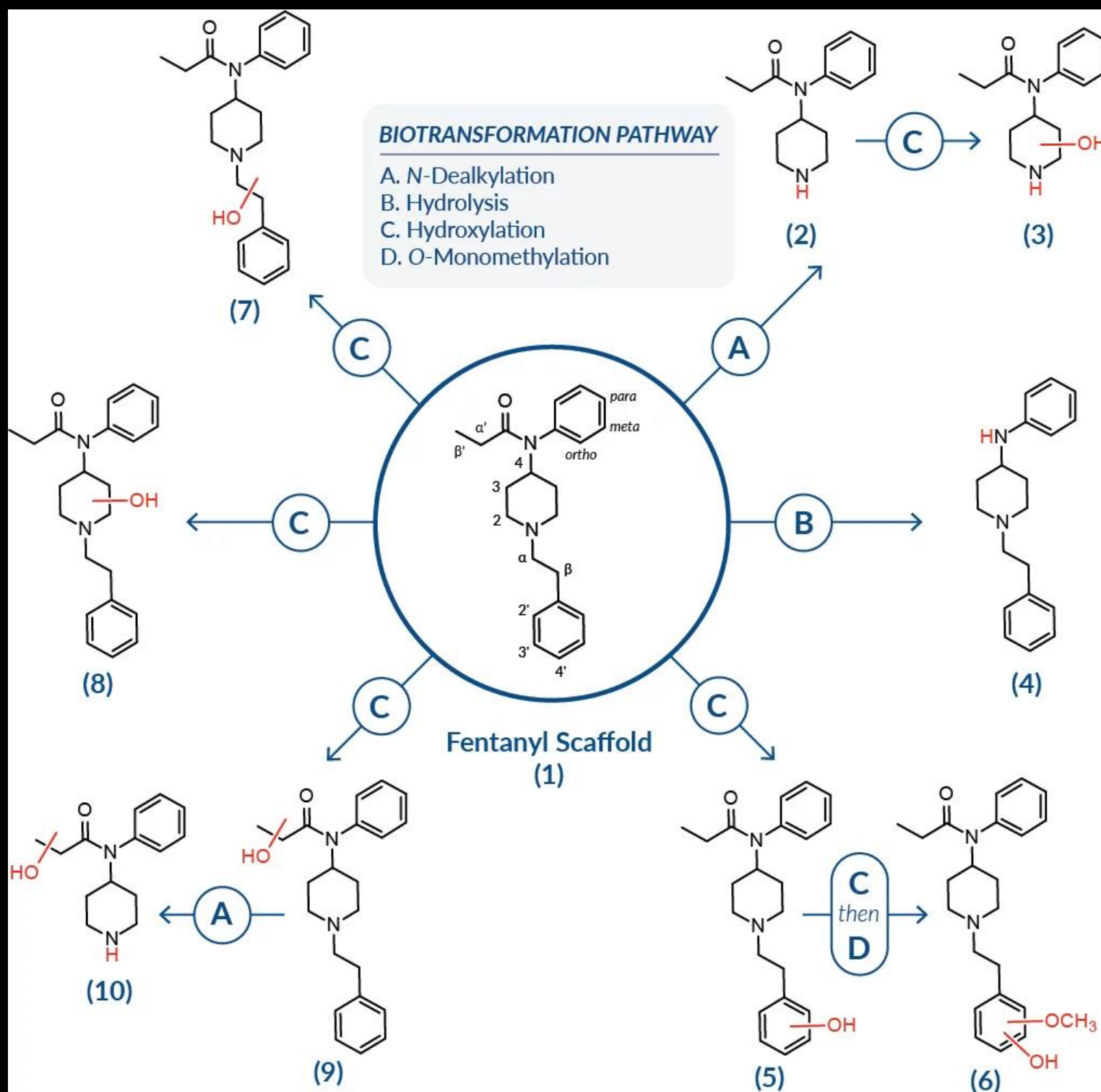
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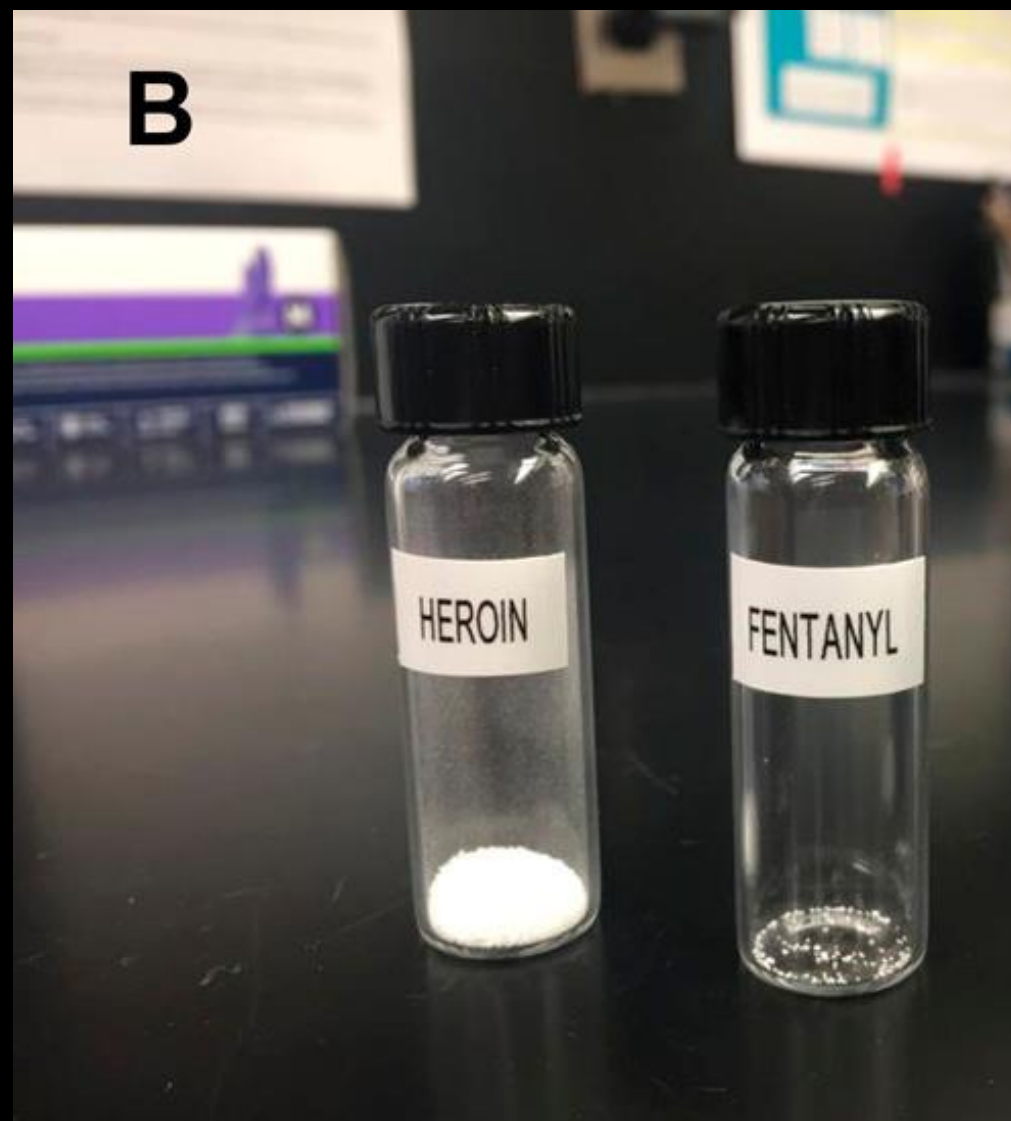


Conceptualizing OUD Care: OUD in Context



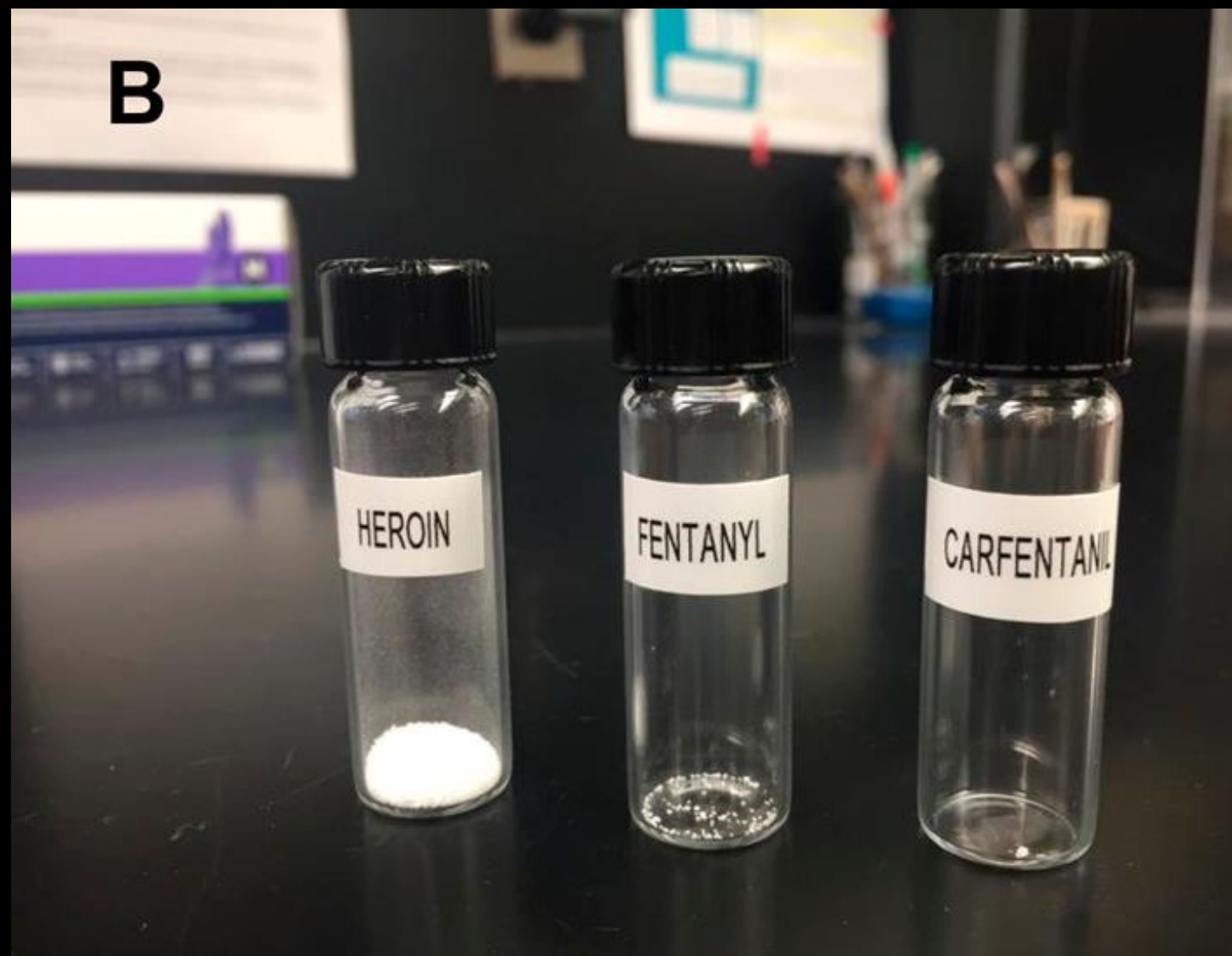
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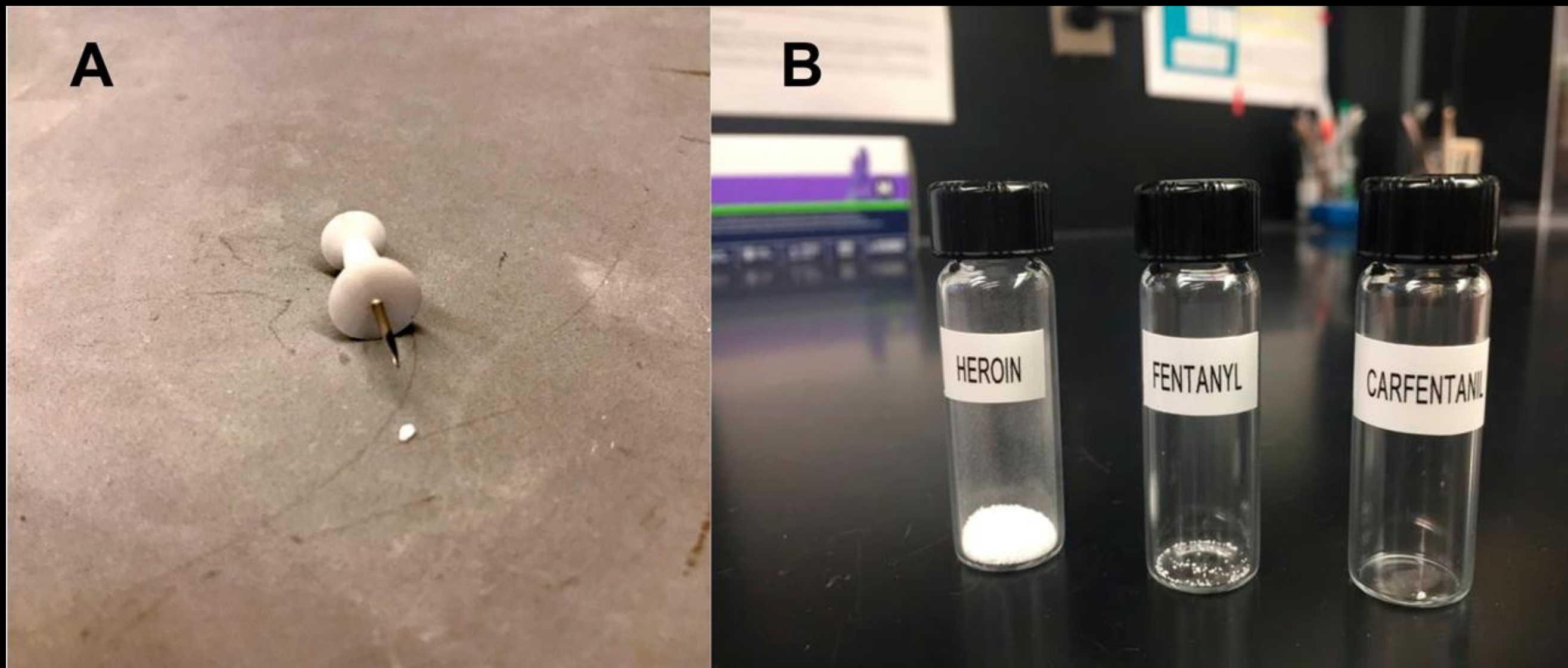


Conceptualizing OUD Care:

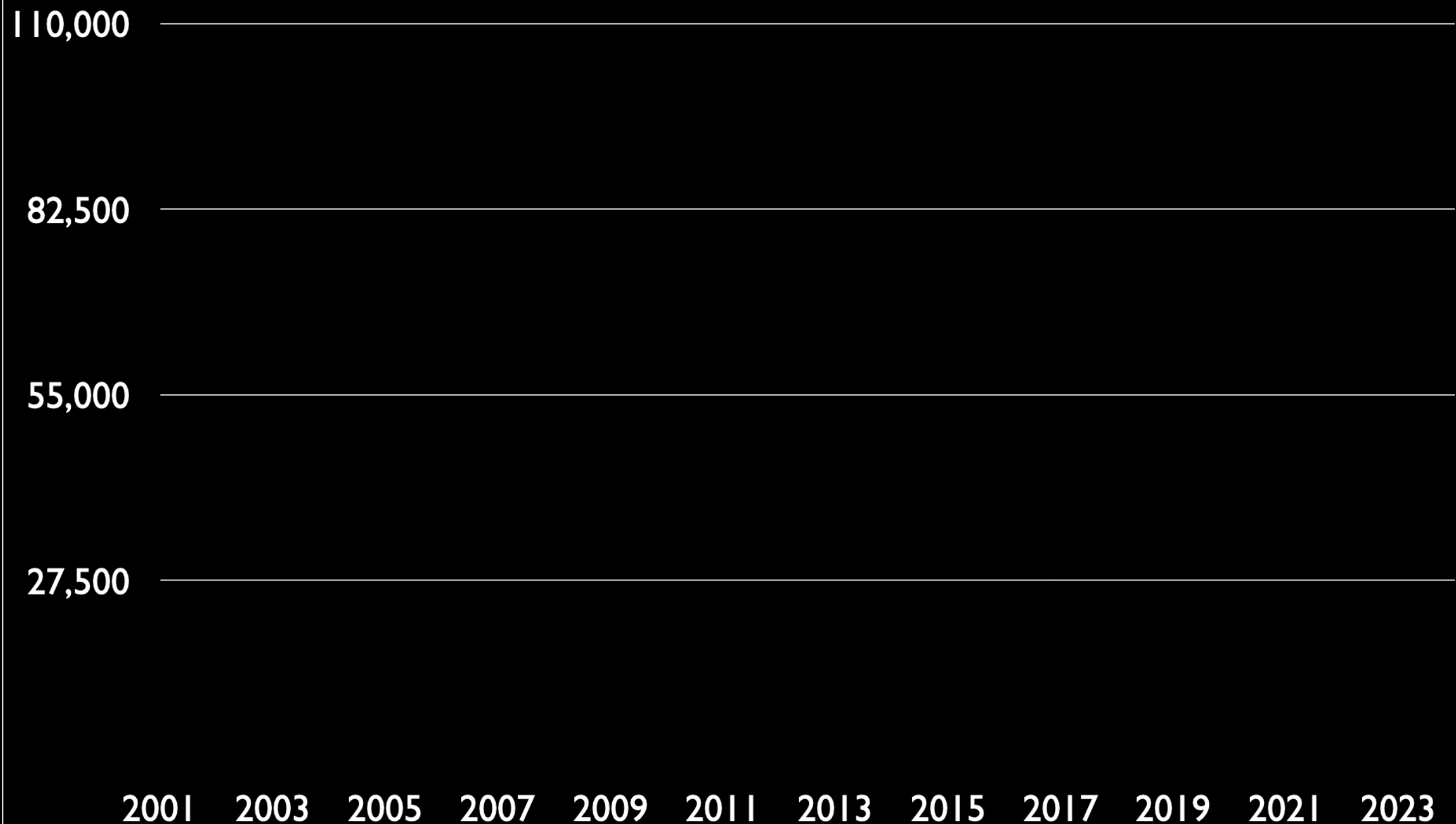
OUD in Context



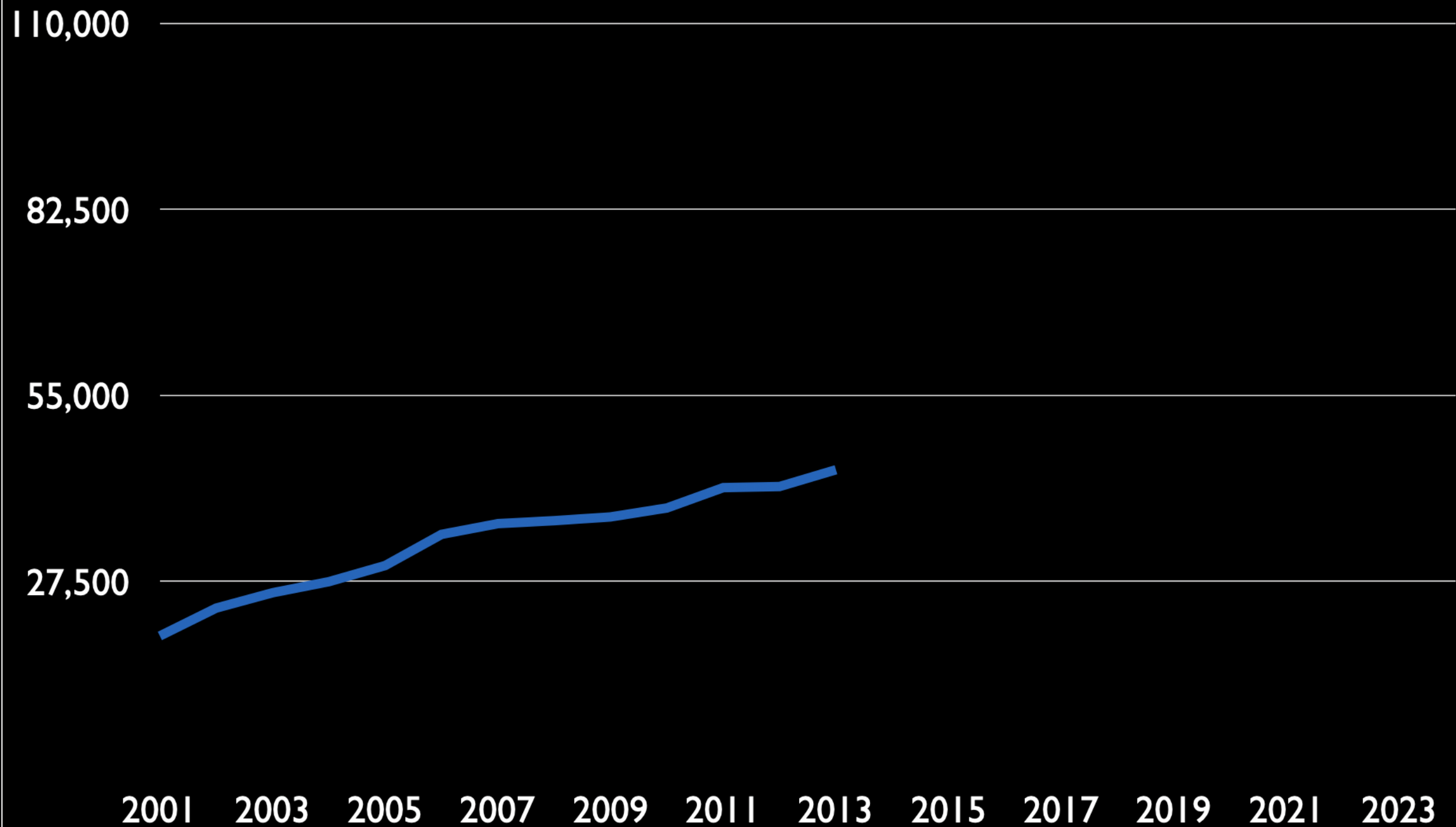
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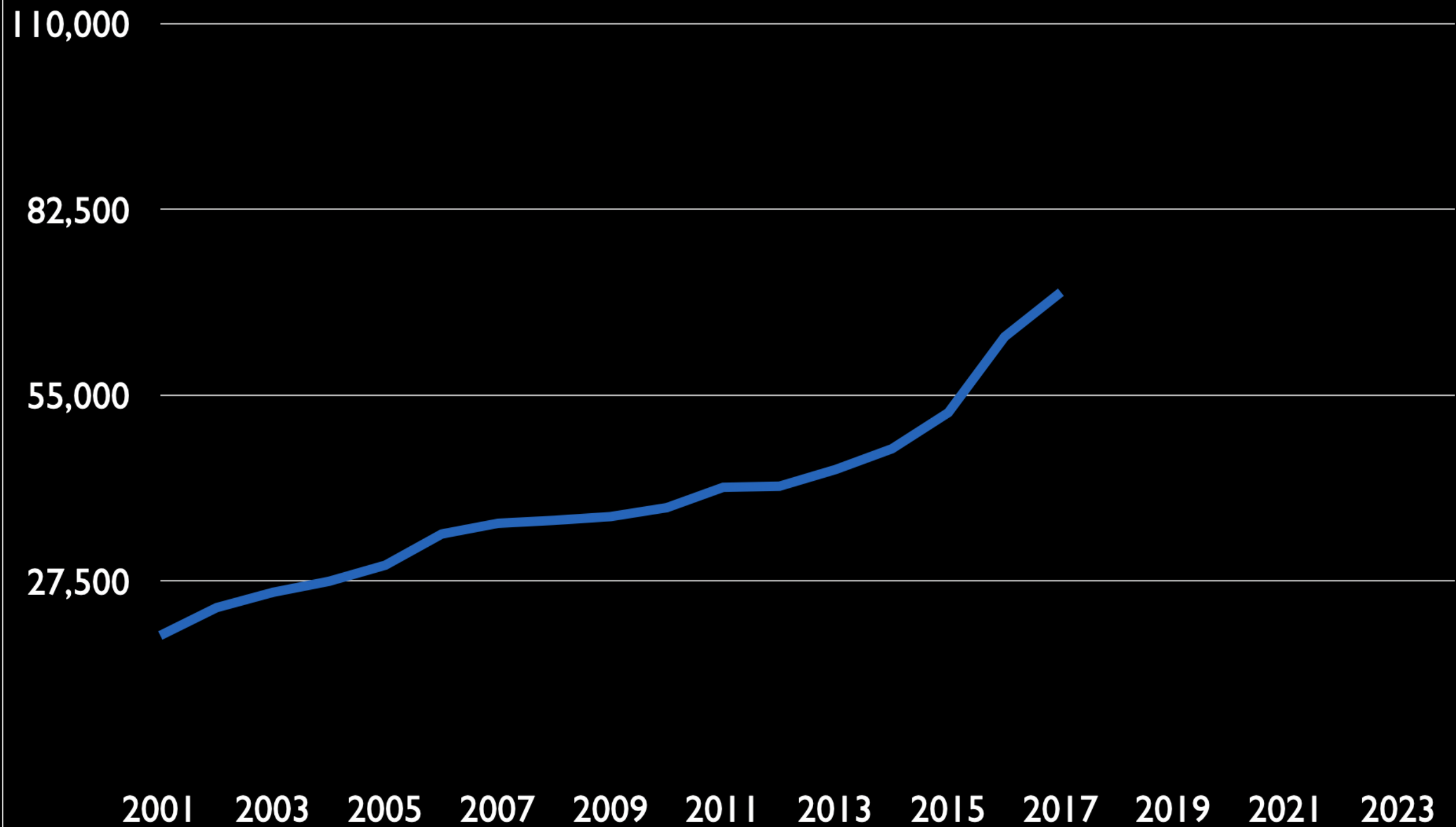
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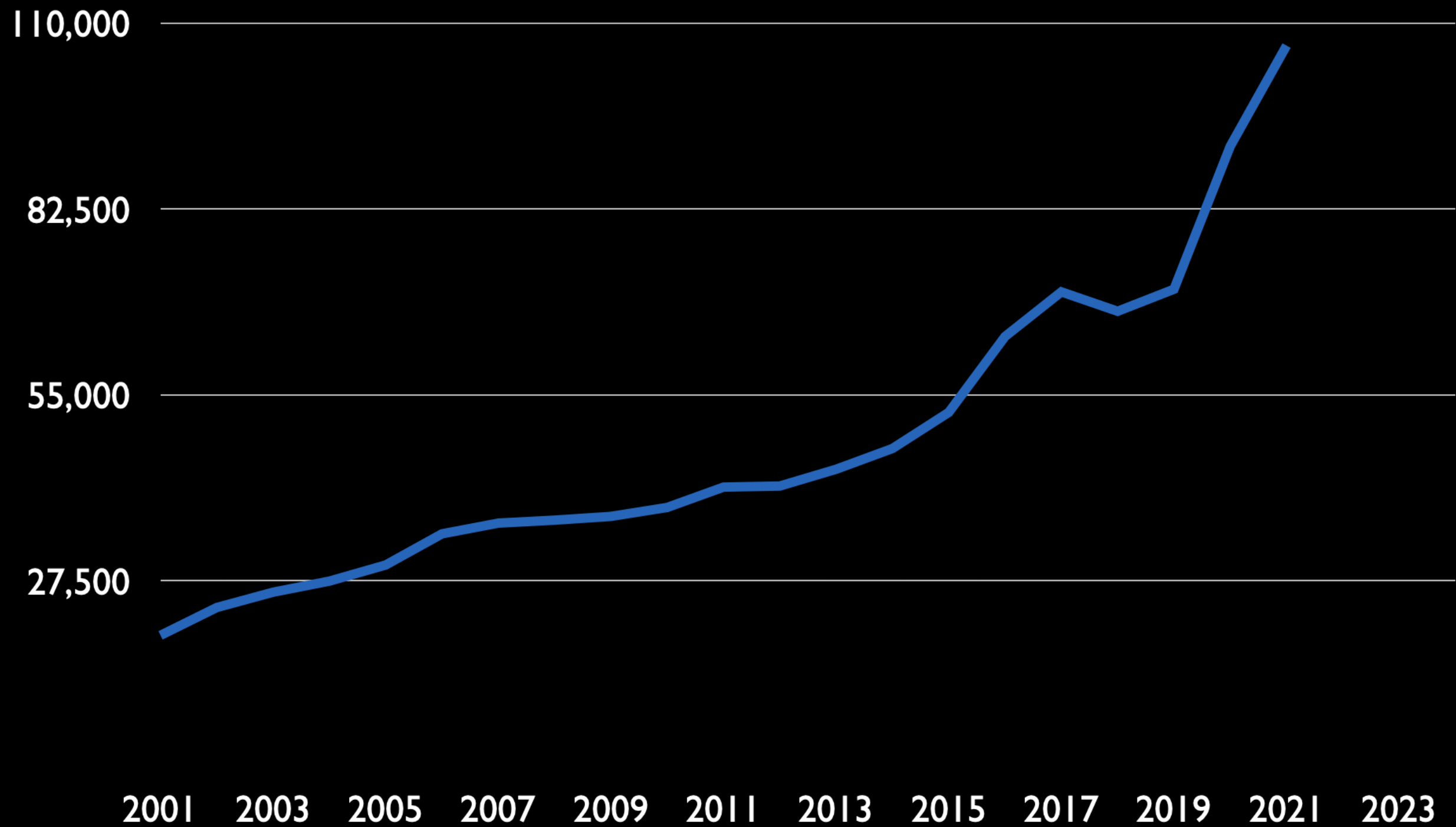
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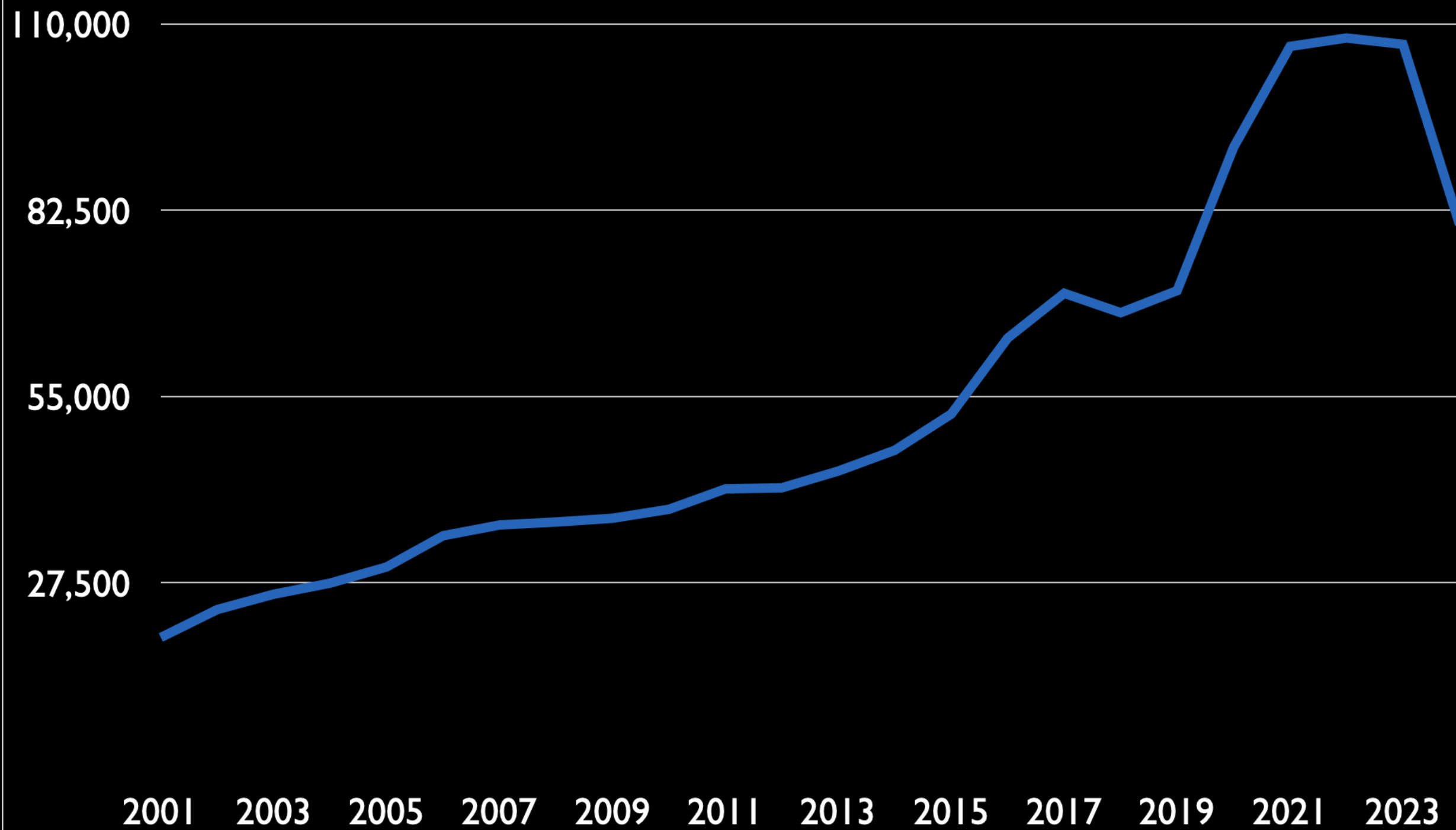
Conceptualizing OUD Care: OUD in Context



Conceptualizing OUD Care: OUD in Context



Conceptualizing OUD Care: OUD in Context



Conceptualizing OUD Care:

OUD in Context

- Naloxone availability
- Harm Reduction
- Buprenorphine and Methadone Treatment

Conceptualizing OUD Care:

OUD in Context

- Naloxone availability
- Harm Reduction

★ Buprenorphine and Methadone Treatment ★

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Medications for OUD: Pharmacology

- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone

Medications for OUD: Pharmacology

mu-Opioid Receptor Activity

- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

mu-Opioid Receptor Activity

- Methadone —————→ Full agonist
- Buprenorphine —————→ Partial agonist
- Naltrexone —————→ Antagonist

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

Mortality in heroin addiction: impact of methadone treatment

Grönbladh L, Öhlund LS, Gunne LM. Mortality in heroin addiction: impact of methadone treatment.
Acta Psychiatr Scand 1990; 82: 223–227.

**L. Grönbladh, L. S. Öhlund,
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Department of Psychiatry, Ulleråker, Uppsala,
Sweden

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Heroin use is associated with increased mortality

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On Methadone

No Methadone

Medications for OUD:

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Heroin use is associated with increased mortality

On Methadone —————> 4-8 times expected mortality

No Methadone

Medications for OUD:

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Heroin use is associated with increased mortality

On Methadone —————> 4-8 times expected mortality

No Methadone —————> 53-55 times expected mortality

Medications for OUD: Pharmacology



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

The New England Journal of Medicine

A COMPARISON OF LEVOMETHADYL ACETATE, BUPRENORPHINE,
AND METHADONE FOR OPIOID DEPENDENCE

Rolley EJ, et al. *NEJM*. 2000;343:1290-1297.



Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

[Intervention Review]

**Buprenorphine maintenance versus placebo or methadone maintenance
for opioid dependence**

Mattick RP, et al. *Cochrane Database System Rev*. 2014(2):CD002207.

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

- Buprenorphine is comparable to methadone
BOTH ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

- Buprenorphine is comparable to methadone

BOTH ARE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE

- Dosing matters!

HIGH DOSE WORKS BETTER THAN LOW

Medications for OUD: Pharmacology

Methadone and Buprenorphine treatment
are associated with many benefits beyond
abstinence and overdose risk

Medications for OUD: Pharmacology

- All-cause mortality
- Suicide
- Cancer
- Drug related death
- Alcohol related death
- Hep C Infection

Evans EA, et al. *Addiction*. 2019. 114(8):1396-1404.

Fairley M, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2021;78(7):767-777

Santo T, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2021;78(9):979-993

Dolan KA, et al. *Addiction*. 2005. 100:820-828.

Ponizovsky AM & Grinshpoon A. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2007;33(5):631-42

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

- All-cause mortality
- Suicide
- Cancer
- Drug related death
- Alcohol related death
- Hep C Infection
- Criminal Activity
- Incarceration
- Re-incarceration
- Health Care Costs
- Quality of Life

Evans EA, et al. *Addiction*. 2019. 114(8):1396-1404.

Fairley M, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2021;78(7):767-777

Santo T, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2021;78(9):979-993

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Ponizovsky AM & Grinshpoon A. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2007;33(5):631-42

Medications for OUD: Pharmacology

What about naltrexone?

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

Comparative effectiveness of extended-release naltrexone versus buprenorphine-naloxone for opioid relapse prevention (X:BOT): a multicentre, open-label, randomised controlled trial



Lee JD, et al. *Lancet*. 2018;391(10118):309-318.

JAMA Psychiatry | **Original Investigation**

Effectiveness of Injectable Extended-Release Naltrexone vs Daily Buprenorphine-Naloxone for Opioid Dependence
A Randomized Clinical Noninferiority Trial

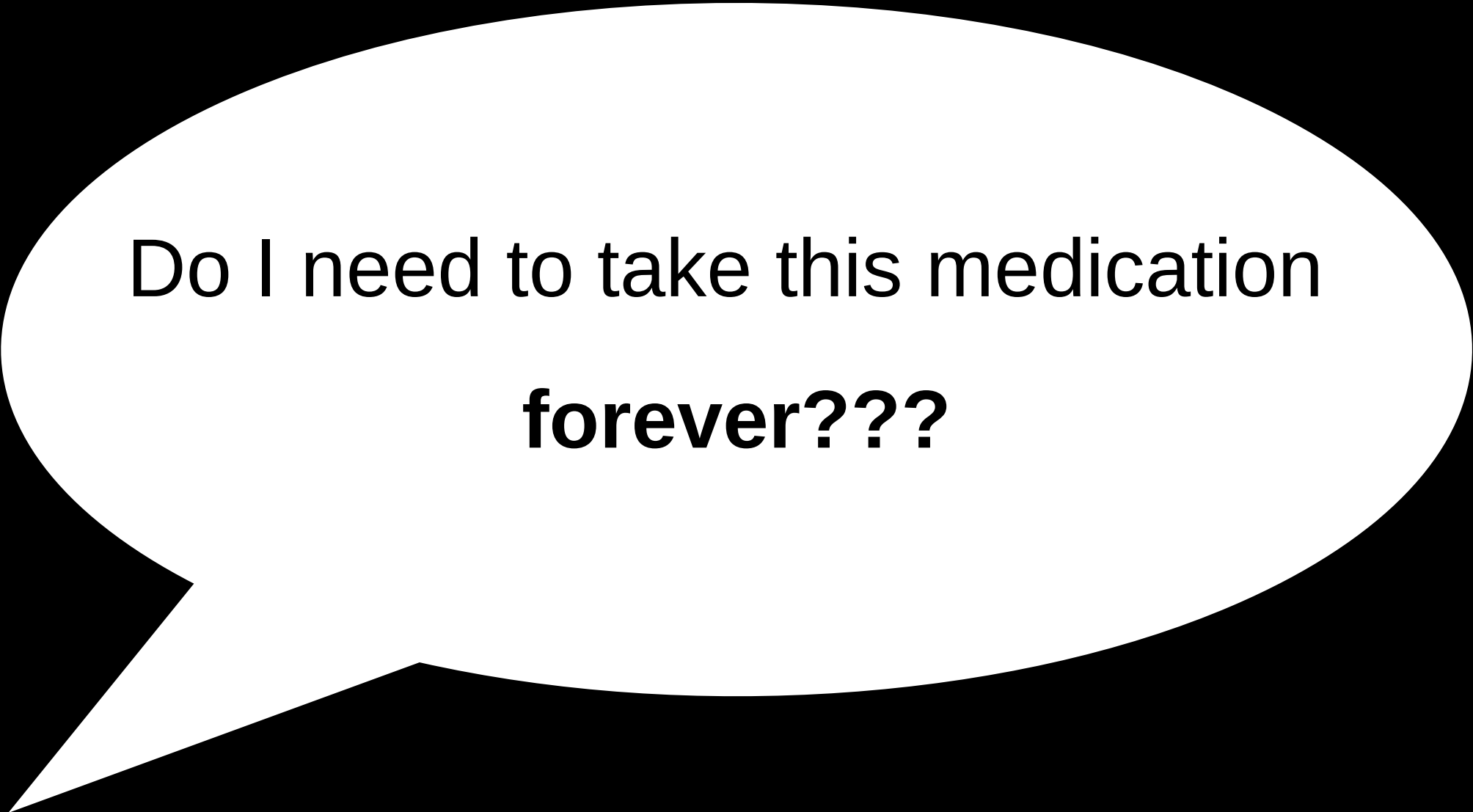
Tanum L, et al, *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2017;74(12):1197-1205.

Medications for OUD:

Pharmacology

- Injectable Naltrexone is more challenging to start than buprenorphine
- Once started, comparable efficacy in maintaining abstinence

Medications for OUD: Common Questions



Do I need to take this medication
forever???

Medications for OUD: Common Questions

- Little evidence when to stop MOUD

Medications for OUD:

Common Questions

- Little evidence when to stop MOUD
- Lower mortality when treatment is >1yr for methadone¹ and buprenorphine²

1- Huang CL et al. *Psychol Med*. 2023; 53(3): 722-730

2- Glanz JM et al. *Addiction*. 2022; 118(1): 97-107

Medications for OUD:

Common Questions

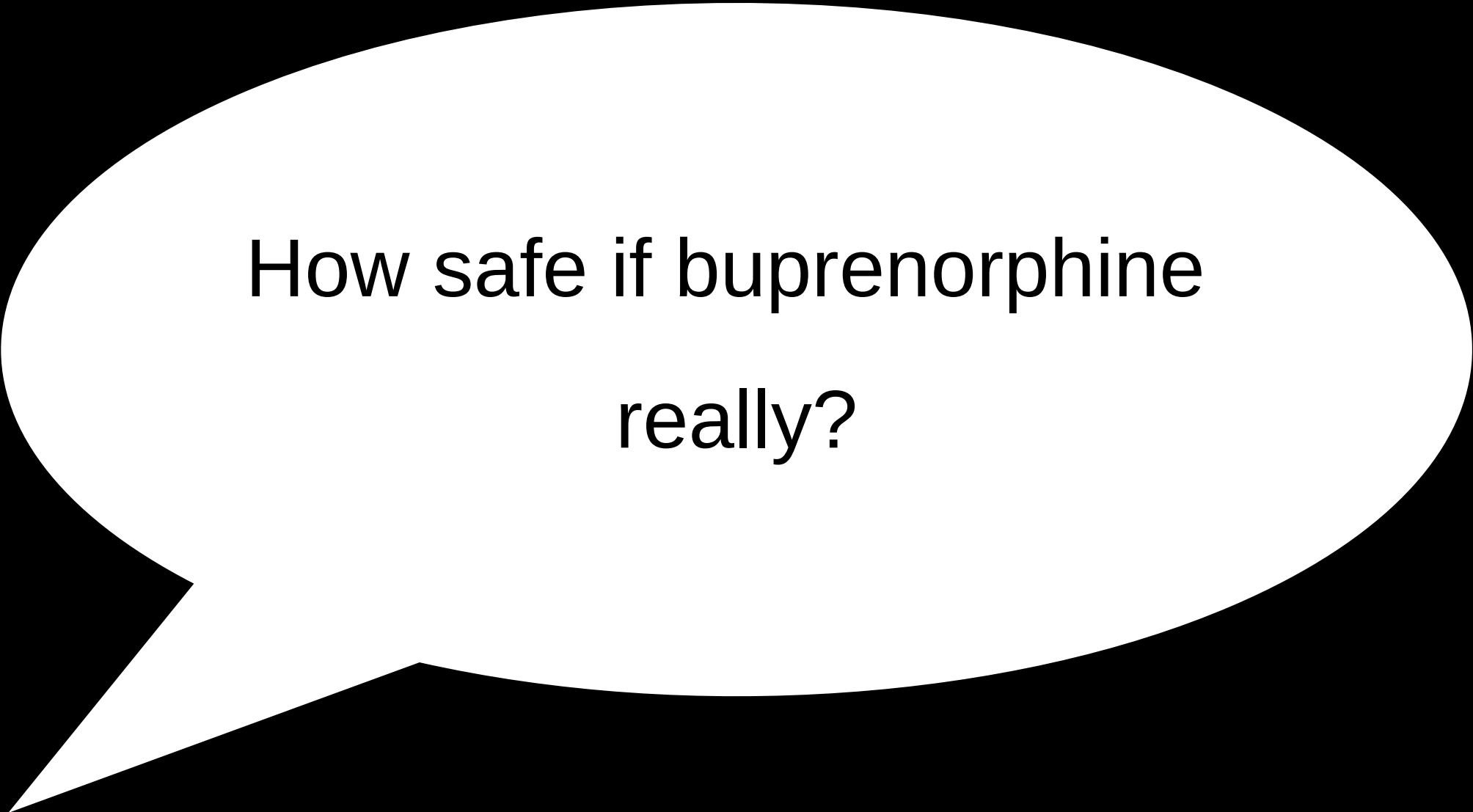
- Little evidence when to stop MOUD
- Lower mortality when treatment is >1yr for methadone¹ and buprenorphine²
- Longer methadone treatment associated with lower mortality³

1- Huang CL et al. *Psychol Med*. 2023; 53(3): 722-730

2- Glanz JM et al. *Addiction*. 2022; 118(1): 97-107

3- Skeie J et al. *Eur Addict Res*. 2022; 28(5): 358-367

Medications for OUD: Common Questions



How safe is buprenorphine
really?

Medications for OUD:

Common Questions

- Buprenorphine overdose is very rare

Medications for OUD:

Common Questions

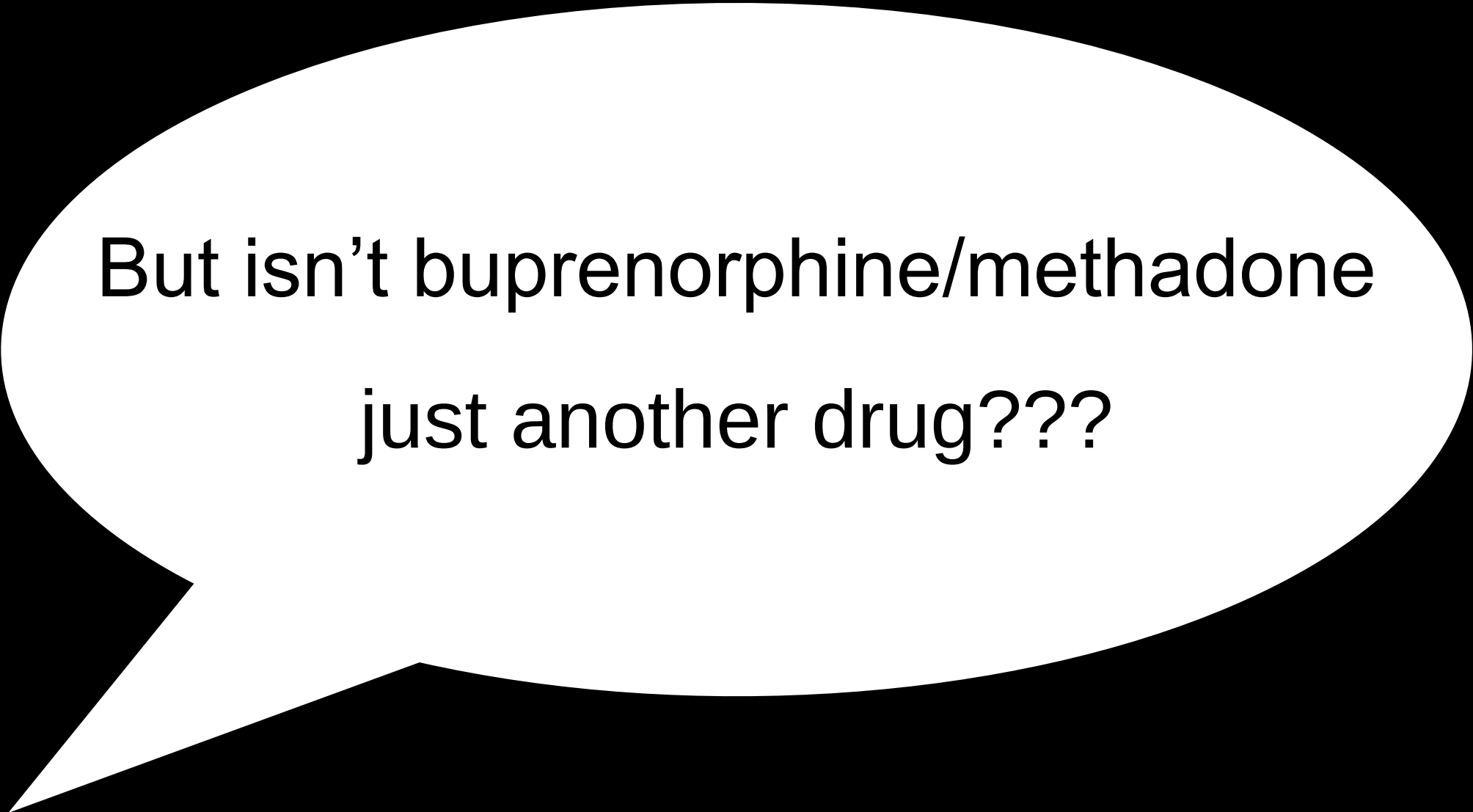
- Buprenorphine overdose is very rare
- No special prescribing requirements

Medications for OUD:

Common Questions

- Buprenorphine overdose is very rare
- No special prescribing requirements
- Most diverted buprenorphine is used to treat OUD¹

Medications for OUD: Common Questions



But isn't buprenorphine/methadone
just another drug???

Medications for OUD: Common Questions

- Consistency (i.e. “fentanyls”)

Medications for OUD: Common Questions

- Consistency (i.e. “fentanyls”)
- Mortality goes down, treatment engagement goes up

Medications for OUD: Common Questions

- Consistency (i.e. “fentanyls”)
- Mortality goes down, treatment engagement goes up
- Quality of Life (crime, employment, relationships)

Conclusion

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- Opioid Use Disorder is associated with high mortality

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- The illicit opioid supply is increasingly unpredictable and dangerous

Conclusion

- Opioid Use Disorder is associated with high mortality
- The illicit opioid supply is increasingly unpredictable and dangerous
- MOUD treatment is safe and associated with lower mortality, less drug use, and many positive outcomes

Thank you!