ORAL HEALTH IN ADDICTION

• The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** notes that, in 2014, **10.2 percent of Americans**, ages 12 and older, reported some type of illicit substance abuse in the past month.

• Many people think drug abuse only damages the **lungs, stomach, heart, or brain**.

• Many types of drugs damage the **teeth and gums**.

• People who struggle with addiction often neglect oral hygiene because they **cannot afford** a dentist or they simply **stop caring** about brushing their teeth.
DRUGS THAT AFFECT ORAL HEALTH

- Alcohol
- Cocaine
- Amphetamines
- Opioids and Opiates
- Marijuana
- Tobacco

Over the counter medications:
  - Antihistamines & Aspirin
WHAT DRUGS DO TO YOUR TEETH
THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THAT EACH DRUG CAN, INDIVIDUALLY, DAMAGE ORAL HEALTH.

- Dry mouth, which increases acid in the mouth and leads to rotting enamel
- Acid reflux, which also rots enamel and hurts soft tissue
- Grinding teeth
- Loss of blood flow to roots and gums
- Ulcers or sores in the mouth that can become infected
- A focus on attaining more drugs instead of caring for oral hygiene
- Nutritional deficiencies that can damage teeth and gums
- Greater intake of high-sugar food or beverages, which rots teeth
DRY MOUTH, WHICH INCREASES ACID IN THE MOUTH AND LEADS TO ROTTING ENAMEL
• Opioid/opiate, methamphetamine, & cocaine/crack treatment admissions increased by **28%** from 2016 to 2017.

• In 2017, NH was number 3 in the U.S. in per capita Opioid Deaths w/ **483**.
ORAL HEALTH IN NORTHERN NH

• In 2014, Coös County had the highest rate of tooth decay among third graders, with over half (56 percent) showing evidence of either treated or untreated tooth decay.

• Rates of untreated decay were below 10 percent in all of the remaining counties except Grafton (11.7 percent).
BARRIERS

• Barriers
  • Numbers of Providers
  • Insurance Coverage
    • Medicaid
    • Affording Dental
  • Transportation

NH Dental Health Professional Shortage Area
THE GOAL!
WHAT CAN WE DO?

• Educate Patients
  • How substance abuse affects oral health
  • How oral health affects overall health
  • How to prevent poor oral health
  • How to access care
    • Medicaid
    • SFS
• Provide Treatment
  • SUD
  • Dental
WHAT ACHS DOES FOR PERSONS WITH SUDs

- Provide SUD services
  - Education
  - Behavioral Health Counseling (Bothe SUD and Mental Health)
  - Case Management
  - Medication Assisted Treatment
- Primary Care
- Dental
- Vision
- Referrals to external agencies for:
  - Sober Living
  - Employment
  - Recovery Support Services
QUESTIONS?