

Training in Public Health Policy in the USA and California

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Health as Social Justice

Equity, disparities and human rights



Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Major health policy issues facing the USA and in the State of California

Public health:

Gun violence

vaping,

opioids,

Disasters

Social problems with public health implications

Immigration

Homelessness

Health reform: access and costs and quality

Repeal and replace of ACA (Affordable Care Act)

Presidential campaign, single payer

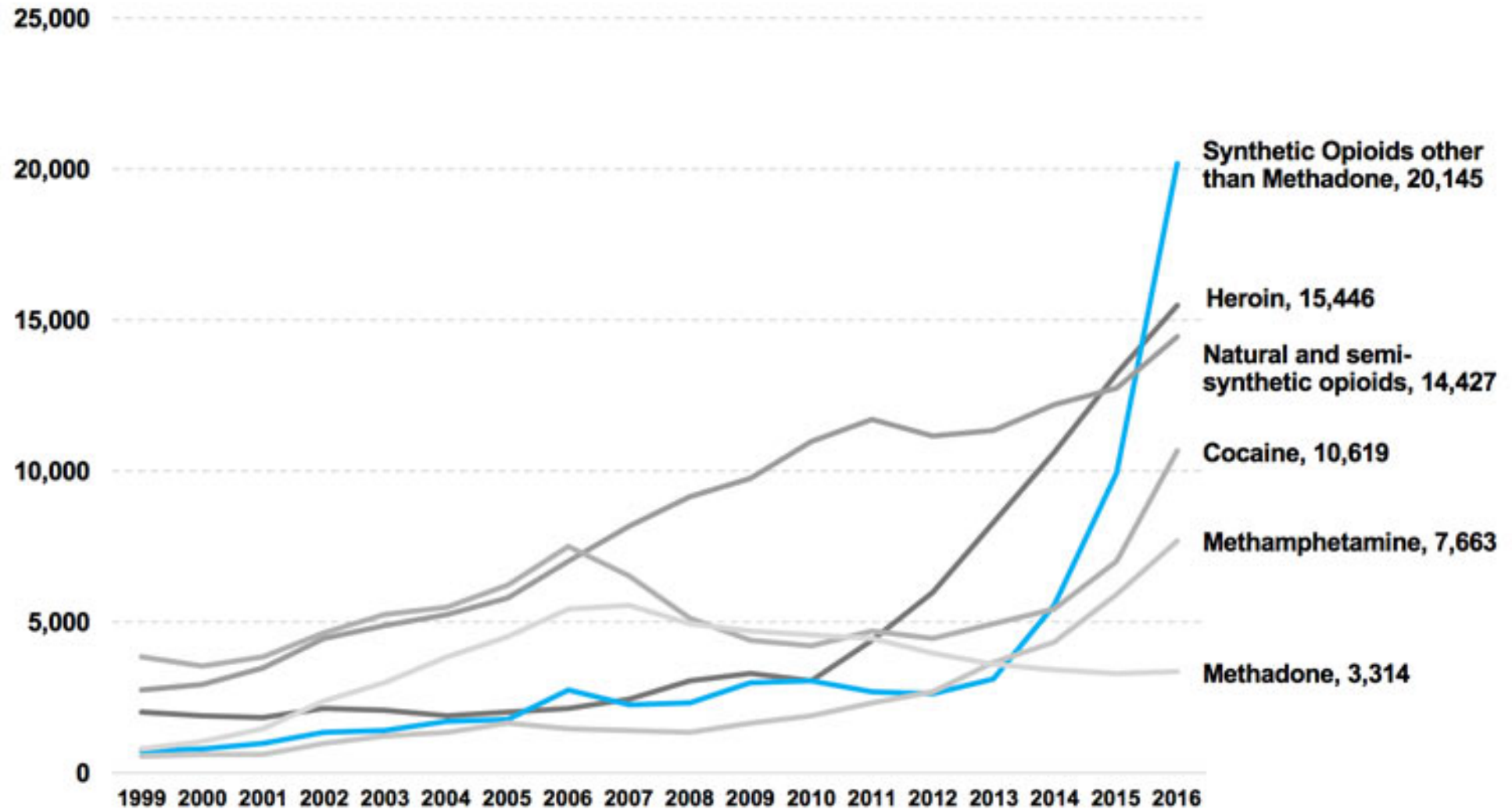
Firearm Violence in USA

- There are an estimated 120.5 civilian firearms per 100 persons in the US
- In the past year, 36,000 died in the US due to gun violence
- There were 340 mass shootings in the past year
- Over 75% of first and second graders know where their parents keep firearms and 36% admitted to handling the weapons
- 43% of households in the US own one or more firearms
- States with stricter gun control laws witness fewer gun-related deaths
- Over 80% of guns used by youth in suicide attempts are kept in the home of the victim, friend or relative

Health Care Reform

- **Significant decline in the nation's uninsured, although was recent uptick (2018) resulting from The ACA**
- **New efforts to contain costs and move from a volume to value based health system**
- **Challenges and opportunities of Information technology**
- **Addressing the SDH in the health care field**
- **Problems of substance abuse disorders and mental health**

Drugs Involved in U.S. Overdose Deaths, 2000 to 2016



The role of public health education in influencing policy

Policy development , a pillar of public health practice
(IOM, 1988)

CEEF credentialing requirements

Developing skills in evidence-based policy analysis

Advocacy and communication

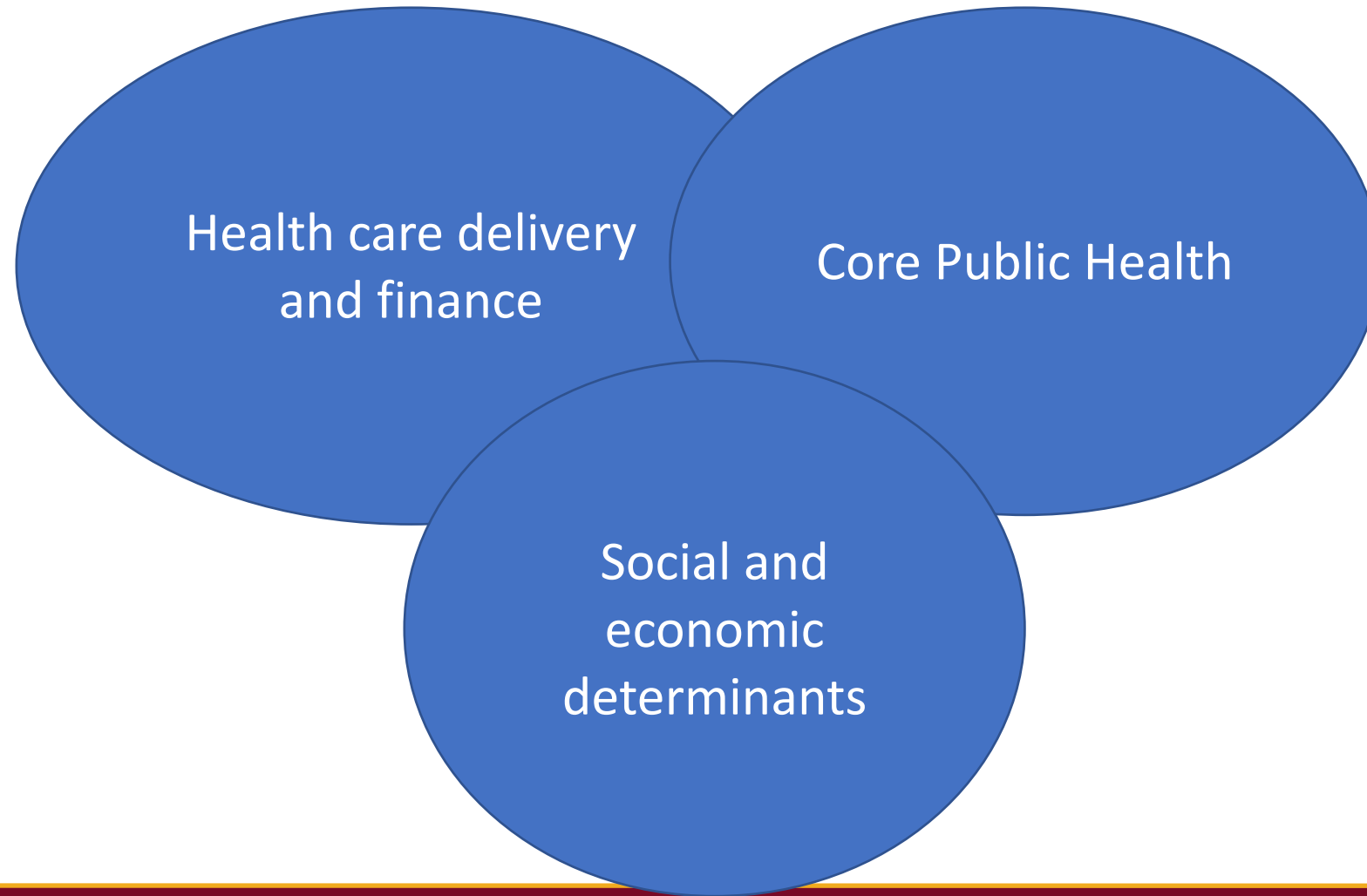
Focusing on the social determinants of health

Human rights and ethics

Skills in the legislative process

Regulatory science

Public Health Policy Foundations



USC approach

- Addressing the underlying causes of disparities, racism, the built environment, access to care
- Structure
 - Foundations in Public Health Class, all students
 - Concentration in public health policy and services
 - Course work, economics, public health advocacy, policy analysis
 - Practicum
 - Employment
- Future directions, addressing policies affecting the social determinants of health

Addressing equity and racism in our own backyard



Field trip to Sacramento to learn about legislation and policy



Environmental Justice



Questions

- How do we approach policy education using global health paradigm rather than domestic (issue, migration trade, climate change etc.) ?
- How do we incorporate other disciplines (economics and political science) ?
- How do we Focus on health reform and universal coverage while also addressing the social determinants of health and the broader public health?