

# New Curriculum to Advance Nurse Education in Addictions

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## Background

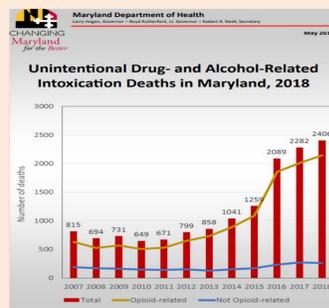
### US:

- 20 million people with substance use disorders (SUDs) <sup>1</sup>
- Morbidity and mortality among consequences
- Opioid epidemic worsened during pandemic
  - **Worst year ever drug overdose deaths: 81,000** as of May, 2020 <sup>2</sup>

### Maryland:

- Top 4 in the nation for overdose deaths, 2019 <sup>3</sup>

- Increasing unintentional opioid deaths, steady alcohol-related deaths <sup>4</sup>



- Rate of opioid ED visits in MD outpacing the US average for a decade <sup>5</sup>

### Gaps in education:

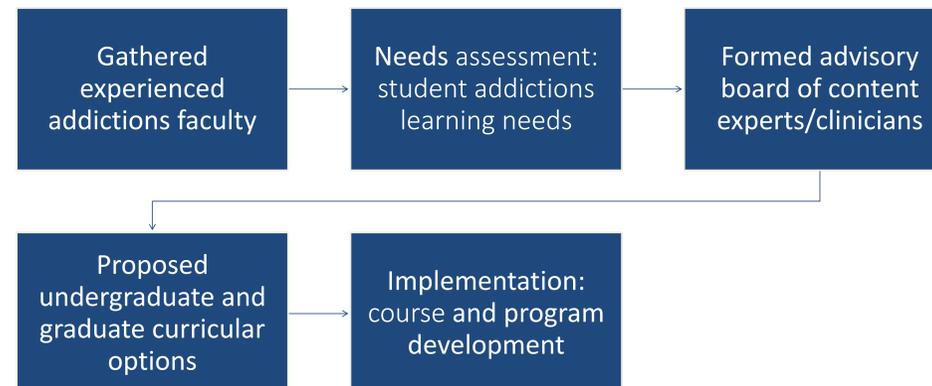
- Lack of knowledge is a major barrier to providing quality care to persons with SUDs <sup>6, 7</sup>
- Few schools educate nurses to identify, prevent, and treat SUDs <sup>8, 9</sup>

## Objectives

### Describe...

- Urgent need for innovative approaches to address the opioid epidemic, other substance use and disorders
- Process of advancing addictions nursing curriculum
- New addictions nursing curriculum for different educational levels that address unmet care needs

## Methods



## Conclusions

### This addictions nursing curriculum...

- Prepares nurses to provide care across settings for individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use and addictions
- Prepares addictions nursing specialists
- Strengthens the nursing workforce

### Future directions:

- Complete course development and rollout
- Evaluate courses and programs
- Continuous quality improvement

## Results

### Student addictions learning needs survey:

- Important to be educated about addictions (96%)
- Want an addictions nurse specialist in practice setting (96%)
- Interested in an addictions course (80%), focus area (71% BSNs, 94% RN-BSNs), certificate program (61%)
- Student-identified learning needs:

*Addictions Resources*  
*Dealing with intoxication and withdrawal*  
*Effects of "street" drugs*  
*Prevention, identifying risk factor*  
*Communication about addictions*  
*Encouraging patients*  
*Supporting treatment and recovery*

### Undergraduate RN-BSN Focus Area:

- Assembled and adapted existing courses:
  - 1) Addictions foundations
  - 2) Motivational interviewing
  - 3) Public/community health nursing
- Earns transcript badge: "addictions nursing focus area"
- 15 students interested

### Post-Baccalaureate Certificate: 4 new courses:

- 1) Addictions Nursing I: Foundations
  - Fall 2020 first time offered; 5 students enrolled
  - Course evaluations 4.9/5.0: objectives, content, teaching strategies
  - Student feedback: *fantastic course*
  - Spring 2021, 10 students enrolled
- 2) Motivational Interviewing
  - Spring, 2021 first time offered; 15 students enrolled
  - Student feedback: *confident encouraging clients and connecting with patients practice sessions helped develop MI skills benefits all nurses, not just specializing in addictions*
- 3) Addictions Nursing II: Special Topics, Fall 2021
- 4) Addictions Nursing III: Clinical Aspects (didactic + 90 hours clinical), Spring 2022

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