

Safe Injection Sites: (SIS) as an Economically Progressive Measure to Address the Opioid Epidemic: A Systematic Review of Literature

AUTHORS

Taneé Deans, Stephany Aguiar,
 Julissa Fonseca-Medina, Miriam Rodriguez, PhD

INTRO

- The proliferation of illicit drugs has increased concerns for public health and safety. Rates of accidental overdose have reached catastrophic levels. Roughly 75% of reported overdoses involve the use of opioids. Safe Injection Sites (SIS) were instituted to combat these reported concerns (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2021).

METHODS

Databases

- PsycARTICLES, PsychINFO, EBSCOHost, ScienceDirect, ProQuest.

Keywords

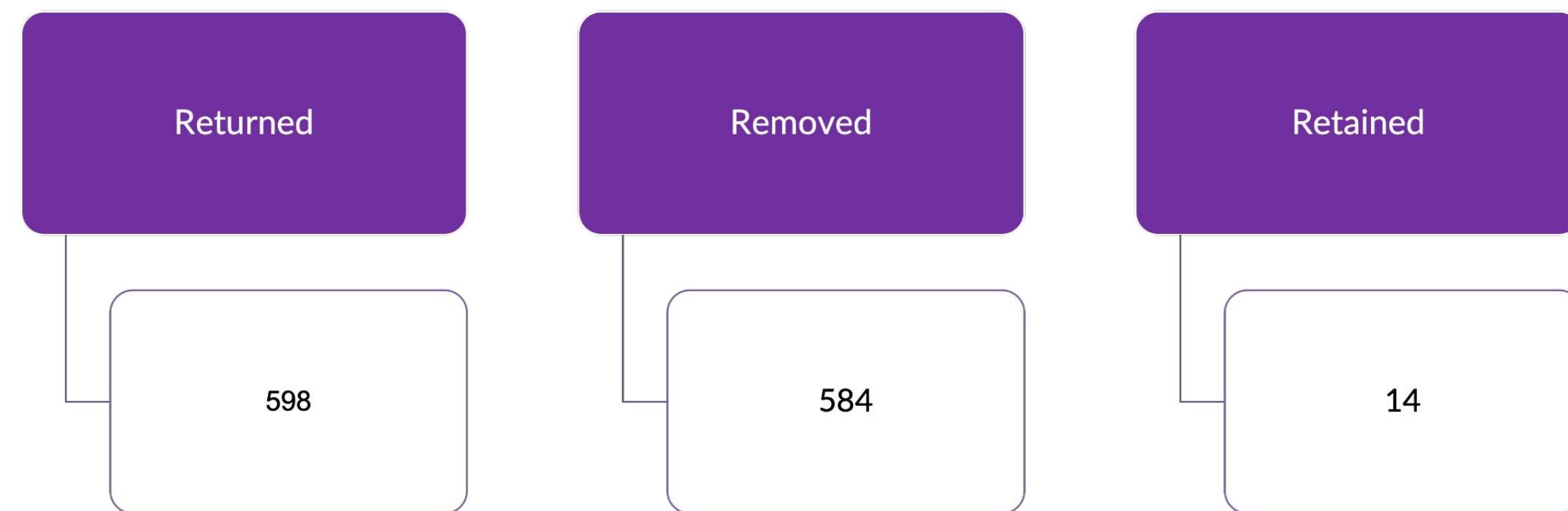
- Injection drug use, safe injection sites, opioid epidemic, environmental factors, disease transmission

Inclusion Criteria

- Articles published after 2012
- Articles on safe injection sites and its affect on the opioid epidemic

Exclusion Criteria

- Articles not written in English
- Articles not peer-reviewed



RESULTS

- The findings suggest SIS have improved social and environmental implications exacerbated by the opioid epidemic.
 - Reduced financial strain in the healthcare industry
 - Improvements in public health and safety
 - Increased environmental quality
 - Uptick in substance use treatment services

CONCLUSION

- Positive community outcomes have been associated to SIS and its development.
- Further consideration should be given to the lawful sanctioning of safe injection sites across all 50 states

FUTURE DIRECTION

- Examining more diverse sample sizes
- Increasing public awareness and legislative support for SIS throughout the U.S.

Safe Injection Sites: (SIS) benefit both drug and non-drug users.



Fig. 1 Process of preparation and injection of hydromorphone controlled-release capsule for injection drug use. Storage of the used cooker and filter for use of residual hydromorphone is almost very commonly performed and leads to bacterial contamination [12, 14]. Heating the cooker with a cigarette lighter prior to use reduces bacterial burden [12]

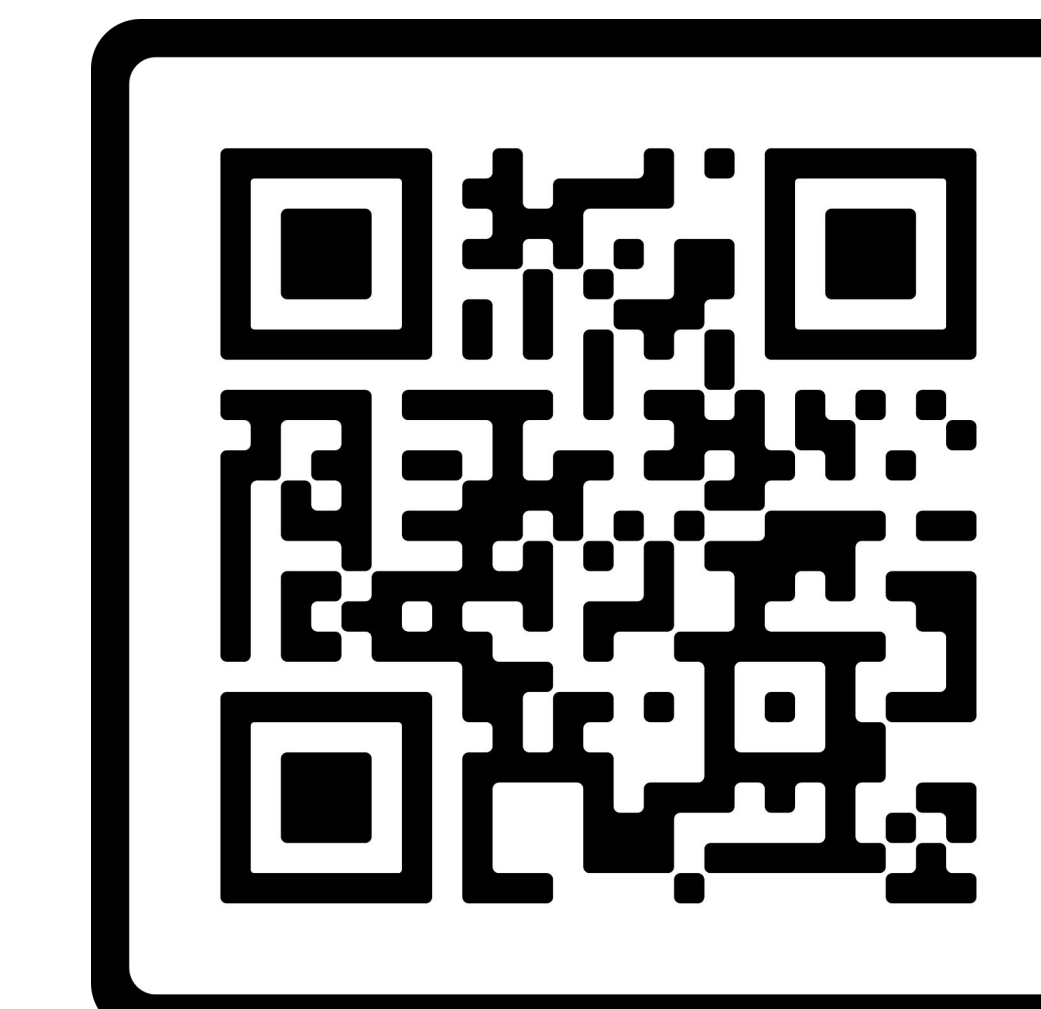
Table 8. Summary of Sensitivity Analysis Impact on Overall Results.

Result	Cost-benefit ratio			Net savings (US\$ million)		
	Base case	Low case	High case	Base case	Low case	High case
Total cost	2.33	1.56	4.67	3.5	2.2	4.8
HCV savings	2.33	1.86	2.73	3.5	2.3	4.5
HIV savings	2.33	1.86	2.73	3.5	2.3	4.5
SSTI savings	2.33	2.02	2.65	3.5	2.7	4.3
Overdose deaths	2.33	2.28	2.39	3.5	3.4	3.6
MAT savings	2.33	2.04	2.63	3.5	2.7	4.3

Note. HCV = hepatitis C virus; SSTI = skin and soft tissue infection; MAT = medication-assisted treatment.

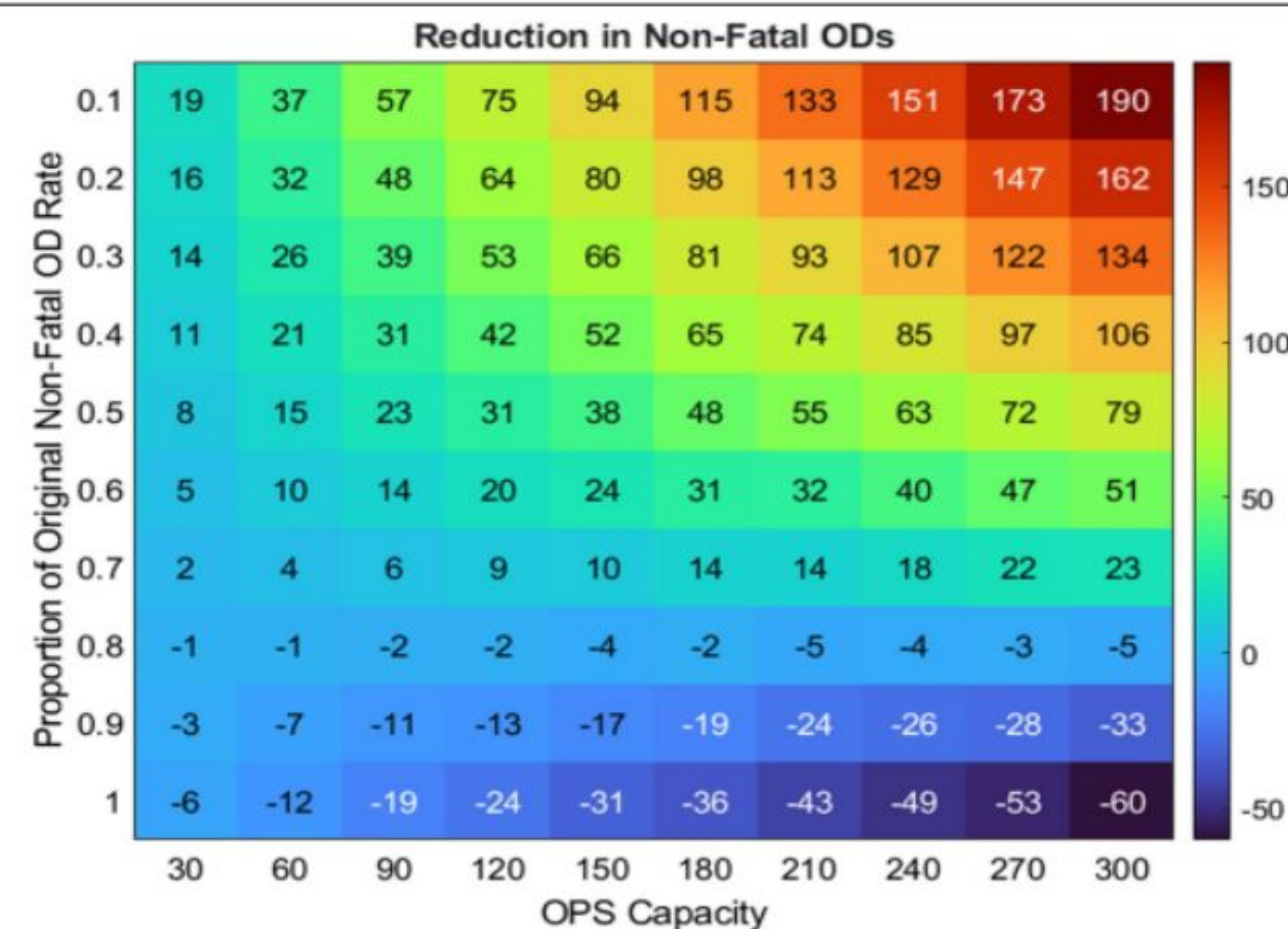
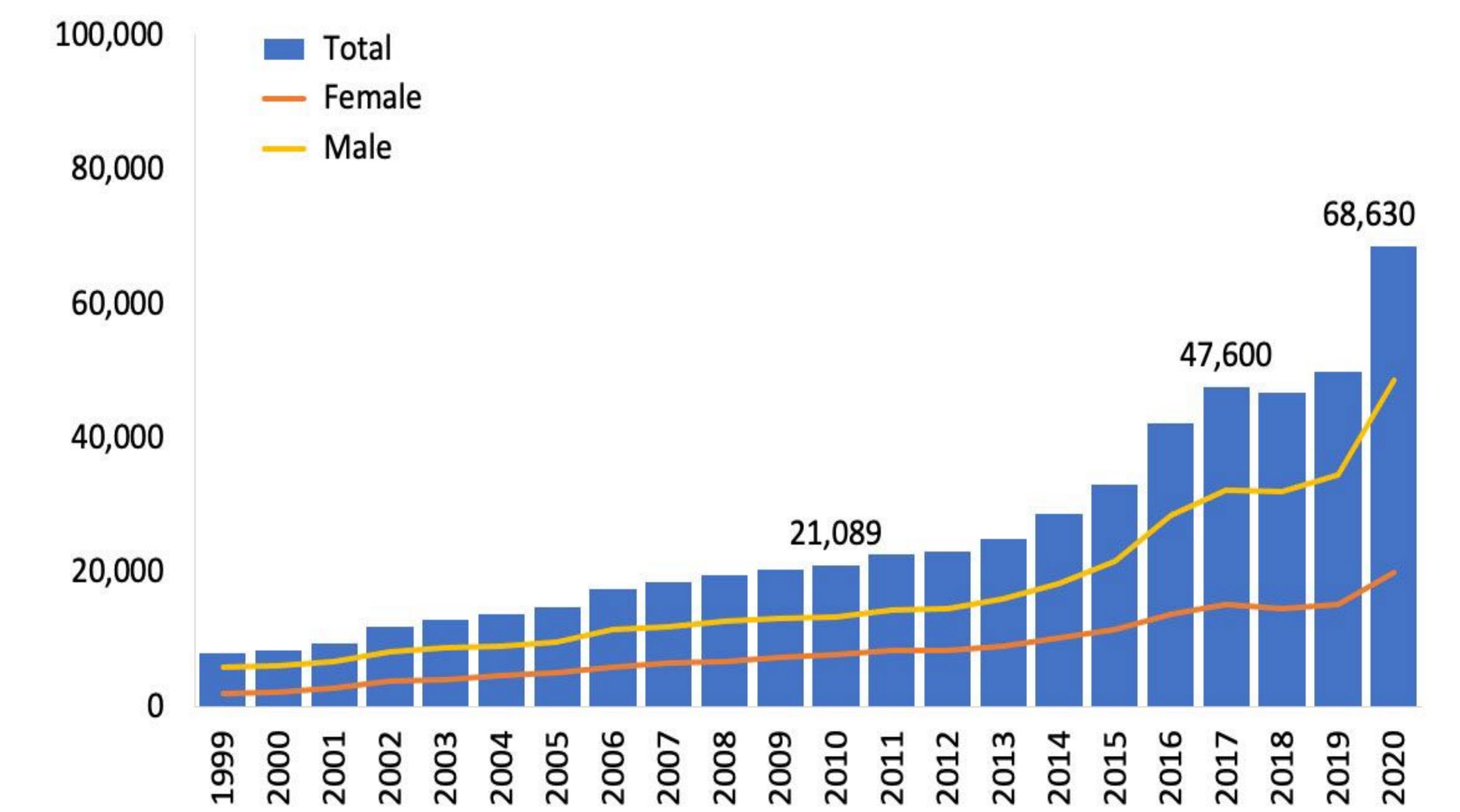
DISCUSSION

- Can Safe Injection Sites suppress inject drug users' desire to seek drug treatment?
- Are the internationally reported benefits of Safe Injection Site programs enough for lawful consideration in the U.S.?



SCAN ME

Figure 3. National Overdose Deaths Involving Any Opioid, Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2020



PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATE IN A SIS HAVE:

- LOWER DRUG OVERDOSE MORTALITY RATES
- LESS PUBLIC INJECTION DRUG USE
- SHORTER HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
- FEWER DISCARDED NEEDLES IN PUBLIC PLACES
- INCREASED MAT UPTAKE

NO PARTICIPANT IN AN SIS HAS EXPERIENCED A FATAL OVERDOSE WHILE AT THE SITE.

Each dollar spent generates savings of \$2.33 on 5 averted outcomes:

- HIV infections
- HCV infections
- averted overdose deaths
- increased MAT uptake
- reduced skin and soft tissue infections

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH