

# NEW ENGLAND HIV IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE NETWORK *Spotlight*

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium – June 2, 2016



cira

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS  
at Yale University



Center for AIDS Research  
Lifespan/Tufts/Brown

## *Evaluating Alternative Strategies to Prevent Overdose Deaths and New HIV Infections*

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Connecticut is experiencing an epidemic of drug overdose deaths, many from heroin, and combining naloxone distribution with opioid replacement therapy and/or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV has the potential to save lives and have favorable programmatic value. Our objective was to model and compare the outcomes and incremental cost-effectiveness of five alternative strategies: no intervention, naloxone distribution, naloxone distribution + medication replacement therapy, naloxone distribution + PrEP, and naloxone distribution + medication replacement therapy + PrEP.

### **KEY INSIGHTS/PROGRESS:**

Naloxone distribution has favorable value compared to no treatment, but combining it with methadone treatment renders it not just high value but cost-saving compared to no treatment.

A strategy that combines naloxone distribution, PrEP, and methadone treatment maximizes health and has favorable value if programs are willing to pay \$100,000 for an additional quality-adjusted life-year (that is, one year of life lived in perfect health). If applied to 3,000 injection drug users in Connecticut, this strategy could save 30 lives in Connecticut after 5 years and could save 113 lives after 20 years.

### **PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS:**

R. Scott Braithwaite (PI); and Jennifer Uyei ( N.Y.U. School of Medicine); Marianne Buchelli and Ramon Rodriguez-Santana (CT Department of Public Health); Faculty and Staff at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale.

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