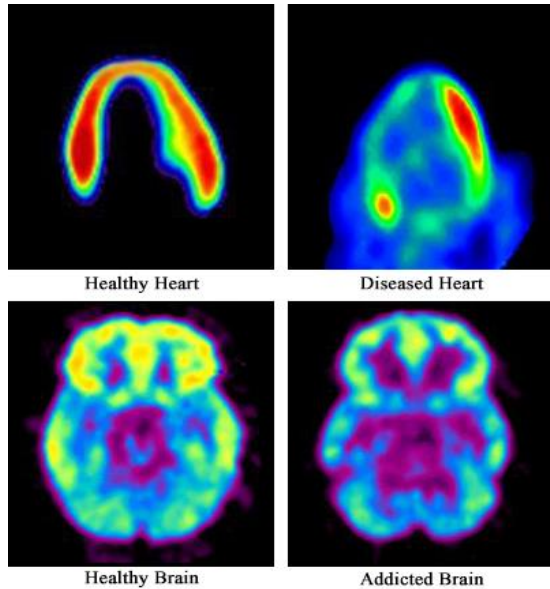


# Addiction 101



## Chronic Disease of Addiction

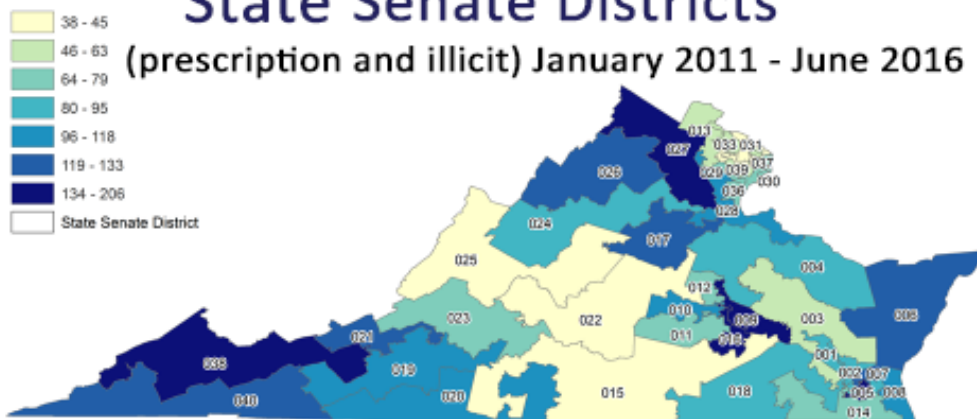
**Definition:** A primary chronic disease of brain reward, motivation, memory and related circuitry.

- Addiction shares many similarities to the disease of depression including permanent changes to brain function. Treatment for both conditions is effective.
- Normal brain function is “hijacked.” Image to left shows how disease of addiction changes brain function similar to heart disease.

- **Data:** See [www.VaAware.com](http://www.VaAware.com) for the most recent data on the issue of addiction in Virginia.
- 24,542 years of potential life lost (to age 65) from overdose<sup>i</sup>- more than diabetes, liver disease, or cerebrovascular disease. Rate of neonatal abstinence syndrome doubled from 2009 to 2014.
- JLARC estimates that untreated substance abuse costs Virginia state and local governments \$613 million per year in public safety and health care services alone. Much of the cost is driven by public safety expenses (i.e. jail, police, prison costs) along with health care costs for expensive co-morbidities such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C, and kidney failure.<sup>ii</sup>
- 700% Return on Investment (ROI). Virginia saves \$7 for every \$1 invested in treatment.

## Fatal Opioid Overdoses State Senate Districts

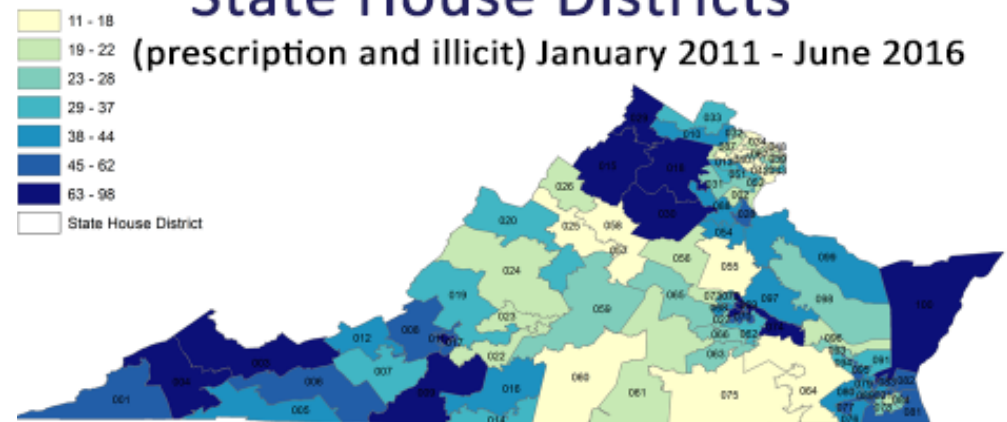
(prescription and illicit) January 2011 - June 2016



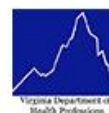
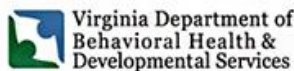
State Senate Districts

## Fatal Opioid Overdoses State House Districts

(prescription and illicit) January 2011 - June 2016



State House Districts



# Addiction 101



## ACTIONS TO IMPACT

| <b>Prevention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the disease of addiction</li> <li>• Depression Analogy: Regular exercise</li> </ul>   | <b>Treatment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat the disease of addiction</li> <li>• Depression Analogy: Counseling and Prozac</li> </ul>   | <b>Harm Reduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit consequences of the disease</li> <li>• Depression Analogy: Suicide prevention</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Current Activities in Virginia: “A lot is being done.”</b>  |  |   |
| VSP: Drug Interdiction<br>DHP: Provider required CME and Prescription Monitoring Program reports<br>VDH: Increase awareness through public health emergency declaration<br>DCJS: Juvenile Justice Grant Programs | DMAS: Implementing the Medicaid Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services<br>DHP: New Board of Medicine regulations<br>DCJS: (Jail-based) Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Grant<br>VDH: 28 Addiction Disease Management sessions<br>DBHDS: Certified Peer Recovery Specialists   | VDH: Naloxone standing order<br>DSS: Establishment of Plans of Safe Care for newborns and their mothers<br>DBHDS: Project REVIVE!                             |
| <b>Needed Activities in Virginia: “There is much yet to do.”</b>   |  |   |
| DHP: Health Professions Training Common Core Curriculum<br>DHP: Board of Medicine opioid prescribing regulations (in progress)<br>DMAS: GME funding to promote addiction treatment workforce                     | DCJS: Increase Drug Courts (ROI up to 2700%, 75% of graduates are arrest-free at 2 years, 6x increase in treatment retention)<br>DBHDS & VDH: Improve quality and availability of outpatient services<br>DMAS: Improved commercial insurance benefits (Medicaid experienced 53% decrease in opioids dispensed and 49% decrease in spend)<br>DHP: Board of Medicine medication-assisted treatment regulations (in progress) | VDH: Comprehensive Harm Reduction including syringe services programs<br>DSS: Enhanced reporting for Substance Exposed Infants                                |

i Virginia Department of Health, Office of Information Management, 2014 and 2015 final death tables. Data includes all races, both sexes, all deaths.  
 ii VCU Health, VCU School of Medicine. “The Opioid Crisis among Virginia Medicaid Beneficiaries,” Prepared for the Senate of Virginia, January 2016  
 ii Virginia Department of Health, Office of Information Management, 2014 and 2015 final death tables. Data includes all races, both sexes, all deaths.

