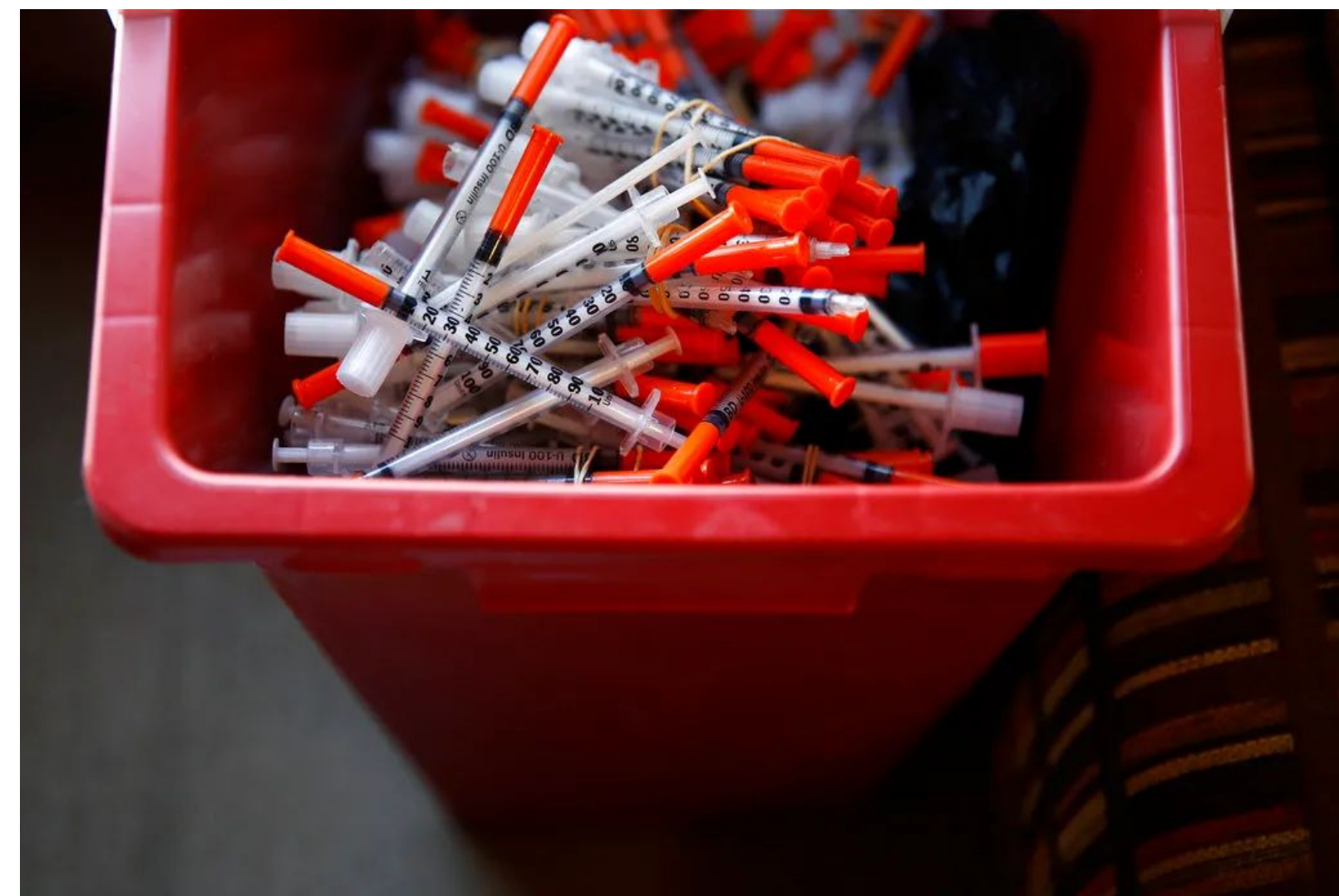


Lesson #4

Vulnerability: Abuse & Prevention

WISE Program led by Yerin Cho





Today's Agenda

- **Different Risk Factors of Drug Abuse**
- **Factors that influence drug usage**
- **Available Prevention Programs**

Biological Factors



- Individuals with **family history** → 40–60% more likely!
 - Inherited brains that have altered brain chemistry
- **Mental health disorders**
 - Depression, anxiety, ADHD, Bipolar disorder, etc
- Onset during **adolescence**
 - Increases risk of long-term addiction
 - Killing the developing brain
- **Gender Differences**
 - Men= more likely to experiment
 - Women=more likely to be addicted



Psychological Factors

- Low self-esteem, poor self-image, feelings of inadequacy
 - -> can lead to make drugs look more appealing!
- Risky behaviors
 - Adventurous & curious -> more likely to try drugs



Environmental Factors

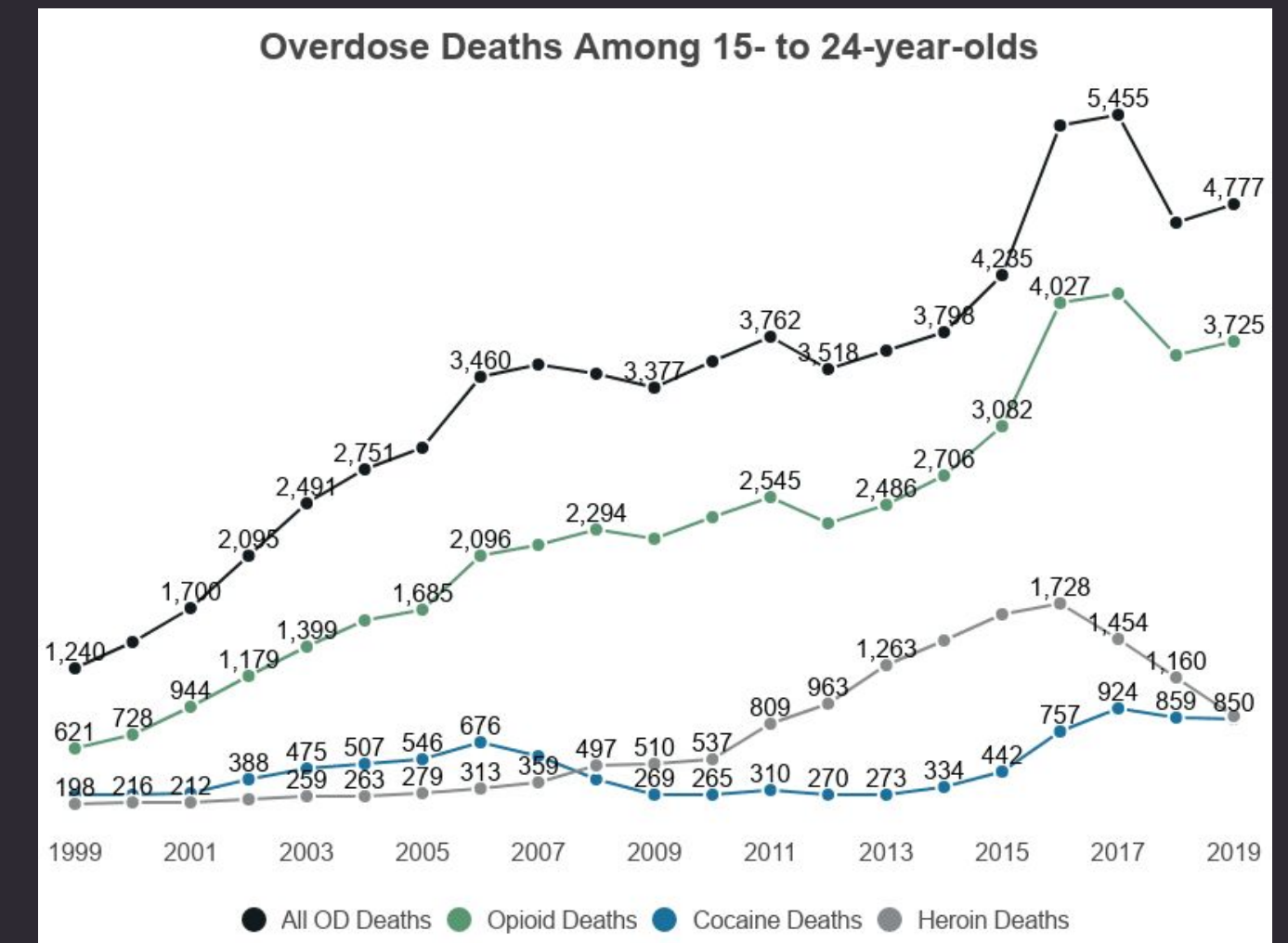
- **Chaotic or abusive home life**
 - Where drug use is normalized or modeled → early exposure
 - Lack of parental supervision during critical stage
- **Peer pressure**
 - Adventurous & curious → more likely to try drugs
- **Socioeconomic factors**
 - Poverty, unemployment, or housing insecurity
 - Increases psychological strain & decreasing access to support systems



Statistics: Trends of Drug Addiction



- **Adolescents**
 - 12–25 due to risky, youthful behavior
 - Susceptible to peer pressure
 - Brain still developing: prefrontal cortex
- **Demographic Shifts**
 - Addiction is increasingly recognized in **older adults** as well as younger people
 - **Rural and suburban areas** are experiencing more problems, traditionally associated with urban centers
 - **Women's rates of addiction** and overdose have been **rising faster** than men's in some regions.



Available Resources in NYS!



**Office of Addiction
Services and Supports**

OASAS. Every Step of the Way.

- **Mount Sinai's CARES & UPRISE Programs (New York City)**
- **YMCA of Greater New York – Adolescent Services**
- **New York City Department of Education – SAPIS Program**
- **Teen Intervene Program (Statewide)**
- **OASAS**
- For personalized assistance or to find a program near you,
consider **reaching out to local providers or utilizing the OASAS
directory!**
 - Many programs offer free consultations to determine the best fit
for the adolescent's needs.



Interactive Activity – Think, Pair, & Share

- What information was **most interesting**?
- What information was **new** to you?



**Thank you
for listening!**





Short Anonymous Google Survey!! ~5 mins

