North America's Building Trades Unions' (NABTU)

Opioid Hazard Awareness and Prevention

Training Program

Facilitator Guide

## Course Goal

The goal of this one-hour module is to help union construction workers better recognize the risks associated with opioids and to encourage them to use the knowledge and resources this training provides to help themselves and others prevent opioid addiction and to seek help if they are struggling.

# **Course Objectives**

- 1. Improve knowledge about opioids:
  - What are opioids and how they work
  - Why and how construction workers have been so affected by the epidemic
  - How to prevent, treat and recover from opioid use disorder
  - Point to helpful resources
- 2. Inspire and motivate trainees to take action:
  - Get more information and share it
  - Identify risk factors and take protective actions
  - Support our brothers and sisters in the trades who are struggling

## Course Materials

- Facilitator Guide
- Participant Guide
- Whiteboard or large sticky poster paper with fresh markers
- Sticky notes (for the Stigma exercise)
- Internet connection
- Computer, projector and projection screen
- Speakers (audio capability)
- Microsoft PowerPoint software
- Adobe PDF reader

# **Course Preparation**

1. Prepare any housekeeping notes (bathroom locations, emergency exits, course timing and breaks, and refreshments, etc.) and ground rules for the physical or virtual training space. What do you expect from the class with regard to their behavior during the training (e.g., cell phone use, cameras on)?

Ground rules should include the two points on **slide 3** regarding upsetting content and confidentiality. Some trainees may have deep personal experiences related to this topic, including having friends and relatives who may have died of an overdose. They may have feelings of sadness, discomfort, and/or anger. Expressing those feelings is appropriate in the training to some degree. After all, the course is giving the message that "it's time to get uncomfortable". However, some trainees may wish to take a break from the training to compose themselves. They may encounter negative opinions held by some in the training. In reviewing ground rules, trainees should know that they can step out without drawing a lot of attention to themselves. You may also wish to tell them at the beginning that you know that many construction workers are struggling and that this course will give them some ideas about how to get help. Please go to **page 35** of this guide to fill in some notes regarding those resources.

2. Prepare the "Support and Resources Available for Participants" template for use with slide 30 prior to beginning the course.

Because this is a training to be used with construction workers in diverse trades throughout the United States and Canada, we cannot anticipate what resources your community, union, or public health agencies provide. However, this information is critical to the training. Please find out what are the best numbers to call or websites for these participants to get assistance. Examples include union-sponsored Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) or Member Assistance Programs (MAP), community or public health agency-sponsored HelpLines, and benefit funds or health insurance behavioral health contact numbers. These resources may have info cards or flyers that you can gather ahead of time to distribute while you are teaching. If your union sponsors an AA meeting, you might want to mention when and where it meets. Please go to page 35 of this guide to fill in this information. During the course, either write the information on a whiteboard, or handout info cards or flyers. DO NOT PRESENT THIS COURSE IF YOU CANNOT PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION.

3. CPWR Physicians'/Providers' Alert document: Print out enough copies of the CPWR Physicians'/Providers' Alert document so that you can provide one to each student. See slide 22 (page 26) for more information.

#### 4. Review all slides and this facilitator's guide.

Make sure you are comfortable with all the course content. You may not be used to discussing these issues and your preparation time for teaching this course may be greater than for subjects in which you are already an expert.

# 5. Select which questions you will ask participants versus ones you will ask and answer by clicking through.

One feature of this course is that many of the slides in this presentation contain questions that you can ask trainees and gather their responses before the "prescribed" answers appear on the screen. If you do not wish to have a discussion based on the question on the slide, you can ask and answer the questions by directly referencing the bullet points on the screen, or you can pass over certain questions completely. Additionally, this guide contains supplemental questions in the Instructor Notes that you can ask if you have time. Most likely, you will not have time to discuss each question with the class. Prepare for teaching this course by noting in this guide which slides contain questions that you will ask participants in order to encourage discussion or participation, versus slides with questions that you will either review as lecture points or skip completely. For your convenience and easy identification, all of the questions in this guide will be marked and highlighted with an "Optional Question:" label.

- **6. Prepare optional materials:** Review the following materials and determine if you would like to use them in your course presentation.
- Optional Handout: Common Names for Prescription Opioid Pain Medications (slide 10 page 14 of this guide)
- 2. Optional Handout: Opioid painkillers: How they work and why they can be risky (slide 10 page 14 of this guide)
- Optional Stickers: Order "Warn Me" stickers from the National Safety Council (slide 23 page 27 of this guide)

**Course Time:** This course is designed to be completed in a one-hour timeframe. Suggested times (per slide) to maintain the one-hour timeframe are provided. However, as the facilitator, you have the option of adjusting the pace at which you cover the material. As noted above, you can decide how to engage trainees in the content by selecting which questions you want to have for open discussion.

# Slide Guide

#### Slide 01 - Welcome

(Time: 1 minute)



- Introduce yourself to the class and explain your qualifications as the facilitator.
- This is a one-hour Opioid Hazard Awareness and Prevention Training. A separate mental health training is available from CPWR. If you are interested in that material please contact Christopher Rodman: <a href="mailto:crodman@cpwr.com">crodman@cpwr.com</a>.

# Slide 02 - Course Objectives

(Time: 1 minute)



## **Course Objectives**

- 1. Improve knowledge about opioids, including harms and prevention
- 2. Inspire and motivate trainees to take action:
  - · Get more information and share it
  - · Identify risk factors and prevent harm
  - Support our brothers and sisters in the trades who are struggling



"I tell the general contractor on the job, if there's anyone struggling, let me know, before they lose their job."

-- Ed O'Toole, Peer Advocate for Allied Trades Assistance Program

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#### **Instructor Note:**

• Review the course objectives.

## Slide 03 - Course Content Sensitivity and Confidentiality

(Time: 2 minutes)



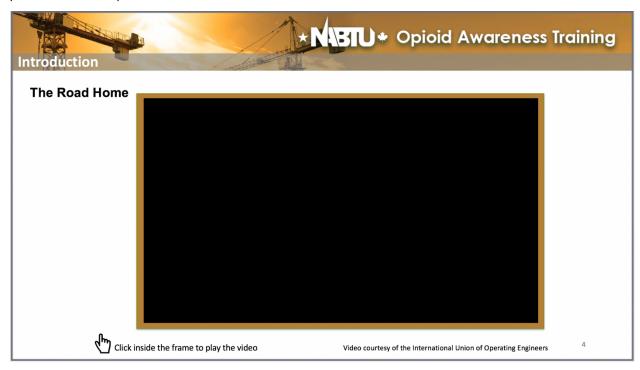
## **Instructor Notes:**

Review the housekeeping, ground rules and confidentiality information with the trainees.

A. —	Ground rules:
В.	What you will say to trainees regarding sensitive course content:
C.	Plan of action – what they can do if they are having a hard time during or after the training:

#### Slide 04 - The Road Home

(Time: 3 minutes)



- Play the video clip "The Road Home" presented by the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).
- This video will be used to gain the attention of the class by showing construction workers
  talking openly about their addictions and recovery. This helps create an environment where
  people who need assistance will be more likely to talk about their issues.
- You may wish to reinforce the points:
  - o Many of us have been personally impacted
  - Everybody can do something to help
  - o It's uncomfortable, but the first step is to talk about it

#### Slide 05 - Introduction

(Time: 1 minutes)



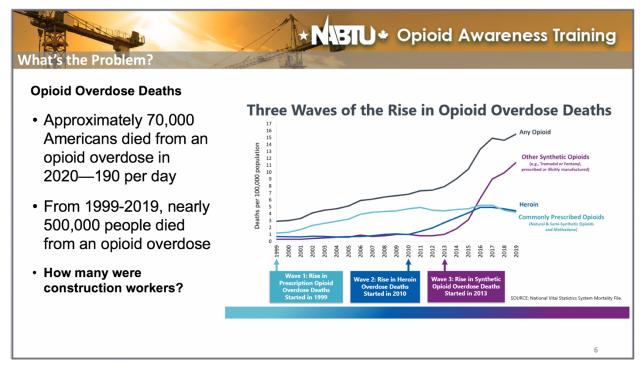
#### **Instructor Notes:**

- Explain that some of us have seen the headlines or know from personal experience, that the
  construction sector has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic. It can seem overwhelming
  when we see the statistics, but we can all play a part in preventing addiction and overdose.
  - We can make job sites safer so we don't get hurt.
  - o We can speak up in the doctor's office to get good care that doesn't rely on opioids.
  - o If we are struggling, we can get help ourselves and we can help others.

This training will help you be one of the people in construction who can make a difference.

## Slide 06 - Opioid Overdose Deaths

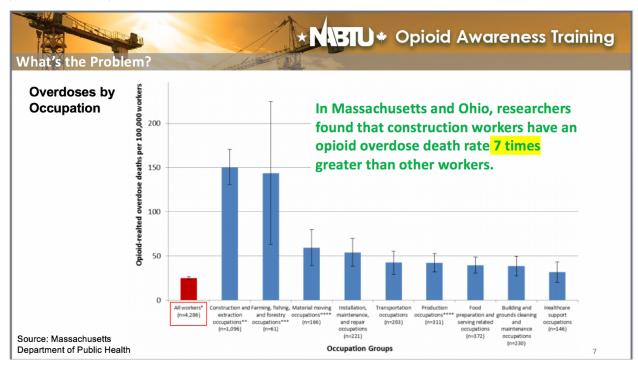
(Time: 1 minute)



- This slide includes basic statistics on opioid overdose deaths and displays a graph of how
  they have changed over time in particular how the death rates have gone up sharply and
  how the type of opioids involved has shifted.
- Explain that the cause of these shifts had to do with first, the easy access to prescription
  pills, and then the restriction on "pill mills" and getting access to them, which caused people
  who were addicted to seek heroin which was cheaper and more available. Lastly, heroin
  became laced with fentanyl (a highly potent and cheap synthetic (made in a lab) opioid that
  is used by dealers to cut the cost of heroin production). Fentanyl is extremely deadly in
  small doses.
- Optional Question: Ask the trainees, how many of these deaths do you think were construction workers?
  - Discuss their responses or simply move to the next screen where the question is answered.
- Source: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs press releases/2021/20210714.htm
- Source: https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/data/analysis-resources.html
- Graphic source: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File (via the CDC website: (<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html</a>)

## Slide 07- Overdoses by Occupation

(Time: 1 minute)



- This slide shows a graph indicating that construction workers are at much greater risk for opioid overdose death. The statistic is based on the occupations listed on death certificates from people who died of overdoses. We do not know how many of these construction workers were union versus non-union. Some union construction workers struggling with addiction may turn to non-union work where drug testing is less likely.
- Graphic source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health
   (https://www.mass.gov/doc/opioid-related-overdose-deaths-in-massachusetts-by-industry-and-occupation-2011-2015/download)
- Other source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)
   (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6733a3.htm)
- Other source: Cleveland.com (Rachel Dissell, The Plain Dealer)
   (https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2017/11/ohio construction workers seven times more I ikely to die of an opioid overdose in 2016.html)

## Slide 08 – Why Are Construction Workers at Greater Risk?

(Time: 2 minutes)



- painkillers
  - · Health insurance + Doctors willing to write scripts for opioids
  - Pharma Companies marketed to construction workers
- Boom/bust cycles in construction work
- · Long days, weeks of work without enough rest time or sick days
- "Heavy drinking/drugging is normal" culture?



- Optional Question: Ask the trainees to give possible explanations as to why construction workers are at greater risk of opioid overdose.
  - Optional: If you have a whiteboard or using the Whiteboard on Zoom or poster paper you may write their answers.
- Click through the recognized risk factors. They may argue with these and add others.
- Explain that pharmaceutical companies aggressively marketed opioid painkillers as the solution to work-related pain. They convinced doctors, with bad evidence, that the chances of addiction were low and that they were safe to prescribe. They paid doctors to convince other doctors that pain was undertreated, and they needed to ask every patient if they had pain.
  - **Optional:** Play the video "Anatomy of an Epidemic: The Opioid Movie." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10ZISSXiuP4 Though the video covers several individuals, you should play up to 02:05 of the video which tells the story of Johnny Sullivan, a construction worker, who was a "poster child" for Oxycontin (a brand of opioids). He appeared in two Purdue Pharma promotional videos saying that he got his life back and could work now that he was using Oxycontin. Unfortunately, he became addicted, unemployed, and died in an opioid-related car crash.
- Optional Question: Ask the question whether drinking and drugging is accepted among construction workers, or if that is changing.

Slide 09 - Risk Factors: The Job - The Pain - The Prescription

(Time: 1 minute)



#### Risk Factors: The Job → The Pain → The Prescription

- Studies show:
  - Over 1/3 of construction workers report back pain
  - Almost 40% of construction workers older than 50 report chronic back pain
  - Construction workers are more likely to receive opioids for injuries compared to other workers (at higher doses and for longer periods of time)

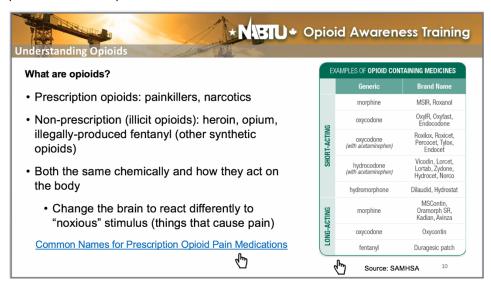


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- Explain that the construction trades have some of the highest rates of fatal and nonfatal occupational injuries compared to other occupations.
- Occupations with heavy physical demands and high injury rates are also the ones with the highest risk of opioid overdose deaths.
- Researchers find that construction workers report a lot of painful injuries, especially back
  pain, and that rates of back pain increase with age. Many construction workers take opioids
  for this pain so that they can continue to work. Many construction workers are working in
  pain with or without medication.
- Explain that according to a recent study of workers' compensation insurance claim data from 27 states, compared with workers in other industries, workers in the construction and mining industries were more likely to receive opioids for their injuries. They were also more likely to receive high-dose opioids and for a longer time period.
- Information source: Hawkins D, Roelofs C, Laing J, Davis L. Opioid-related Overdose
  Deaths by Industry and Occupation Massachusetts, 2011-2015. Am J Ind Med. 2019;111 (<a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ajim.23029">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ajim.23029</a>)

Slide 10 - Understanding Opioids - What are opioids?

(Time: 2 minutes)

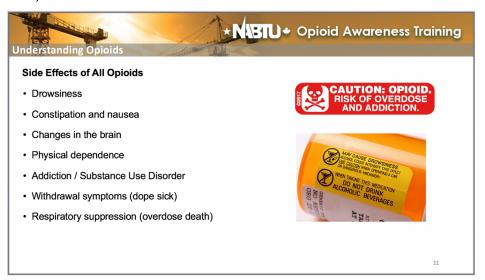


Source: https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma17-5053-12.pdf

- Explain that all opioids are painkillers and narcotics. Whether they come from the opium poppy or are made in a laboratory (synthetic opioids), they all work the same way.
   Chemically, prescription opioids and heroin are basically the same.
- Explain that other examples of prescription opioids not listed on the screen include Tramadol, buprenorphine (bu·pre·nor·phine) (e.g., Suboxone®), codeine and Dsuvia<sup>™</sup> (de·soo·vee·a), a new and even more addictive prescription.
- Optional Question: Ask the trainees for other examples of opioids, or more likely, what other names do they know for opioids – street names.
  - Note: Select the link on the screen to show a SAMHSA document that lists various generic names, brand names and street names for opioids.
- Optional Handout: (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Common Names for Prescription Opioid Pain Medications (<a href="https://www.mhanet.com/mhaimages/SQI/SUD/SAMHSA%20-%20Common%20Names%20For%20Rx%20Opioid%20Pain%20Medications.pdf">https://www.mhanet.com/mhaimages/SQI/SUD/SAMHSA%20-%20Common%20Names%20For%20Rx%20Opioid%20Pain%20Medications.pdf</a>)
- Optional Handout: (National Safety Council) Opioid painkillers: How they work and why
  they can be risky (<a href="https://www.ndsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EC\_Opioid-Painkillers-How-They-Work-and-Why-They-Can-be-Risky.pdf">https://www.ndsc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EC\_Opioid-Painkillers-How-They-Work-and-Why-They-Can-be-Risky.pdf</a>)
- Graphic source: National Safety Council Opioid painkillers: How they work and why they
  can be risky

## Slide 11 - Side Effects of all Opioids

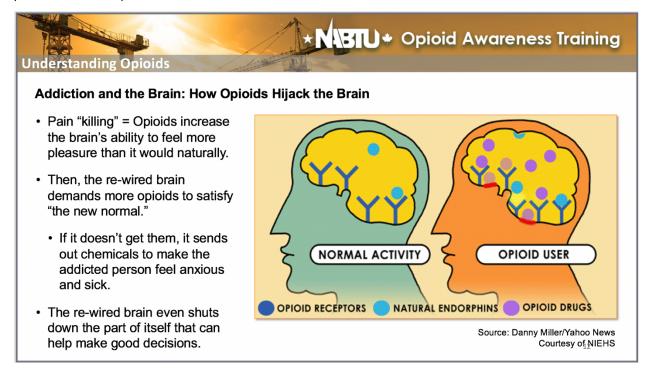
(Time: 2 minutes)



- Explain that prescription opioids' intended effects are to help with pain. The "side" or unintended effects that are commonly experienced when using opioids are listed on the screen.
- Explain that overdose = taking too much of the drug. An overdose of an opioid causes the lungs to stop breathing. That is technically called "respiratory suppression."
- Explain that there is a great risk of overdose when opioids are taken at the same time as benzodiazepines ("bennies"). Bennies are tranquilizers used to sedate, induce sleep, prevent seizures, and relieve anxiety. Muscle stimulants can also enhance the chance of overdose.
- Explain that there is a difference between physical dependence on opioids (experiencing
  withdrawal symptoms if the drug isn't taken) which is very common, and addiction. It isn't
  known who will develop an addiction -- it can happen to anyone. Addiction is defined as
  problematic drug-seeking behaviors.
- Explain that people with legitimate long-term high dose opioid prescriptions are almost certainly physically dependent, but because they have reliable prescriptions, they don't do crazy things looking for the drug and may not be considered to have an addiction. This may still be problematic for the person and they will have the same treatment as someone who is diagnosed with a substance use disorder (SUD). They may also need pain management while reducing or eliminating their use of opioid medications.

## Slide 12 – Addiction and the Brain: How Opioids Hijack the Brain

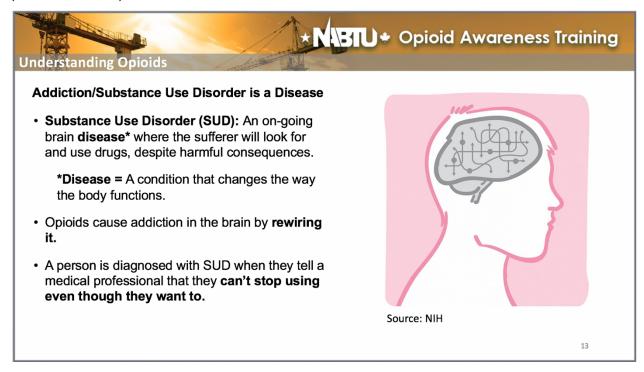
(Time: 2 minutes)



- Explain to the trainees that this animation illustrates how opioids increase the number of opioid receptors in the brain and therefore the flow of chemicals (endorphins and dopamine) that cause the body to experience pleasure.
- Explain that these endorphins interact with the receptors in your brain that reduce your feeling of pain by allowing you to experience more pleasure than you would naturally.
- However, those receptors are waiting for the pleasure chemicals. If they don't get them, they
  signal the body to go get them. Those signals are experienced as withdrawal symptoms or
  being "dope sick."
- Animation source: Danny Miller/Yahoo News via the NIEHS Opioids and the Workplace Prevention and Response Program (2019)

#### Slide 13 - Addiction/Substance Use Disorder is a Disease

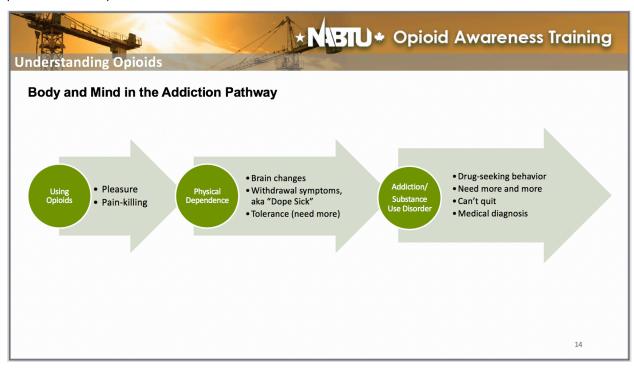
(Time: 2 minutes)



- This slide introduces the idea that addiction technically called substance use disorder (SUD) – is a brain disease that is caused by the drug re-wiring the person's brain to get them to keep taking the drug.
- Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a specific form of SUD.
- Explain that many people believe that addiction is a choice or that only "addicts" get addicted. However, for the most part, the drug works the same on everyone and it is not known why some people are able to fight addiction more easily than others.
- Explain that understanding addiction as a brain disease does not take the responsibility off a
  person for getting well. We all need to take responsibility for our health, whether it's dealing
  with asthma or diabetes or back pain or a SUD. But understanding SUD as a disease does
  help us understand why people most often need help to stop taking the drug.
- **Graphic source:** https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2015/10/biology-addiction

Slide 14 – Body and Mind in the Addiction Pathway

(Time: 1 minute)

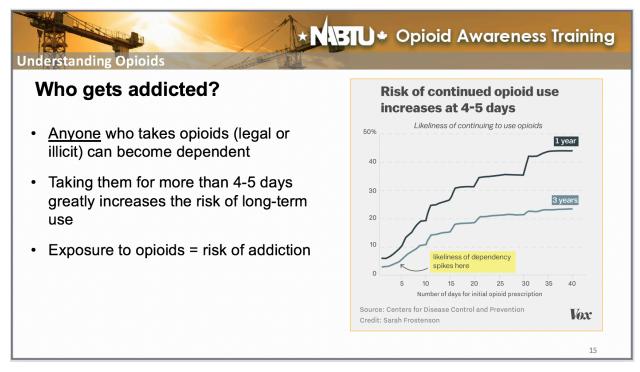


## **Instructor Note:**

This slide shows the path from the good feelings the drug gives, to the brain being re-wired
to demand more drug (physical dependence – withdrawal), to developing a tolerance
(needing more and more for the same effect), to a SUD characterized by problematic drug
seeking behavior.

#### Slide 15 - Who Can Get Addicted?

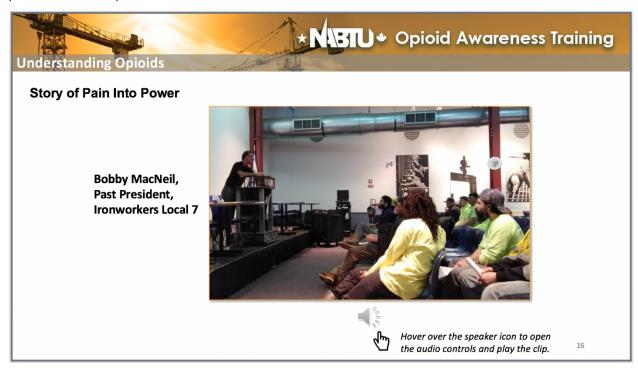
(Time: 1 minutes)



- Explain that anyone can who is prescribed opioids is at risk of developing a physical dependence on them. A key factor is how long someone takes them. The chart shows that after taking opioids for 5 days, the risk of continued opioid use increases dramatically.
   Almost half the people who took opioids for 30 days are still taking them 1 year later.
- Explain that the best way to avoid the potential hazards of opioids is to avoid being exposed to them.
- It could be helpful to point out that dependence does not necessarily mean addiction, but that those who are dependent are at greatly increased risk for addiction—see further background below for more information.
- Information Source: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6610a1.htm
- Graphic source: <a href="https://www.vox.com/2017/3/18/14954626/one-simple-way-to-curb-opioid-overuse-prescribe-them-for-3-days-or-less">https://www.vox.com/2017/3/18/14954626/one-simple-way-to-curb-opioid-overuse-prescribe-them-for-3-days-or-less</a>
- Further Background: to see this slide explained and please go minute 15:50 of the
  following video: <a href="https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2623">https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2623</a>. The presenter talks
  about the relationship between dependence and addiction, which can be a useful distinction
  when using this slide.

Slide 16 - Story of Pain Into Power

(Time: 3 minutes)



#### **Instructor Note:**

Play the audio clip which is Bobby McNeil, the Vice President of the Ironworkers Local 7
taking about how he went from prescription pills to heroin while working on the World Trade
Center in NYC. He has been in recovery for four years and is now a leader in his union and
a fierce peer advocate for anyone in the trades who needs help. Bobby gives hope to many
ironworkers who are struggling with addiction.

## Slide 17 - Three Components: Prevention and Harm Reduction

(Time: 2 minutes)



## Opioid Addiction/Substance Use Disorder Can be Prevented

- Question: How can we help prevent opioid addiction among construction workers?
  - **LEVEL 1 Prevention:** Reduce/eliminate the risk factors for pain, including tasks or conditions that cause injuries.
  - LEVEL 2 Prevention: If a construction worker is injured or in pain (job- or not job-related), encourage them to get care that doesn't include opioids.
  - LEVEL 3 Prevention and Harm Reduction\*: If they are taking opioids, help them reduce their use and stop. Help them get help. Prevent an overdose.

\*Harm Reduction = actions to prevent the negative consequences of drug use

1

- Optional Question: Ask trainees to give some ideas on how we can prevent opioid addiction among construction workers.
  - Note: The slide will share the overall framework for thinking about points of prevention.
- Explain that there are three levels of prevention and harm reduction and the goal is to go "upstream" – to go to the source or root of problem if possible.
  - In Level 1 Prevention we try to prevent the harm or injury that would cause someone to take an opioid.
  - In Level 2 Prevention we try to prevent the person from relying on opioids to deal with the pain.
  - o In Level 3 Prevention, also called "Harm Reduction" we try to reduce the harm that is caused by taking opioids, usually by getting someone help to stop taking them or, in the worst case scenario, saving their life with Narcan (nar·can), the overdose reversal medication. Harm reduction means that we want to reduce the negative consequences for the person who is taking opioids
- **Note:** These components will be examined more closely in the remainder of this section.
- Note: All this involves talking about uncomfortable topics, such as reporting hazards, or talking with peers about personal struggles.

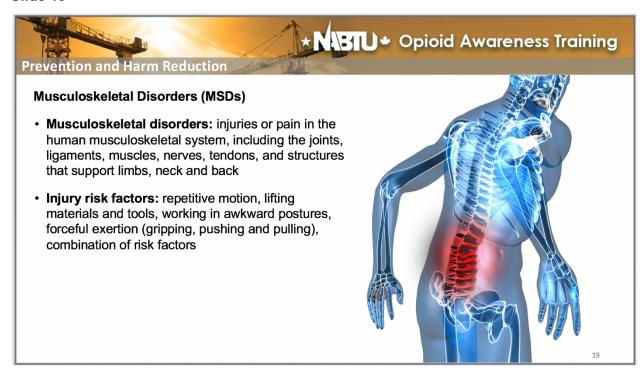
Slide 18 - LEVEL 1 Prevention: Prevent the Causes of Pain

(Time: 2 minutes)



- Optional Question: Ask the trainees to answer the question on the screen.
  - o Discuss their responses and then reveal the answers provided.
- Explain that construction sites that have strong "safety culture" -- for instance, workers are
  encouraged to take the time they need to do a job safely are more likely to have fewer
  injuries.
- Optional: Select the photo to show the OSHA Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction website (<a href="https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/">https://www.osha.gov/StopFallsStandDown/</a>)

## Slide 19 -



## Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)

(Time: 1 minute)

- Explain the definition of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and the injury risk factors for them.
- Optional Question: Ask trainees to give examples of tasks that could cause MSDs in their trade?

Slide 20 - Examples of Ergonomics in Construction



(Time: 1 minute)

- This slide shows two examples of ergonomics in construction. The examples show how the
  task (overhead drilling and carrying drywall) was done before the equipment was changed,
  and how new equipment made the same task easier on the body.
- Explain that the body has limits and that helpful equipment and task design can reduce injuries and make the body last longer without injury.
- Optional Question: Ask the trainees for their ideas about how these new tools would make the job easier on the body and what the tools limitations may be.
- Optional Question: Ask the trainees for other examples of ergonomics in construction.
- Optional: Select the link on the screen to show the CPWR: Manual Materials Handling
  Planning Tool and Resources page on the CPWR website
  (https://www.cpwr.com/research/research-to-practice-r2p/r2p-library/other-resources-for-stakeholders/best-built-plans/)
- Graphic source (overhead drill press): Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North
   America (<a href="https://www.lhsfna.org/index.cfm/lifelines/may-2010/new-device-takes-strain-out-of-overhead-drilling/">https://www.lhsfna.org/index.cfm/lifelines/may-2010/new-device-takes-strain-out-of-overhead-drilling/</a>)

## Slide 21 - Stretch and Flex Program

(Time: 1 minute)



**Question:** What are the benefits of a stretch and flex program?

Answer: Good for loosening up and team building...No scientific evidence that stretch and flex programs prevent injuries.

 Why? They don't reduce or eliminate the hazards that cause them.



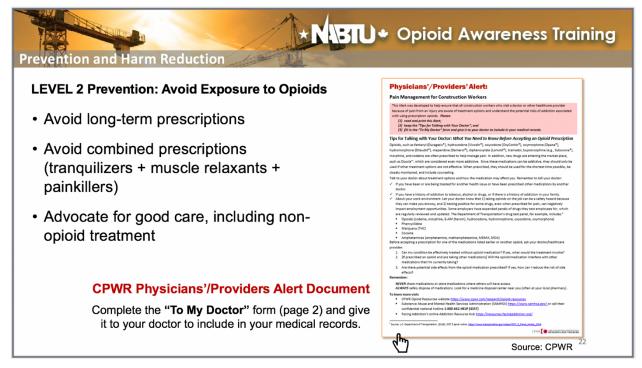
Photo by Amanda Creel

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- Optional Question: Ask the trainees to answer the question on the screen. Discuss their answers.
- Explain that doing stretch and flex exercises isn't a bad thing, but many people believe that
  these exercises can prevent injuries. However, there isn't evidence (in the form of research
  studies) that show that they do. Safety and ergonomic programs and tools as shown on the
  previous screen reduce hazards that can cause injuries.
- Information source: Linda M.Goldenhar and Pete Stafford Journal of Safety Research (<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2015.08.002">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2015.08.002</a>)
- **Graphic source**: Amanda Creel (used with permission)

## Slide 22 - LEVEL 2 Prevention: Avoid Exposure to Opioids

(Time: 2 minutes)



- Explain that most people first encounter opioids after a visit to a doctor's office.
- **Resource Document:** Hand out a copy of the CPWR Physicians'/Providers' Alert document to each student and discuss.
  - Note: Click on the graphic to see the full document.
- Review the main points of the document listed on the screen.
- Explain that doctors are much more aware of the problems of overprescribing opioids than
  in the recent past, but you MUST be your own advocate and avoid opioids if possible.
- Graphic/document source: CPWR Physicians'/Providers' Alert document (<a href="https://www.cpwr.com/sites/default/files/publications\_handouts-and-toolbox-talks">https://www.cpwr.com/sites/default/files/publications\_handouts-and-toolbox-talks</a> physicians-alerts opioids.pdf)

## Slide 23 - Tips for the Doctor's Office

(Time: 2 minutes)



- This slide contains more suggestions for self-advocacy to avoid unnecessary opioid prescriptions.
- Optional Stickers: You may elect to order these "Warn Me" stickers from the National Safety Council so that you can hand them out during class (<a href="https://safety.nsc.org/stop-everyday-killers-supplies">https://safety.nsc.org/stop-everyday-killers-supplies</a>).
- Graphic source: National Safety Council

## Slide 24 - But what about my pain?

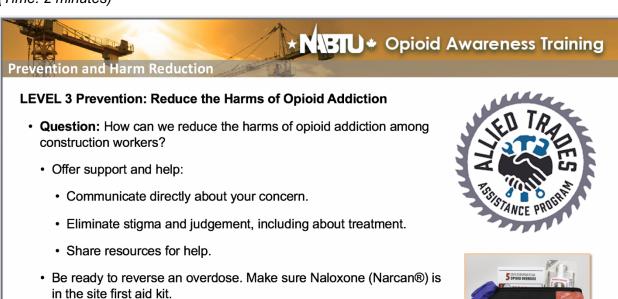
(Time: 1 minutes)



- Explain that the evidence for opioids' effectiveness as a pain medication just doesn't add up.
- Optional: Select the graphic on the screen to show the trainees where they can sign up for a new report on the Evidence for the Efficacy of Pain Medications.
   (<a href="https://www.nsc.org/getmedia/8ecdc0e5-ae58-43e8-b98b-46c205e1c2b2/evidence-efficacy-pain-medications.pdf">https://www.nsc.org/getmedia/8ecdc0e5-ae58-43e8-b98b-46c205e1c2b2/evidence-efficacy-pain-medications.pdf</a>)
- Graphic source: National Safety Council

## Slide 25 - LEVEL 3 Prevention: Reduce the Harms of Opioid Addiction

(Time: 2 minutes)



- Optional Question: Ask the trainees the question on the screen and discuss their answers.
- Explain that after someone has developed an SUD or physical dependency, we can take
  action to prevent more harm from happening to them and their families.
- Review the three main strategies on the screen.
- Narcan is a safe and effective way to reverse an opioid overdose. Construction site first aid
  responders should know where it is on the site and how to use it. Unfortunately, more and
  more overdoses are occurring on construction sites.

#### Slide 26 - Harm Reduction at the Worksite

(Time: 2 minutes)



#### Harm Reduction at the Worksite

- Question: What steps should you take if a co-worker seems impaired on the job and is putting themselves and/or others in danger?
  - 1. Secure them to keep them safe.
  - 2. Check if they are having a medical emergency (seizures, strokes, brain tumors, low blood sugar, and other conditions can mimic intoxication symptoms)

If they are experiencing a medical emergency: call 911

- 3. Contact the steward.
- 4. If no steward is available, get the foreman.
- 5. Do not allow them to drive or take a taxi home until they are no longer impaired.

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- Optional Question: Ask the trainees to answer the question on the screen.
- Explain to the trainees that if they encounter someone who is impaired (or they themselves are impaired) and a danger to themselves or others on the worksite, they should take action.
- **Optional:** Use the points below to elaborate on the discussion.
  - Best- and worst-case scenarios:
    - Best case scenario: the union will be help them to get access to resources and fully support them in their recovery and will do its best to save their job and thus their health insurance.
    - Worst case scenario: there is reasonable suspicion drug-testing and dismissal, lose income, health insurance, etc.
  - Other concerns:
    - They go home and do themselves/yourself more harm.
    - They stay at work because everyone ignores it and covers for them/you.
    - They get injured or cause an injury.
    - They sleep it off in the truck while everyone does their work and nothing changes.

## Slide 27 - LEVEL 3 Prevention: Understanding and Reducing the Harms of Stigma

(Time: 1 minute)



## LEVEL 3 Prevention: Understanding and Reducing the Harms of Stigma

- Question: Why do we react negatively to someone struggling with addiction or mental health problems?
  - Stigma shame or disgrace attached to something regarded as socially unacceptable.
  - Believing only bad people have problems or they deserve to be punished for making bad choices



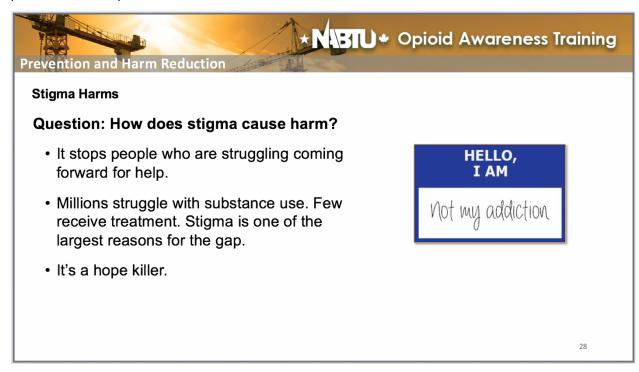
Source: Bridges of Hope/Studio L Online

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- Optional Question: Why do we react negatively to someone struggling with addiction or mental health problems?
- The answers relate to understanding the concept of stigma.
- Note: Many trainees may continue to hold negative attitudes towards those struggling with addiction. In fact, it is possible to have a negative attitude and still be compassionate and helpful.

## Slide 28 - Stigma Harms

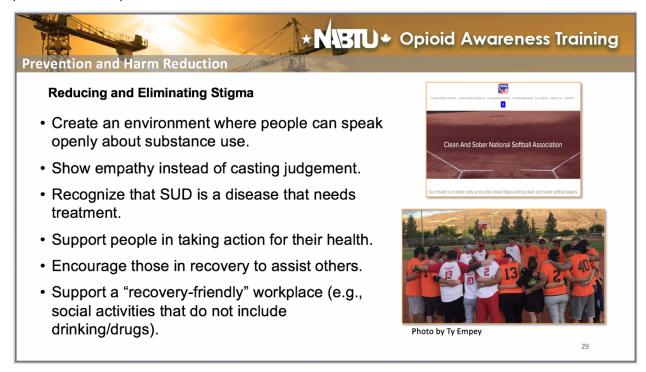
(Time: 2 minutes)



- Optional Question: Ask the trainees to answer the question on the screen.
- Explain that expression of negative attitudes toward people with SUDs or mental health
  issues is very harmful because it prevents them from getting help that could allow them to
  get better. People can and do get better all the time. People who are struggling need
  compassion and encouragement rather than ridicule.
- Explain that hope is a really important motivator for entering recovery and staying there, and that feeling worthless is a major reason why people don't get help.

## Slide 29 - Reducing and Eliminating Stigma

(Time: 2 minutes)



- The slide lists ways that stigma can be overcome and that trainees can participate in eliminating stigma about getting help.
- Remind them that at the beginning of the training, we mentioned that there is always something we can do, and "refreshing" our attitudes is one thing that can help change the statistics.

Slide 30 - LEVEL 3 Prevention: Support and Resources

(Time: 2 minutes)



- Review the types of support and resources available to trainees, including any resources that your union can offer to members struggling with SUDs and mental illness.
- **Optional:** Use the points below to elaborate on the discussion.
  - Give a "menu" of options/steps for change:
    - Call the Peer Assistance number or HelpLine.
    - Go to the AA/NA meetings.
    - Talk to someone who has been through detox/recovery.
    - Call someone every day.
- Use the "Support and Resources Available" template provided to help you prepare a list
  of SUD and mental illness support and resources available either from your union or in the
  community that members can contact for help. Write this information on a whiteboard or
  hand out info cards or sheets.

## **Template: Support and Resources Available to Trainees**

## A. Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) Support and Resources

- Union resources:
  - Contact information:
- Community resources:
  - Contact information:
- Other Resources:
  - Contact information:

# **B. Mental Illness Support and Resources**

- Union resources:
  - Contact information:
- Community resources:
  - Contact information:
- Other resources:
  - Contact information:

## C. Other Available Resources

- Agency 1:
  - Contact information:
- Agency 2:
  - Contact information:
- Agency 3:
  - Contact information:

## Resource Document: Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline

Call: 1-800-663-HELP (4357)

Website: https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/suicide-prevention

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Call: 1-800-273-8255

Website: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/

Learn to COPE

Call: 508-738-5148

Website: <a href="https://www.learn2cope.org/">https://www.learn2cope.org/</a>

SHATTERPROOF™ Call: 1-800-597-2557

Website: https://www.shatterproof.org/

Clean and Sober National Softball Association

Call: 510-938-8740

Website: https://www.csnsa.com/

Government of Canada (Available Resources)

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/get-help-problematic-

substance-use.html

## Slide 31 - Steps in Treatment and Recovery

(Time: 2 minutes)



## **Steps in Treatment and Recovery**

- Seeking and accepting help
- Identifying treatment options/Contacting union benefits office
- Withdrawal management (Detox)
- Substance Use Disorder treatment
- Recovery support while you get your life back
- Return to work with a "compliance" agreement and program



Photo by John Wilcox

- Explain that treatment and recovery begin with a decision to get help and a desire to be well.
- Note the steps on the slide.
- Emphasize that if they or a family member is seeking treatment, they should call their benefits office to find out what their insurance covers. DO NOT CALL THE NUMBER ON TV. Those are scams which have provided bad or no treatment to union members, taking advantage of their good health insurance coverage.
- **Graphic source:** John Wilcox (used with permission)

## Slide 32 - Types of Substance Use Disorder Treatment

(Time: 1 minute)



## **Types of Substance Use Disorder Treatment**

- In-Patient (residential) and Out-Patient
- Medication Assisted Therapy (or Treatment)
  - · Talk therapy + medications
- · Opioid Use Disorder Medications
  - Methadone
  - Buprenorphine [Suboxone®]
  - Naltrexone [Vivitrol® and Revia®]
- Talk therapy = behavioral therapy with a substance use counselor, social worker, or psychologist (Individual or Group)
- Union benefit plans determine what you can access for treatment contact your union benefits office first
- · Some people quit or reduce on their own, but it can be dangerous

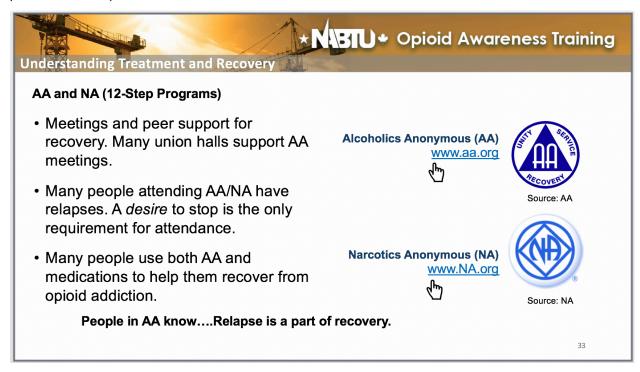
32

#### **Instructor Note:**

 Review the points provided on types of treatment and emphasize the importance of calling the union office to find out the union benefits for treatment which most likely covers family members as well.

## Slide 33 - Recovery Programs

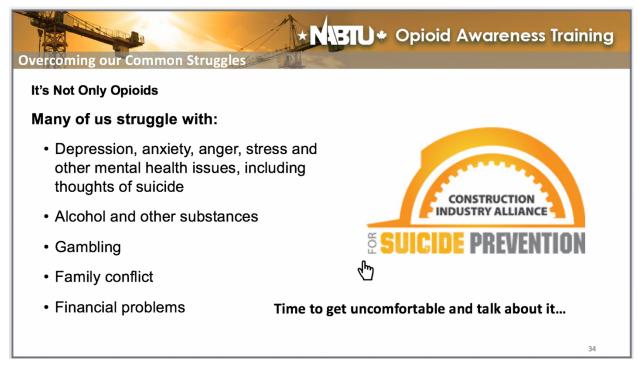
(Time: 1 minute)



- Many people find that AA and/or NA are critical to their transition from treatment to recovery.
- 12-step programs allow individuals in recovery to connect with other individuals in recovery
  in a safe and supportive environment, typically at regularly scheduled meetings.
- Review the nuanced points on the slide.
- Optional: Select the links on the screen to visit the AA and NA websites.
- Graphic sources: AA (https://www.aa.org/) and NA (https://www.na.org/)

## Slide 34 – Overcoming our Common Struggles

(Time: 1 minute)



- Note that we recognize that opioids are not the only thing we are struggling with. In addition
  to other drugs and alcohol, there are many challenges that construction workers face in their
  mental health and well-being. Construction workers are also at higher risk of suicide. Module
  2 addresses these issues and provides information for dealing with our health in all
  dimensions.
- Optional: click the logo to navigate to the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP) website. (<a href="https://preventconstructionsuicide.com">https://preventconstructionsuicide.com</a>)

## Slide 35 – Training Summary and Review

(Time: 1 minute)



## Let's Review (1 of 3)

- The opioid epidemic is a major public health challenge opioids are killing more people than car accidents.
- Construction workers are at high risk of opioid addiction and overdose.
   They face hazards that could expose them to opioids, including pain and injury on the job.
- All opioids, legal and illegal, are narcotics and can cause addiction and other side effects.
- Opioids re-wire the brain to make it very hard to quit.

35

#### **Instructor Notes:**

 Ask the trainees to have patience as you take a couple of minutes to review what was just discussed. Briefly review the bullet points which continue on the next two screens.

## Slide 36 - Review Continued

(Time: 1 minute)



## Review (2 of 3)

- Addiction can be prevented. Prevention strategies include:
  - 1. Prevent the risk factors that might cause someone to use opioids address musculoskeletal hazards and injury risks.
  - 2. Find alternative ways of dealing with pain and suffering speak up in the doctor's office.
  - 3. Harm reduction: Support those who are struggling and help them get help eliminate stigma.

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#### **Instructor Note:**

Review the three strategies of prevention.

#### Slide 37 - Review Concluded and Course Concluded

(2 minutes)



## Review (3 of 3)

- Opioid Use Disorder is a disease that needs treatment. Ask your benefits office about the options.
- There are lots of resources available to help us overcome our challenges. People who have become addicted can recover and become leaders in their union and community.
- Time to get uncomfortable! Talk about it and be "an ear."

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- Optional Question: ask trainees to reflect on what they have learned and what they would share from this course.
- Ask the trainees if they have any questions before concluding.

Slide 38 – Course Complete (5 minutes)



- Thank the trainees for their participation and conclude the course.
- Distribute the Course Evaluations