



Contingency Management

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- Scope of the problem: Stimulant use and overdose
- Neurobiology of Addiction – Brief Review
- What is Contingency Management?
- Data to support use
- Stigma and concerns about gambling

Learning Objectives

1. Learn about the neurobiological and behavioral principles supporting the use of Contingency Management in the treatment of stimulant use disorder.
2. Review misconceptions in the use of Contingency Management and appreciate that these interventions do not cause or exacerbate gambling disorder.
3. Introduce how one clinic has implemented Contingency Management to reinforce pro-recovery behaviors including negative urine analysis results, group attendance, and engagement in community activities.

Disclosures

- No disclosures

12 Month–ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class

Based on data available for analysis on: June 05, 2022

After opening the **drug class dropdown**, click the top of the dropdown menu again to make the checkboxes disappear.

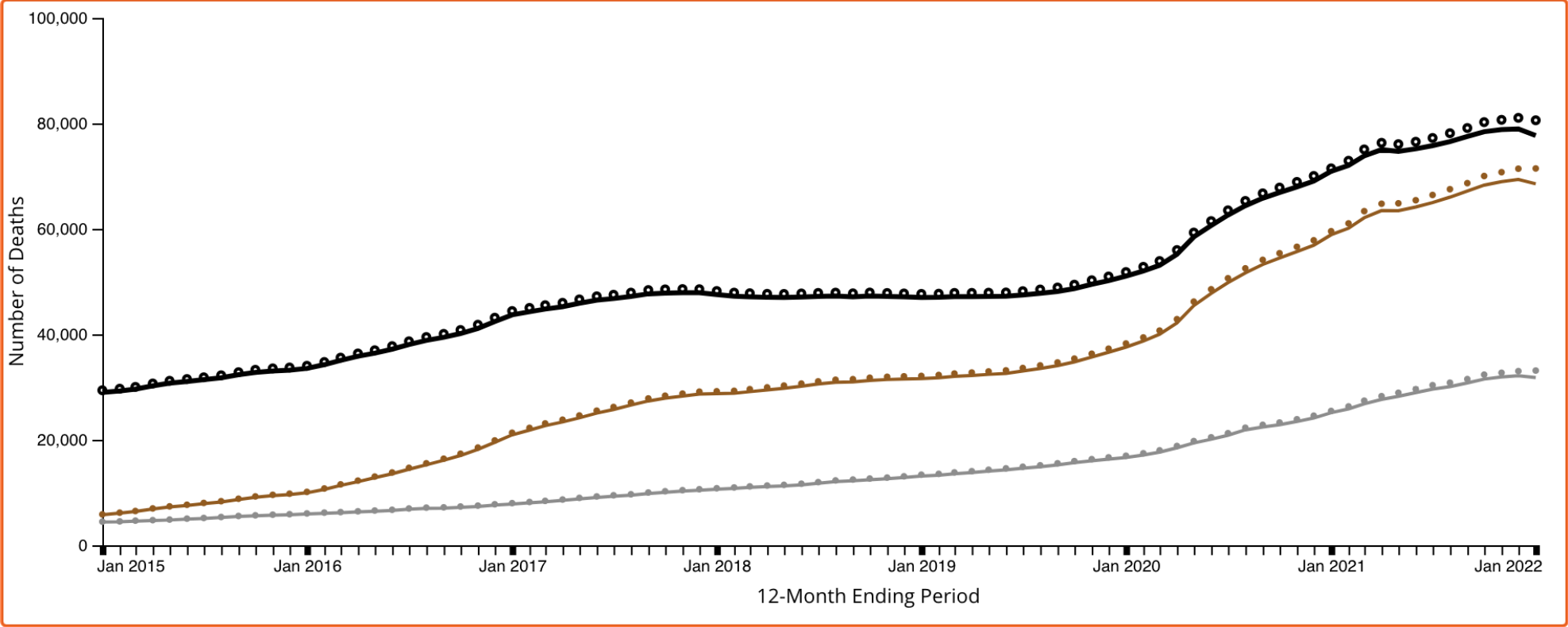
Select Jurisdiction

United States

Select specific drugs or drug classes

Select drug class

Figure 2. 12 Month–ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: United States



~33,000 deaths from psychostimulants in 2021

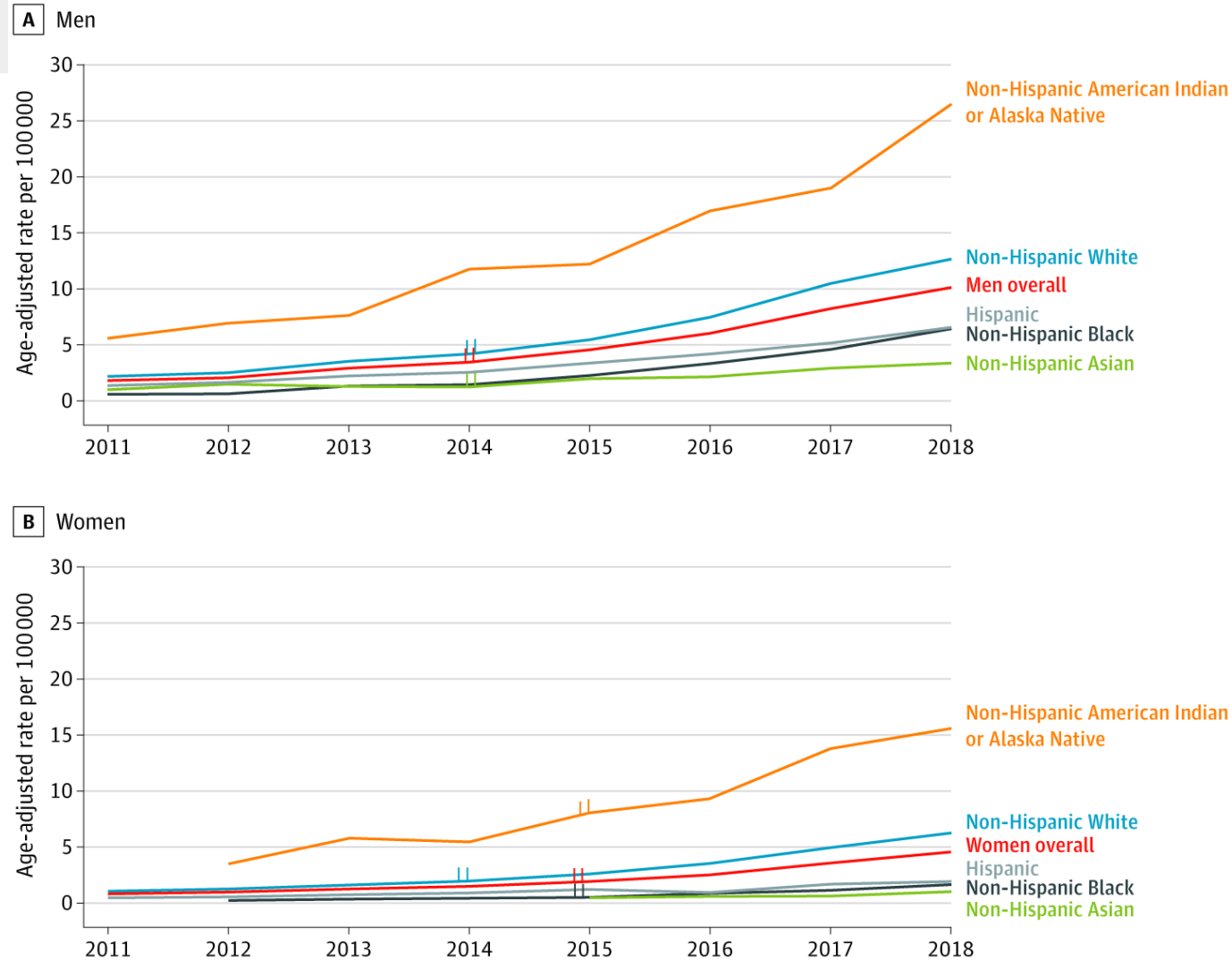
Legend for Drug or Drug Class

- Opioids (T40.0-T40.4, T40.6)
- Psychostimulants with abuse potential (T43.6)
- Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)

- Reported Value
- Predicted Value

From: **Methamphetamine Overdose Deaths in the US by Sex and Race and Ethnicity**

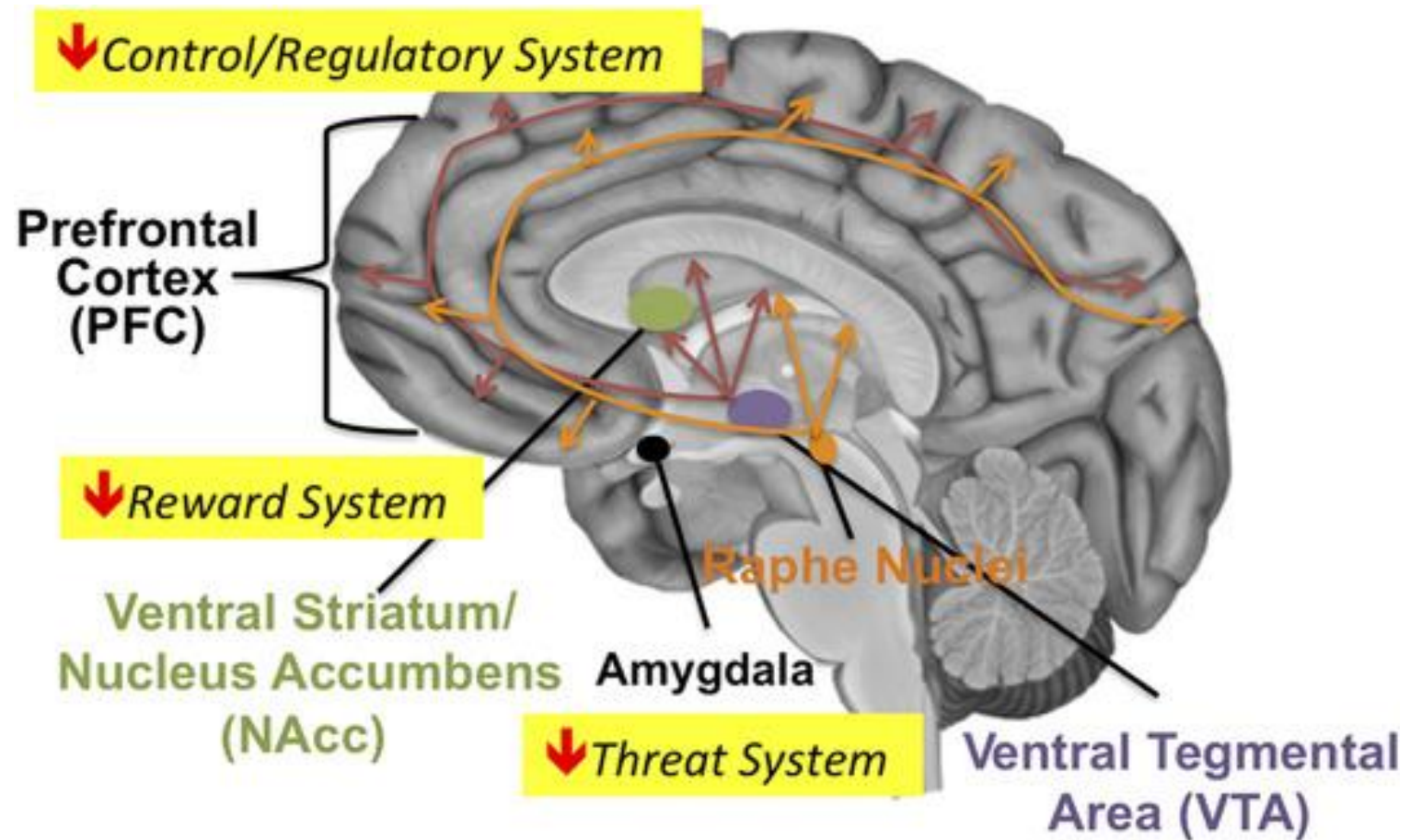
JAMA Psychiatry. 2021;78(5):564-567. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.4321



Neurobiology of Addiction

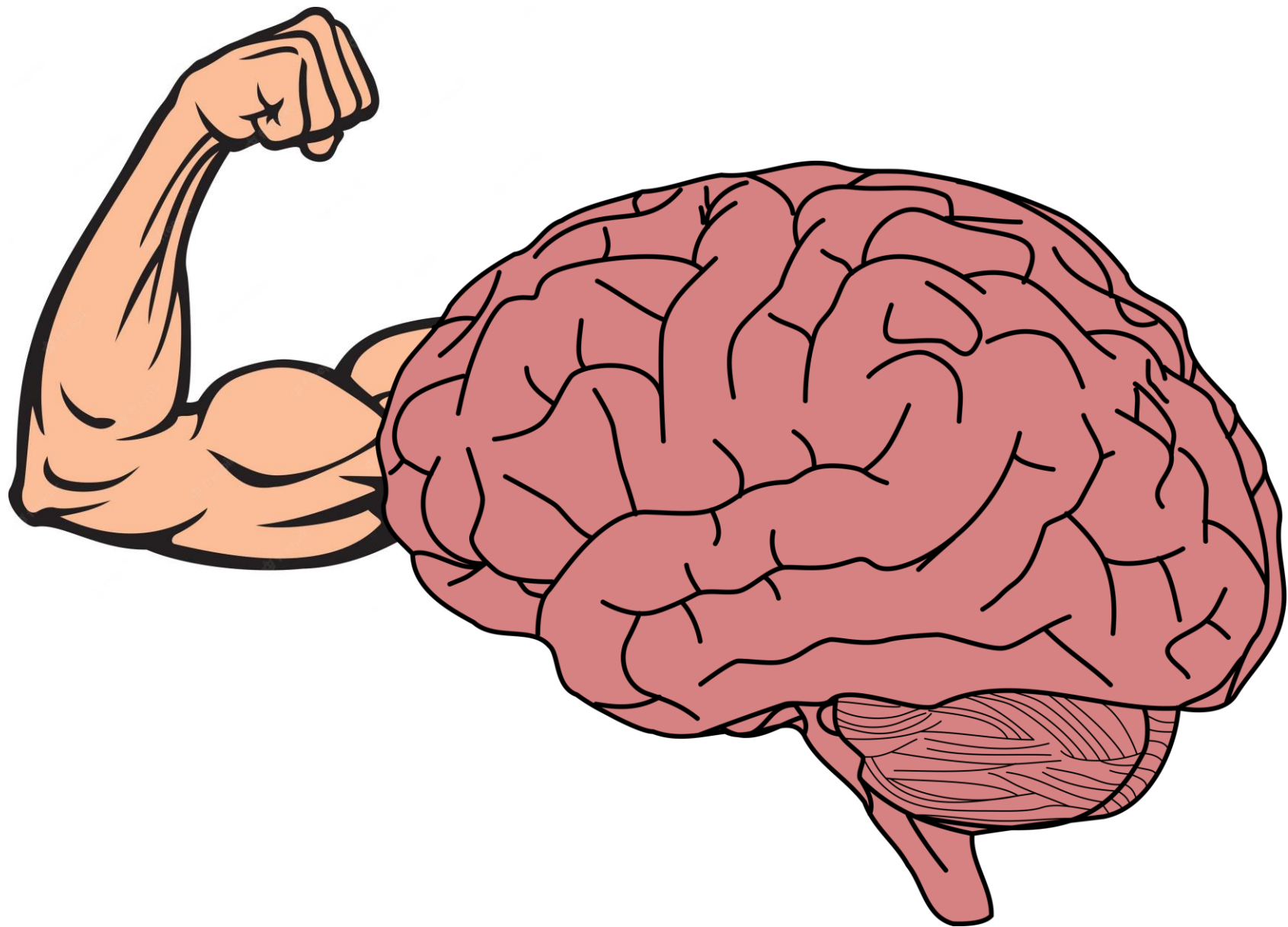
In developing addiction-

- 1) Drug use shifts from becoming impulsive to compulsive
- 2) Decreased top-down decision making from the pre-frontal cortex (PFC)
- 3) Increased sensitivity to drug cues
- 4) Desensitization to natural rewards



Treatment of Stimulant Use Disorder

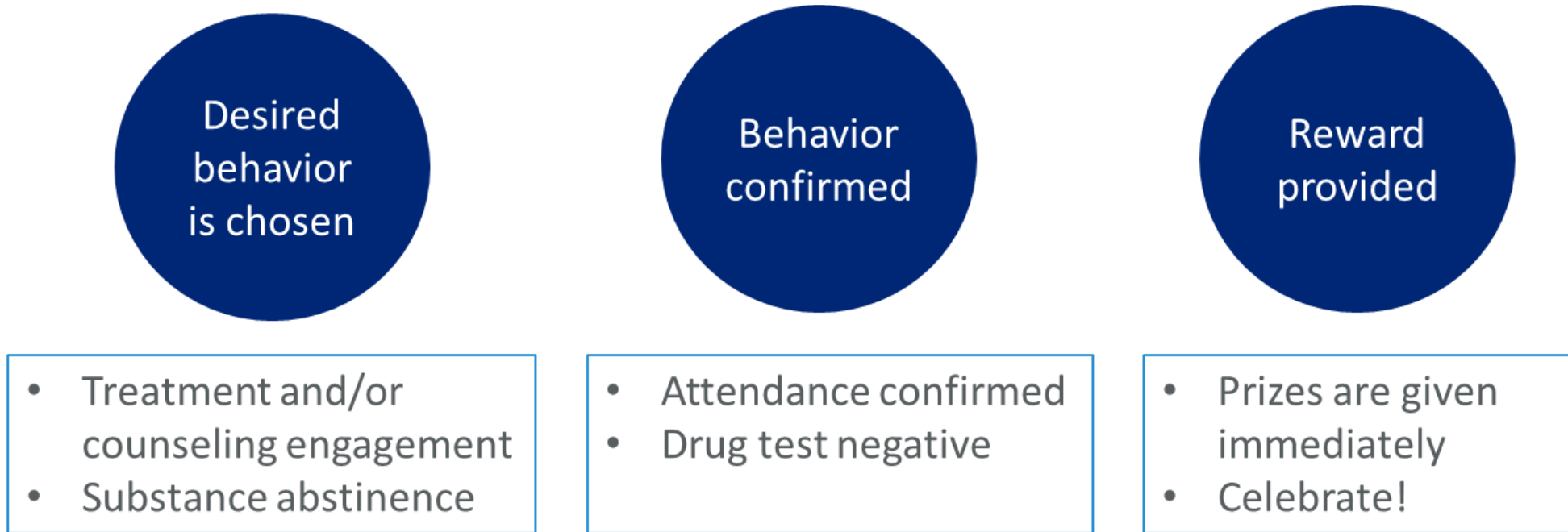
- There are no FDA-approved medications to treat stimulant-use disorder.
- Behavioral treatments are the goal-standard:
 - **Contingency Management (CM)**
 - Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)
 - Internal Family Systems (IFS) therapy
 - 12-step programs



What is Contingency Management (CM)?

- Contingency management is “a behavioral therapy, based on operant conditioning principles, that provides tangible reinforcers for evidence of behavior change.”
- **Operant conditioning** - Administering of a reward for a particular behavior increases the likelihood of the behavior being repeated.
- Participants in CM programs work to alter their decision making around substance use, shifting away from the immediate reward of using to delayed rewards for behavior change - **delay discounting**.

How does CM Work?



Why does CM Work?



Types of CM

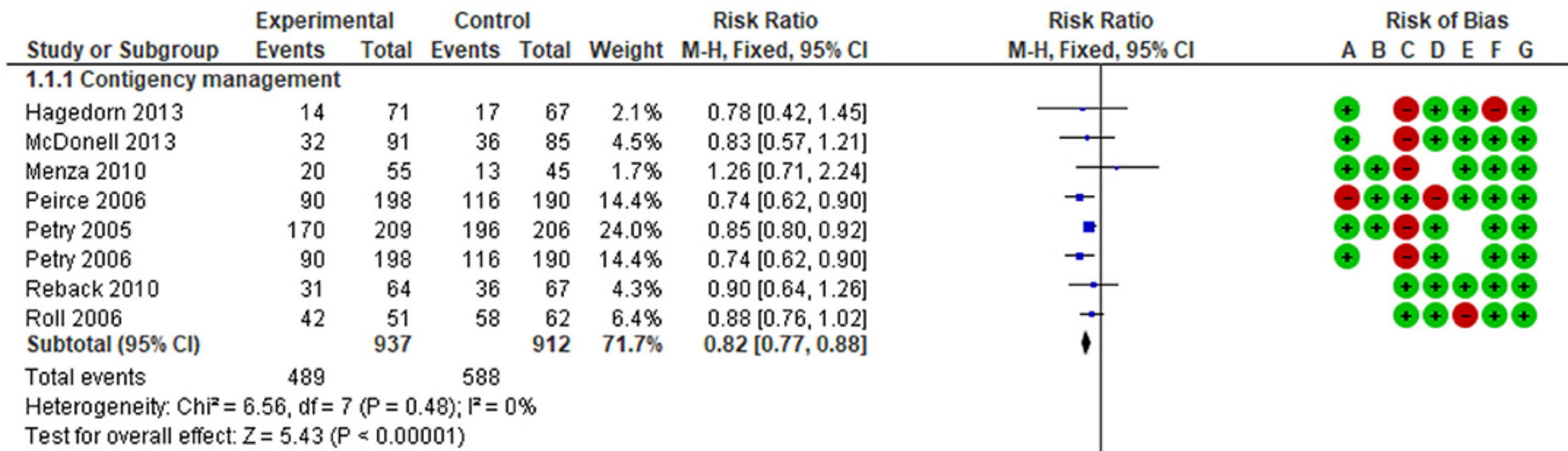
1. **Voucher based reinforcement therapy (VBRT)**
 - Patients receive vouchers or other monetary-based incentives exchangeable for goods/services
2. **Variable magnitude of reinforcement procedure – a.k.a. "Prized-based"**
 - Patients receive draws (often from a container with slips of paper) or spin a wheel that have varying “prize” amounts



CM is Effective

A review of 27 studies on CM (including 15 RCTs) showed:

- Increased abstinence from methamphetamine
- Increased treatment retention, attendance, and engagement
- Reductions in risky sexual behavior and number of sexual partners



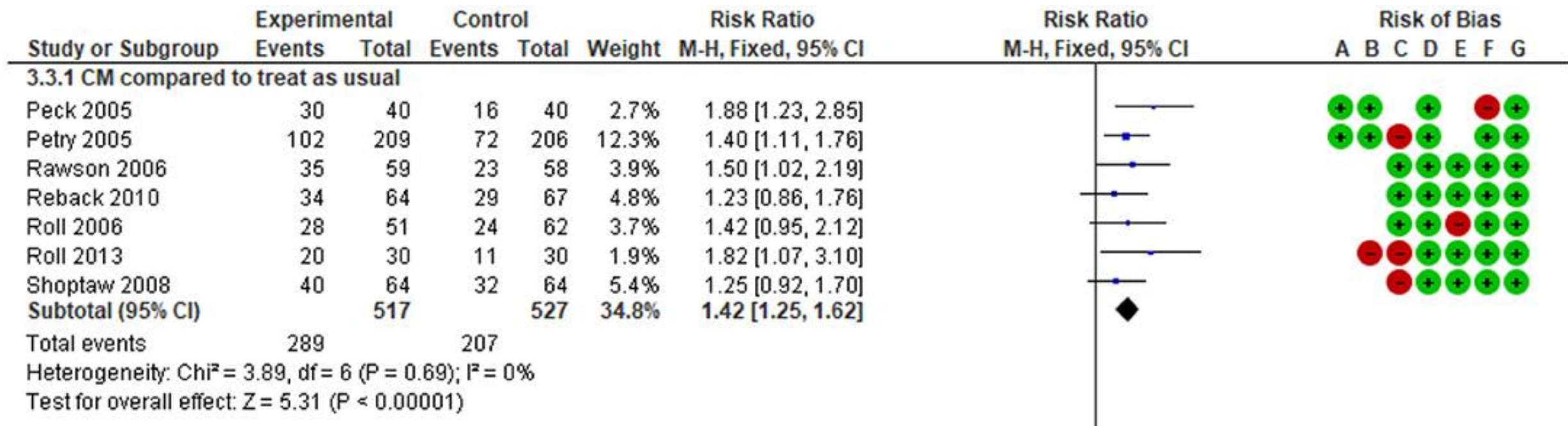
Risk of bias legend

- (A) Random sequence generation (selection bias)
- (B) Allocation concealment (selection bias)
- (C) Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)
- (D) Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)
- (E) Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)
- (F) Selective reporting (reporting bias)
- (G) Other bias

Patients treated with CM had
significant reductions in
stimulant use

Relative risk = 0.82

NNT = 8



Risk of bias legend

- (A) Random sequence generation (selection bias)
- (B) Allocation concealment (selection bias)
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- (D) Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)
- (E) Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)
- (F) Selective reporting (reporting bias)
- (G) Other bias

Patients treated with CM were
more likely to remain in
treatment

Relative risk = 1.42

NNT = 6

Exposure to Prize-based CM Does Not Increase Gambling Behaviors

- A study of 803 patients with stimulant use were randomly assigned to 12 weeks standard of care treatment with or without prize-based CM.
- Patients were recruited from methadone and non-methadone clinics.
- 26% of patients from non-methadone clinics and 37% of patients from methadone clinics reported gambling during the study.
- There was no difference in gambling rates between patients who received standard treatment and those that received prize-based CM.
- Rates of gambling for both groups did not increase throughout treatment.

Barriers to Implementation

- Cost / Insurance coverage
- Stigma
- Administrative complexities
- Questions on durability of effects

SUDs cost > \$740 billion annually in the U.S.

Washington State Institute for Public Policy:
For a single patient receiving \$500 incentive,
overall economic benefit to the state of \$23,000

Recent meta-analysis showed patients treated with CM were 22% more likely to be abstinent 24 weeks after treatment ended compared with patients who received other behavioral interventions.

CM and Trauma-Informed Care

- Rather than punishing people for using drugs, CM rewards people for engaging in recovery behaviors
- Promotes self-efficacy
- Celebrates positive change



CM as Harm Reduction

- Goal may not be complete abstinence from all substance use
- CM can be supportive for
 - Increasing attendance at appointments
 - Decreasing associated risky behaviors (i.e., high risk sexual behaviors)
 - Engagement in other health behaviors (like completing vaccine series or taking PEP)



8c's of Self

Compassion

Curiosity

Clarity

Connectedness

Courage

Confidence

Calmness

Creativity

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Implementing a CM Program

Questions?