



Justice or Judgement: Understanding the Intersection of Addiction and the Law

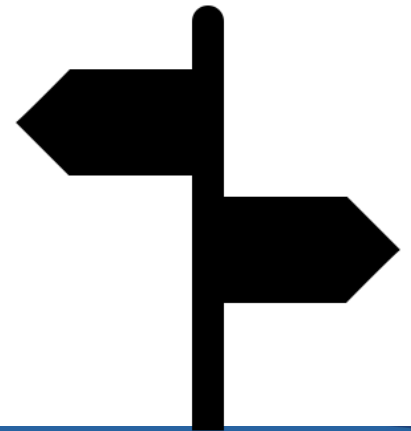
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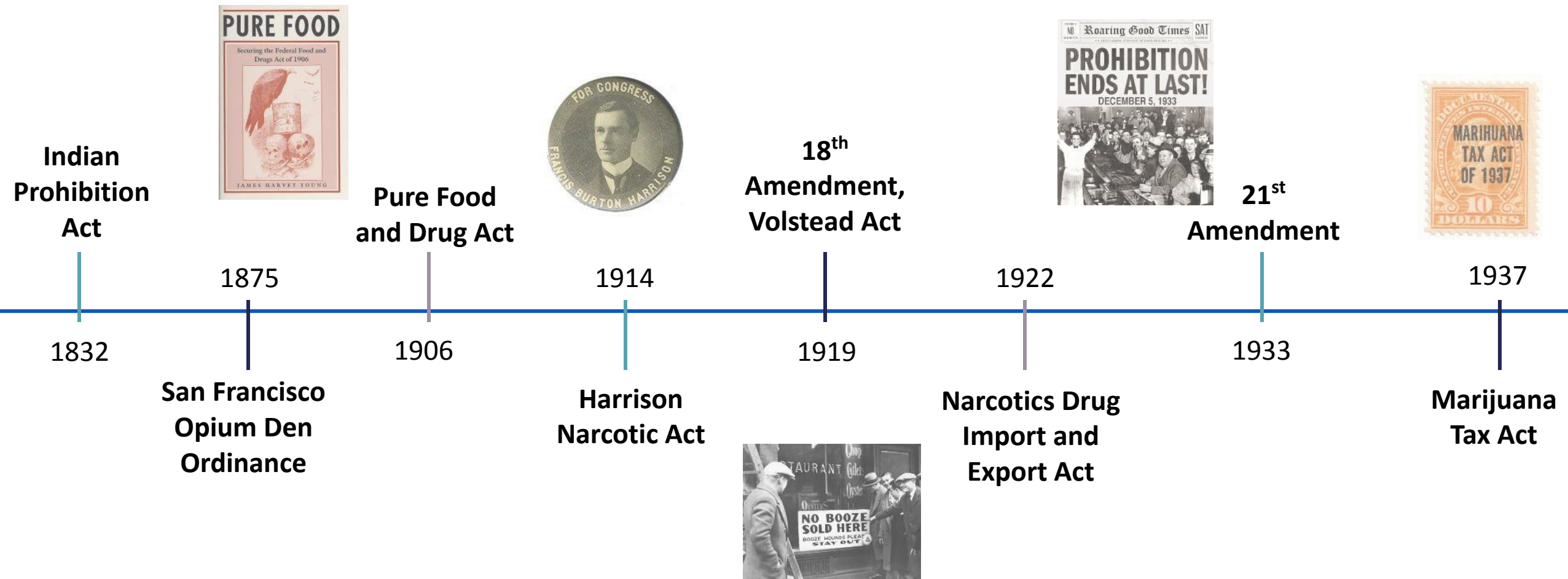
Shelby County Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Summit

Legislation of Substances

- There is a unique intersection between substances and the law in the United States
 - Legal limitations related to age, location, substance, etc
- Federal law vs state law vs local ordinances
- How is substance legislation introduced and made into law?



Historical Review of Substance Regulation



Modern Day Substance-Related Laws



Controlled Substances Act

1970

1986

Anti-Drug Abuse Act



Solomon-Lautenberg Amendment

1990



Medical Marijuana Legalized in CA

1996

Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act



1994

Fair Sentencing Act



2010

Recreational Marijuana Legalized in CO/WA

2012



Oregon Decriminalized All drugs

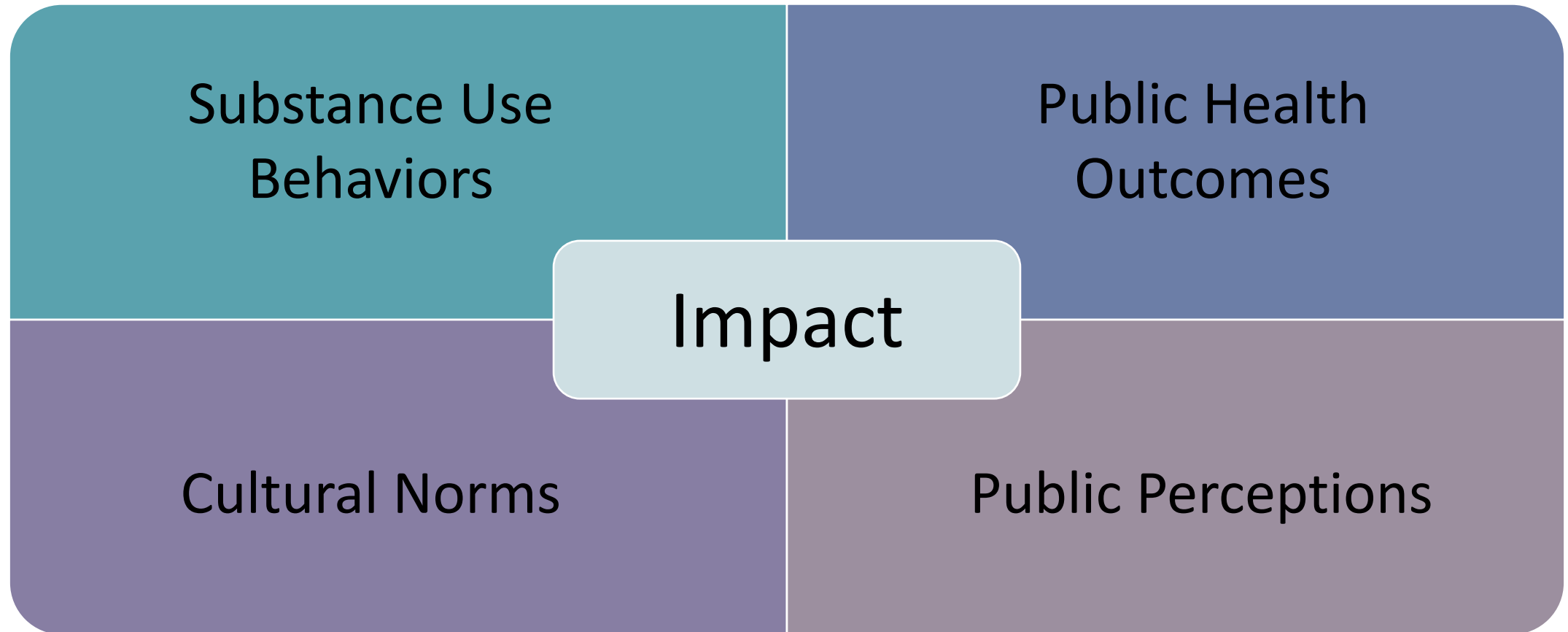


2020

Who is impacted by substance legislation?

- About 2 million people with a substance use disorder are arrested every year
 - About 20% of people do not qualify for SUD but were under the influence of drugs/alcohol at the time of their crime
- 50-65% of prison population in US meet criteria for substance use disorders
- Drug/alcohol intoxication or withdrawal is 3rd leading cause of death for those in custody

Impact of Substance Laws



Stigma Related to Substance Laws

Structural Stigma

- Discriminatory policies and systems
- Ex: Stigmatizing language written in law

Social Stigma

- Negative attitudes and beliefs of others
- Ex: Believing people in recovery are untrustworthy or deceitful

Self-Stigma

- Internalized negative view of self
- Ex: The “why try” effect

SUD Challenges within the Justice System

- Impact on symptoms
 - Trauma, co-occurring disorders, withdrawal, isolation from social support
- Lack of treatment availability and implementation
- Barriers related to re-entry
 - Lack of healthcare, job skills, education, housing, etc impact recovery opportunities
 - Overdose is leading cause of death after release
- Recidivism

Addressing SUD within the Justice System

- Goals: increasing recovery and decreasing recidivism
- Early identification of SUDs at all points of contact
 - Pre-arrest, booking, adjudication, re-entry
- Most effective treatment starts when first coming in contact with the justice system AND sustained after release



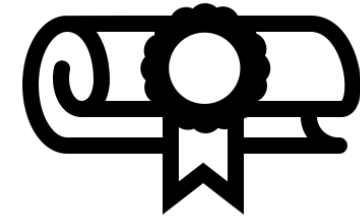
Addressing SUD within the Justice System

- Recovery/Drug Courts or diversion
- Collaboration between disciplines
 - Mental health professionals, addiction specialists, medical/health professionals, law enforcement, judges, probation officers, corrections staff, case managers



What We Can Do

- Non-judgmental language
- Trauma-informed care
- Promote harm reduction practices and overdose prevention policies
- Pay attention to legislation and advocate to legislators
 - Diversion programs, access to treatment and support services, peer support and community services





Thank you!

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References

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