

Background

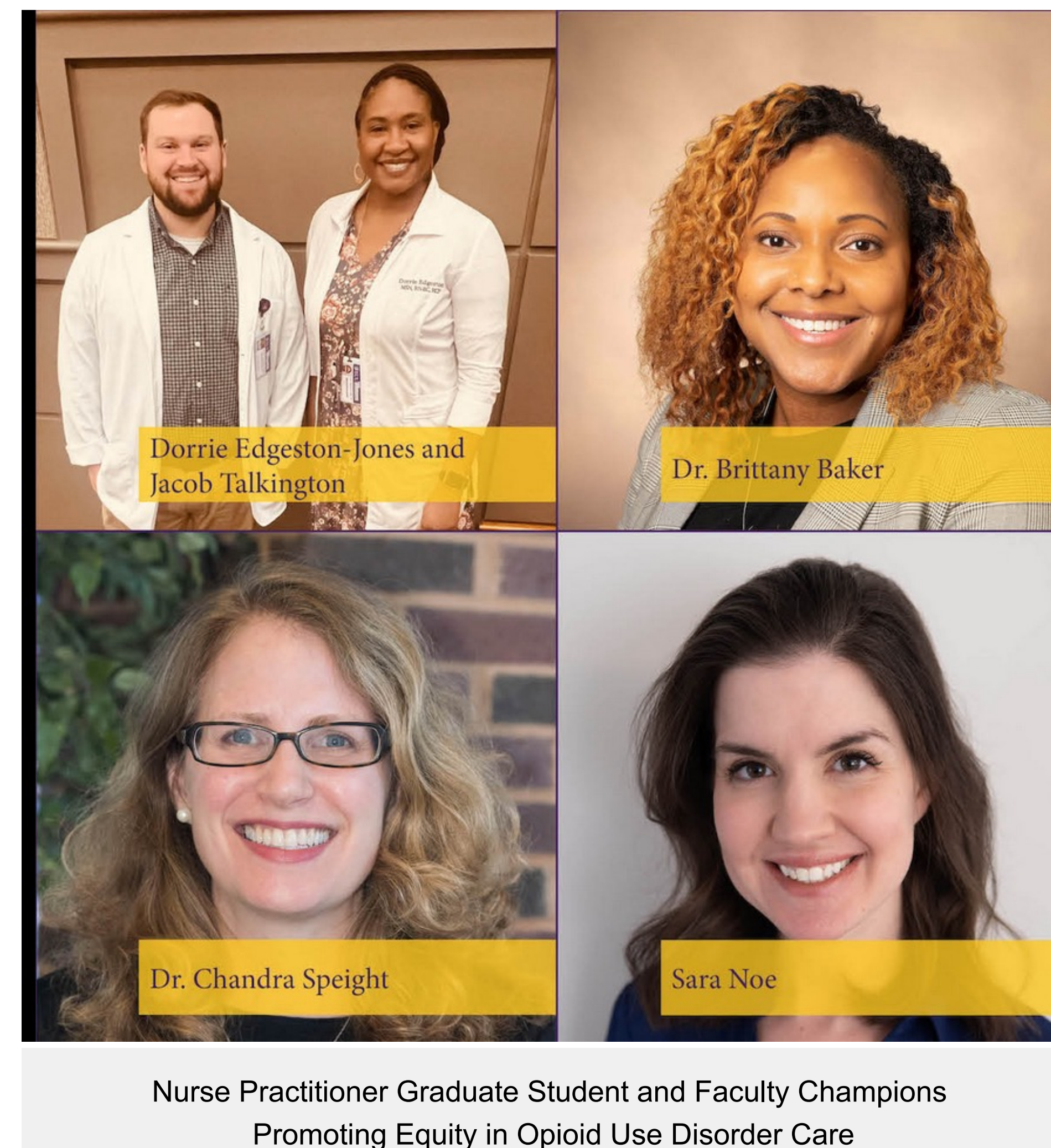
- ~300 Americans die daily of unintended drug overdoses, most involving opioids
- Overdose death rates and opioid-related harm exceed state and national averages in most Eastern North Carolina communities (see table below)
- Evidenced-based, highly effective interventions to decrease opioid-related harm are available
- Harm reduction interventions include naloxone, safer-use strategies, fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, and medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
- Opioid use disorder treatment access and harm reduction services are limited, especially among rural and historically marginalized communities like those in Eastern North Carolina
- Buprenorphine is a MOUD well suited for rural communities and primary care settings
- Nurse practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives are uniquely positioned to offer harm reduction and MOUD to communities disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic

Opioid Crisis in Eastern North Carolina

Location	Overdose Death Rate (100k) 2021	Overdose Death Rate (100k) 2022
US	32.4	33.0 ↑
NC	38.5	36.9 ↓
ENC-29	39.1	41.2 ↑
Select ENC Counties		
Carteret	48.9	53.3 ↑
Craven	62.7	81.3 ↑
Jones	37.9	63.7 ↑
Pamlico	78.6	86.4 ↑

Interventions

- Focus on increasing Advanced Practice Registered Nurse graduate student capacity to provide opioid use disorder harm reduction and treatment services
 - MOUD
 - Anti-Stigma Interventions
 - Harm Reduction
 - Equity Education
- Focus on increasing community provider capacity to provide MOUD
 - Community Education
 - MAHEC Partnership
 - Research on Barriers and Facilitators, Policy Education
- Focus on exploring harm reduction interventions
 - Community Partners – Meal Centers and Syringe Exchange Programs
 - Novel Interventions (Community Delivered SBIRT)



Nurse Practitioner Graduate Student and Faculty Champions Promoting Equity in Opioid Use Disorder Care



ECU Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Graduate Students Participating in the Addiction Medicine Conference in Asheville, North Carolina

Research and Scholarship Dissemination

Speight, C., Perry, J., & Smirnova, O. (2024). "You do more difficult things than this:" A national study of nurse practitioner buprenorphine prescribing. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. 20(3). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2023.104917>

Speight, C. (in press, accepted July 28, 2023). What the X? Understanding changes in buprenorphine prescribing regulation. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*. JAANP-D-23-00164

Speight, C., Caiola, C., Tyndall, D.E., & Scott, E.S. (2023). Barriers and facilitators to nurse practitioner buprenorphine prescribing for opioid use disorder in primary care settings. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*. 35(2): 112-121. doi: 10.1097/JXX.00000000000000811

**Speight, C. & Dracup, E. (2023, December). Barriers and facilitators to rural harm reduction program implementation: A research proposal. Poster presented at the 1st Annual College of Nursing Student Research and Scholarship Day.

Speight, C., Lancaster, W., & Skipper, M. (2023, April). Enhancing opioid use disorder education in nurse practitioner curricula: A population health approach to reduce stigma, promote equity, and improve treatment access. Podium presentation at the 2023 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty 49th Annual Conference: Momentum and Sustainability in Advancing NP Education, Orlando, FL, United States.

Speight, C., & Sharp, L. (2023, April). Medications for Opioid Use Disorder: Increasing knowledge, expanding access, improving outcomes. Podium presentation at the North Carolina Nurses Association, Nurse Practitioner Spring Symposium, Wilmington, NC, United States.

**Speight, C., Bartlett, H., & Scott, E.S. (2023, March). Mechanisms to support new graduate nurse practitioner role transition. Poster presentation at the 2023 Collaborative Nurse Research Day, Greenville, NC, United States.

Speight, C., & Lancaster, W. (2022, March). Opioid use disorder in primary care settings: What NPs need to know. Podium presentation at the North Carolina Nurses Association, Nurse Practitioner Spring Symposium, Asheville, NC, United States.

** Indicates student involvement

Classroom and Community Education Initiatives



Opioid Use Disorder: Student Knowledge

FNP/AGPCNP Knowledge

Knowledge	Pre-Education n (%)	Post-Education n (%)	P-value
Working knowledge			
Disagree	19 (40.4%)	0 (0%)	<.001
Neutral	8 (17%)	0 (0%)	
Agree	20 (42.6%)	47 (100%)	
Manage withdrawal			
Disagree	28 (59.6%)	0 (0%)	<.001
Neutral	9 (19.1%)	4 (8.5%)	
Agree	10 (21.3%)	43 (91.5%)	
Overall confident			
Disagree	18 (38.3%)	0 (0%)	<.001
Neutral	13 (27.7%)	3 (6.4%)	
Agree	16 (34%)	44 (93.6%)	

Honors Student Accomplishments



Erin Dracup, center, CON Honors Student and 2024 URCA Recipient for Rural Harm Reduction Study; also pictured CON Dean Dr. Akintade (left) and Dr. Speight (right)

Novel Interventions: Community Delivered SBIRT



UNC Collaboratory funded SBIRT research team with community partner in Martin County, North Carolina

Acknowledgements

The North Carolina Governor's Institute for Substance Abuse, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Providers Clinical Support System Subaward

The North Carolina Collaboratory Opioid Abatement Research Program

SBIRT Community Partners: ekiM for Change, The Hope Exchange, The Gathering Place, Prevention Point