

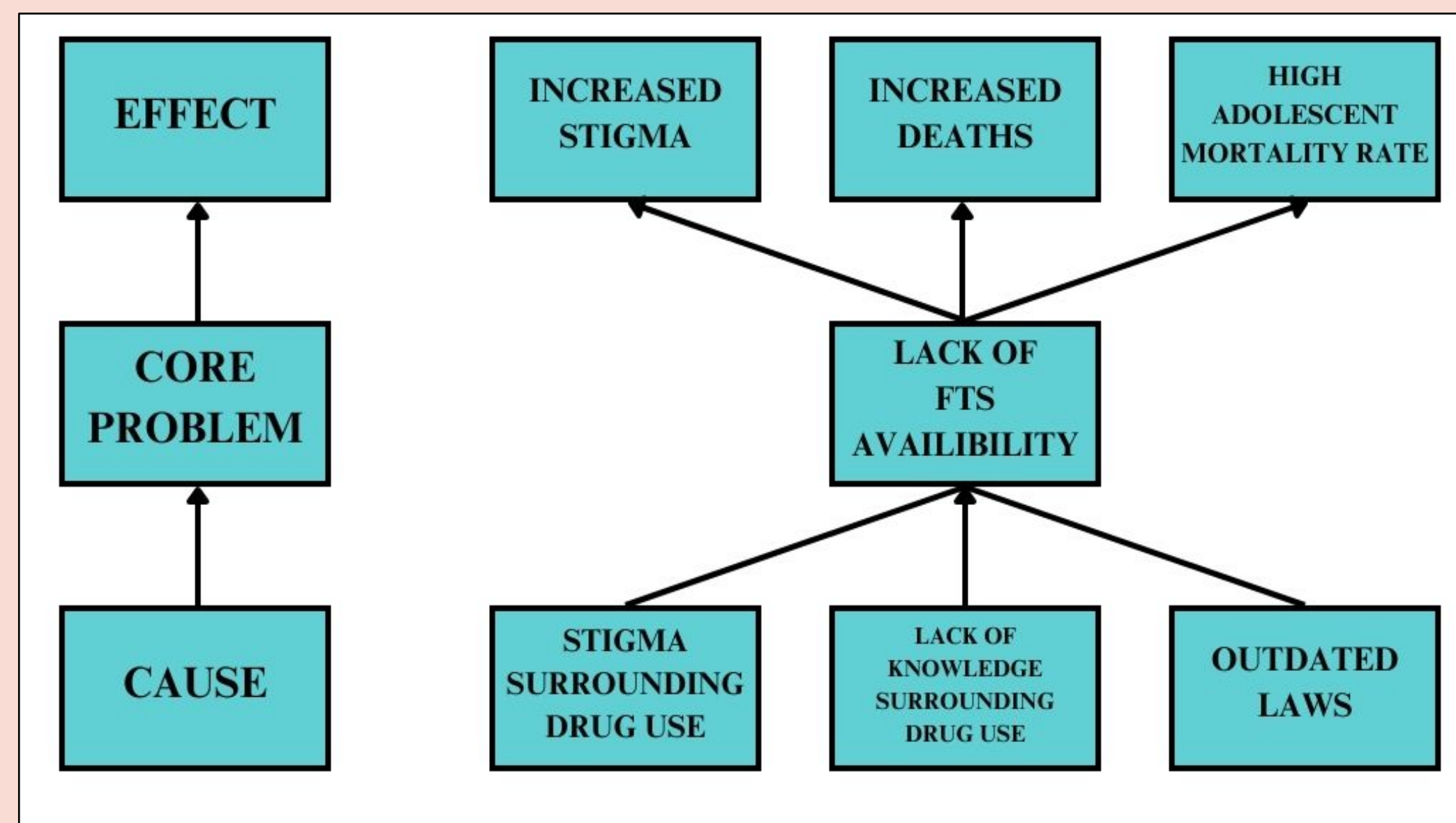
The Importance of Fentanyl Test Kits: Why We Need to Make Fentanyl Testing Kits Available and Legal on a Federal Level

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INTRODUCTION

- This campaign addresses how destigmatizing and legalizing Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) can make an overall positive impact on reducing an exponentially increasing death rate.
- This project is completed with a goal of pushing for easier access nationwide to fentanyl testing kits, specifically from the Center for Disease Control.
- The campaign will specifically target areas in the northeast with higher levels of fentanyl-related overdoses, and the legalization aspect of the campaign will target states that have not legalized fentanyl testing kits.
- The core problem in regard to this campaign is the excessive number of fentanyl-related overdoses in the United States, and that the number continues to rise without a true solution in sight.

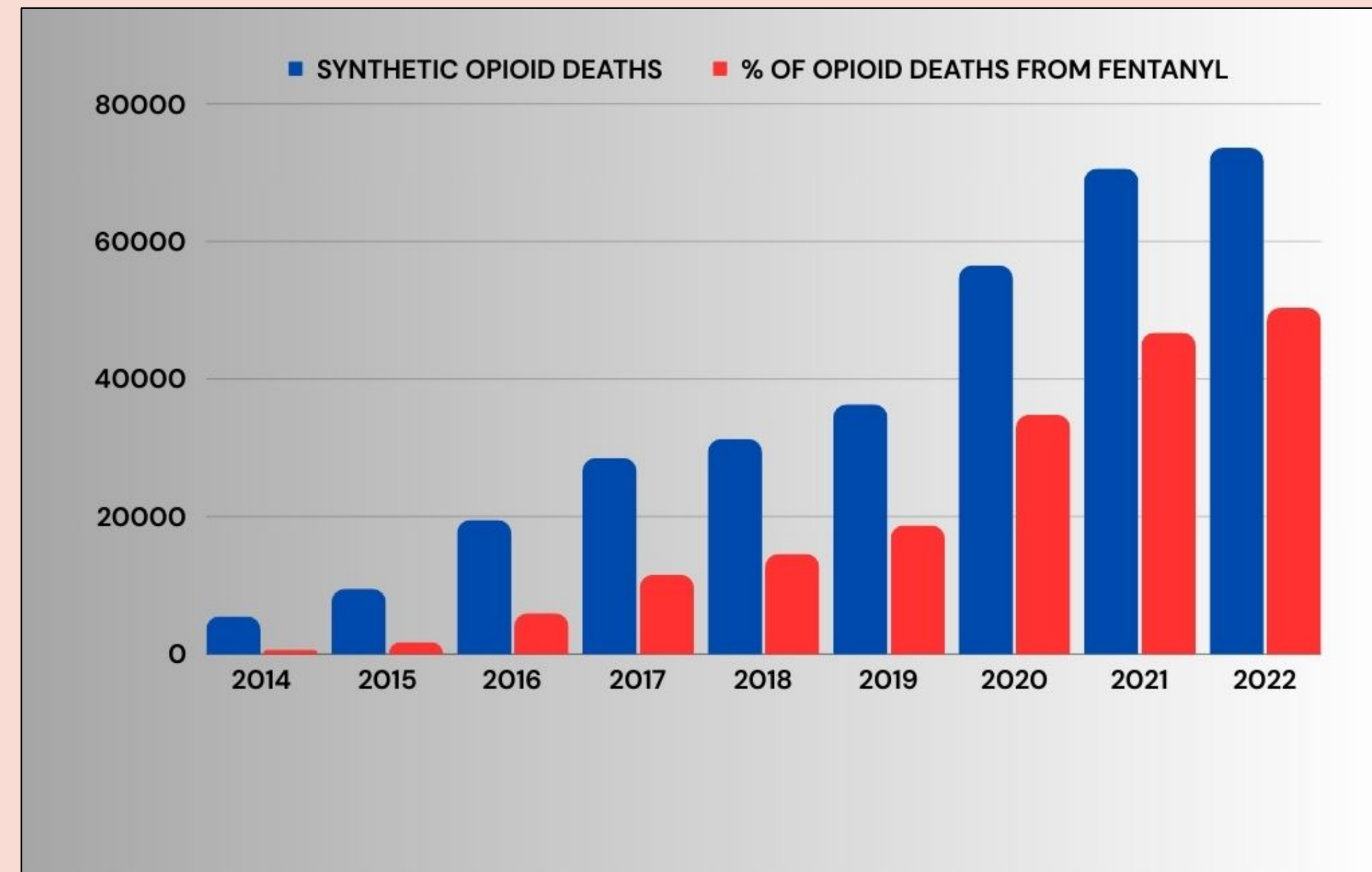
PROBLEM TREE DIAGRAM



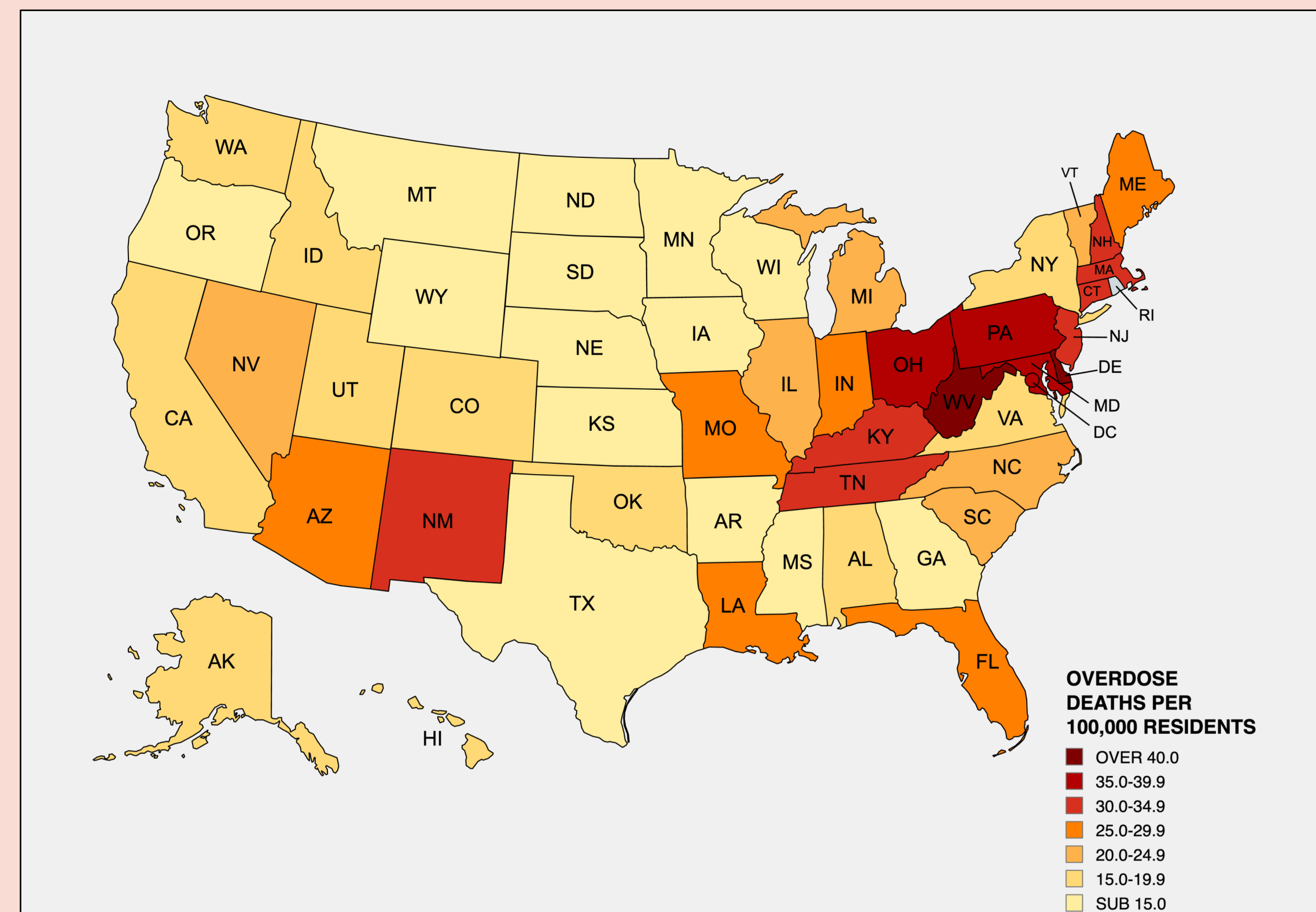
PROBLEM TREE EXPLANATION

- The core problem that this campaign focuses on is the lack of FTS that are available to the public.
- This problem is caused by the already existing stigma that surrounds both drug addicts and those who use drugs recreationally.
- A lack of education surrounding both addiction and what FTS provides is another contributor to the core problem.
- Both the negative stigma around those who use drugs and the lack of education about how people who are addicted to drugs operate are key factors in what contributes to the core issue at hand.
- One more factor that is a cause is that certain states keep laws in place from Richard Nixon’s War on Drugs, which makes it illegal for anyone to possess FTS or anything that can be considered “drug paraphernalia.”

FENTANYL OVERDOSE STATISTICS 2014-2022



FENTANYL OVERDOSE STATISTICS BY STATE



LITERATURE REVIEW

“NARCAN Behind Every Bar”

- The campaign’s focus is putting Narcan in every bar and nightclub in New York City.
- The campaign works by providing free Narcan to any bar or nightclub that requests it, in effort to potentially save someone experiencing an opioid overdose.
- The campaign also provides free Narcan training to any bartender, usher or other bar or nightclub employee, to create the best chance to reverse any potential overdose.

“Agency in the fentanyl era: Exploring the utility of fentanyl test strips in an opaque drug market”

- The project explains how “[drug users] feel disempowered by the heightened unpredictability of the drug market,” and that “FTS were used by drug users to avoid fentanyl and make the drug market safer.”
- The project also explains how FTS made the drug users feel safer overall, as well as make the people in their inner circles feel safer.

“Fentanyl test strips as an opioid overdose prevention strategy: Findings from a syringe services program in the Southeastern United States”

- The paper states that “Using FTS and receiving a positive test result was associated with changes in drug use behavior and perceptions of overdose safety.”
- The research suggests FTS may represent an effective addition to current overdose prevention efforts when included with other evidence-based strategies to prevent opioid overdose and related harm.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS

- Between 2012 and 2022, the number of fentanyl-related deaths in the United States increased exponentially, from 2,628 reported deaths in 2012 to 73,654 reported deaths in 2022.
- In a 12-month period between March of 2022 and March of 2023, the number of fentanyl-related deaths in the United States was at an all time high of 110,469.
- The Drug Enforcement Agency seized over 379 million deadly doses (over 10,000 lbs.) of fentanyl in 2022.
- The United States has seen a 109% increase in adolescent mortality from 2019-2021, coinciding with a rapid increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths.

[LINK TO REFERENCES:](#)

