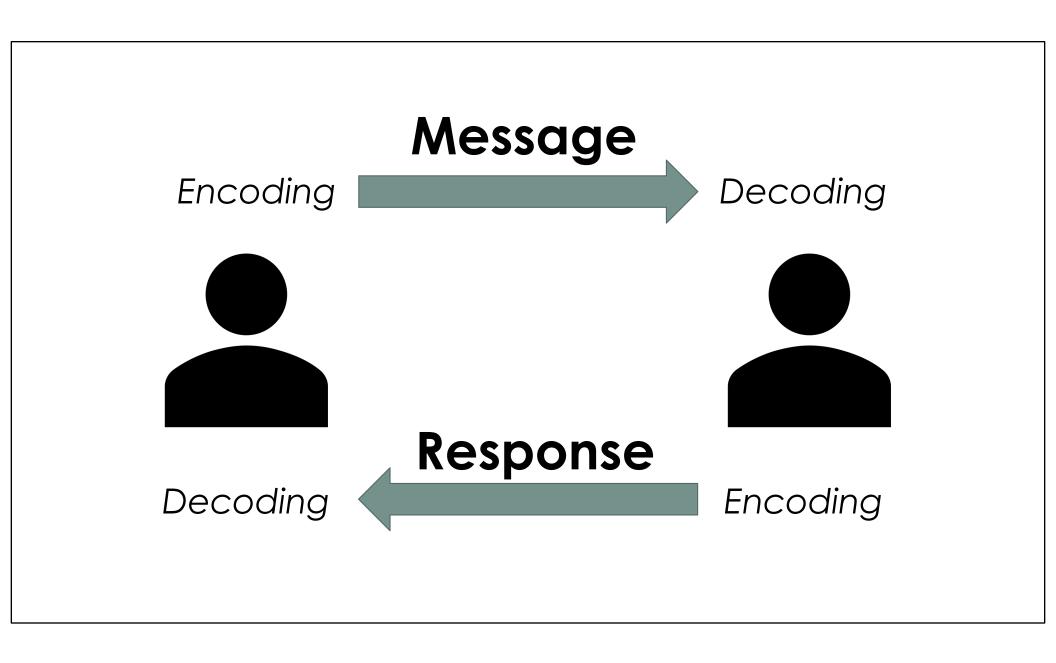
Crafting Effective and Respectful Messages

Scott Walters, PhD



- Teenagers make tasty snacks.
- The coach told the player he was lazy.
- The burglar threatened the student with the knife.
- She told me she saw the man with the telescope.



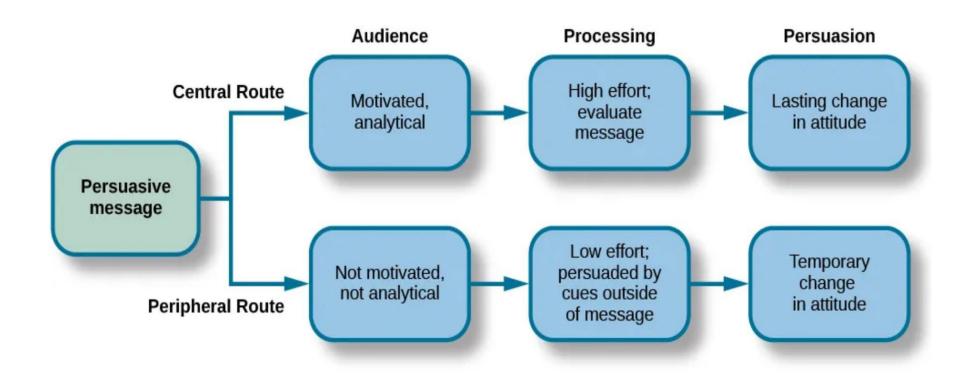
I no longer love her, that's certain.
But maybe I love her.
Love is so short. Forgetting is so long.

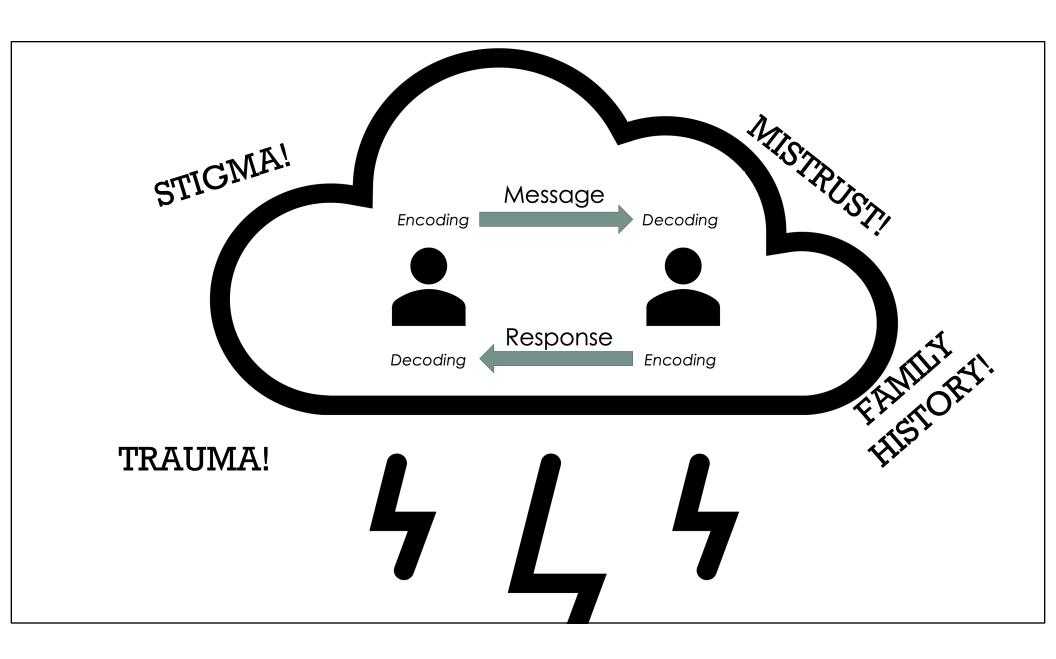
Pablo Neruda Tonight I can Write the Saddest Lines Lord, grant me chastity and continence, but not yet.

St. Augustine Confessions

Elaboration Likelihood Model

Elaboration Likelihood Model





What Does Stigma Look Like In Communication?

Stigmatizing Terms	Respectful Alternative
Addict, junkie	Person who uses drugs
Non-compliant	Facing barriers to care
Clean/dirty urine	Negative/positive result
Frequent flyer	Person with complex needs

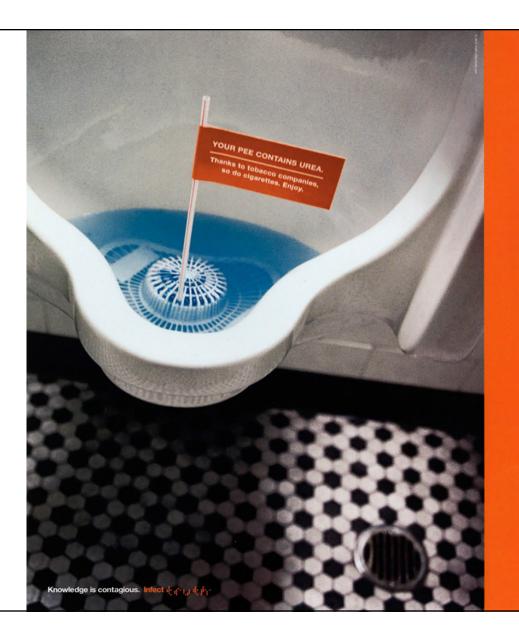
I've learned that people will forget what you said, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou

It's not what you said. It's how you said it while rolling your eyes, sighing and walking away.

Every parent of a teenager





YOUR PEE CONTAINS UREA.

Thanks to tobacco companies so do cigarettes. Enjoy.

YOUR PEE CONTAINS UREA.

Thanks to tobacco companies so do cigarettes. Enjoy.

YOUR PEE CONTAINS UREA.

Thanks to tobacco companies, so do cigarettes. Enjoy.

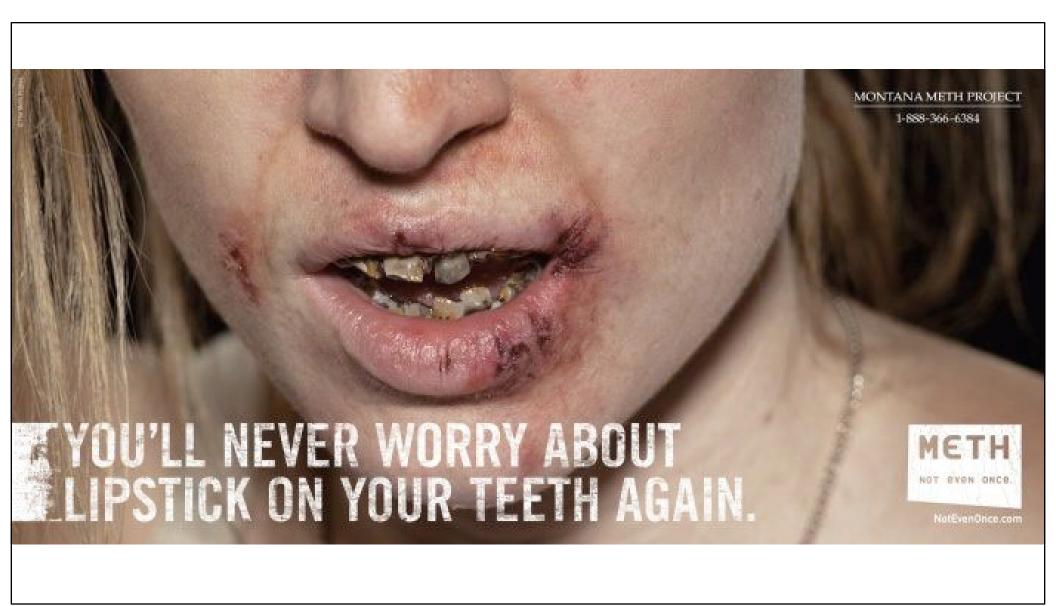
YOUR PEE CONTAINS UREA.

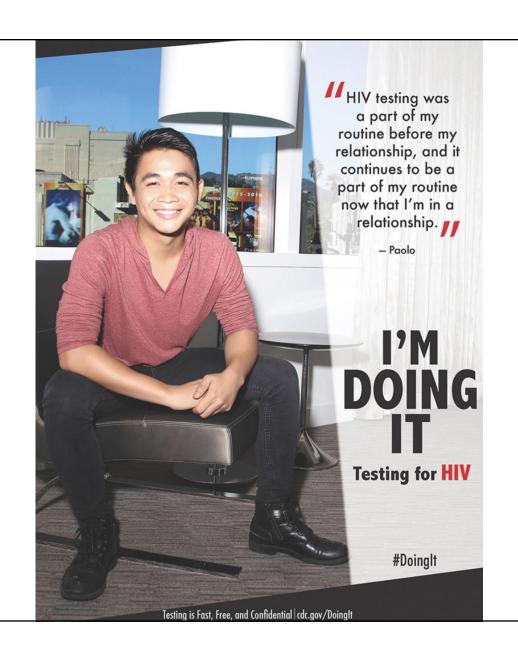
Thanks to tobacco companies, so do cigarettes. Enjoy.



















Communities that HEAL Intervention

Communities that HEAL (CTH) Intervention

3 Components



Community Engagement

Diverse coalition expertise >
Enhance EBP selection,
relevance, and
implementation



The Opioid Reduction Continuum of Care Approach (ORCCA)

A menu of strategies to support EBP implementation



Community-Based Health Communications Campaigns

Reduce stigma, increase awareness and adoption of EBPs









https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm 3PkKdZcpl

Community Stigma, Before & After

Community Stigma, Before & After

Survey Item [1 = Strongly Disagree, 7 = Strongly Agree]	Wave	N	Mean	SD	P value
Once you have an opioid addiction/opioid use disorder					
there is not much you can do about it.		1155	4.52	0.74	0.0346*
	4	447	4.43	0.82	
Most people in my community believe that it is better to offer drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration for people with opioid use disorder who are charged with					
non-violent crimes.		1152	4.83	1.51	0.0152*
	4	447	5.03	1.49	
Most people in my community think less of a person who has been in treatment for substance use.		1154	4.89	1.43	0.4184
		448	4.82	1.48	
Most people in my community believe that medications for opioid use disorder such as methadone and					
buprenorphine are just replacement drugs and not real treatment.		1149	4.52	1.44	0.5469
		446	4.57	1.59	

Designing Effective Messages

Define the objective

 Reduce fatal overdoses among people who misuse opioids



Choose the audience

- Group A: Actively using, 18-34
- Group B: In recovery, 35-54



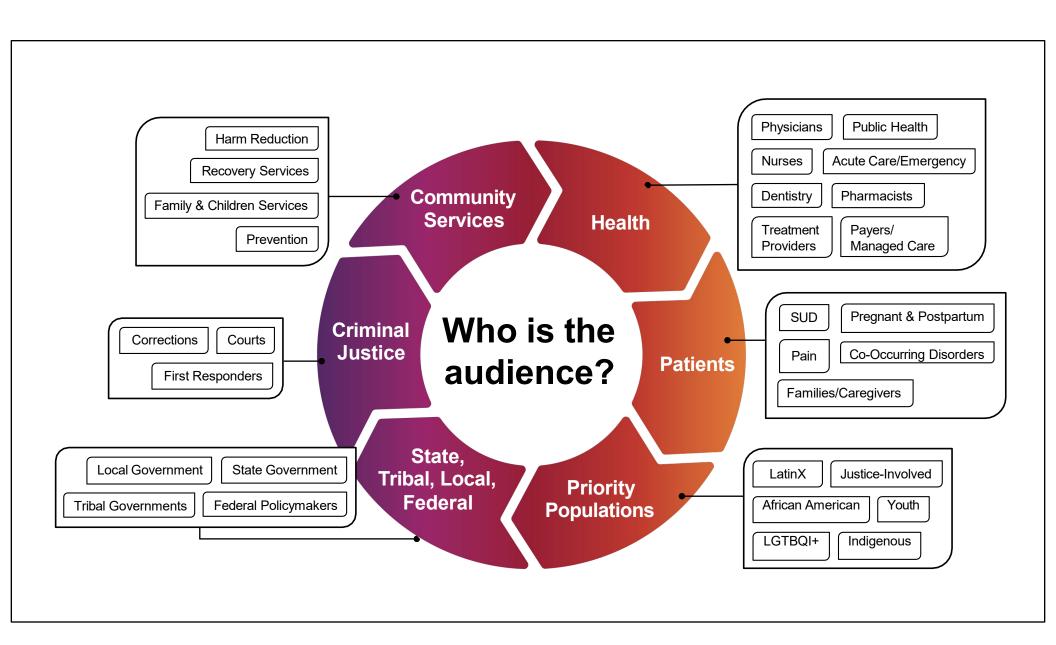
Pick the right channel(s)

- Group A: Social media
- Group B: Recovery coaches, treatment centers



Tailor the messaging

- Group A: Carry naloxone--it could save a life
- Group B: Naloxone is normal, not shameful



Audience Segments

GEOGRAPHIC SEGMENTS

- City
- Region/State
- Climate
- Communities
- Country
- Rural, Suburban or Urban

DEMOGRAPHIC SEGMENTS

- Age
- Gender
- Race
- Language
- Income
- Education
- Occupation

PSYOGRAPHIC SEGMENTS

- Budget
- Values and Beliefs
- Pain Points
- Attitudes
- Social and Cultural Norms

BEHAVIOR SEGMENTS

- Hobbies
- Habits
- Purchasing Styles
- Social Media Practices
- Tech Device Usage
- Media Consumption

Communication Channels

Newspaper Ad Social Media Poster / Flyer Palm Card Bus Ad Mall Ad Radio / Printed Banner Newsletter Brochure Press Release Utility Bill Ad Television Yard Sign News Article / Billboard Postcard Text Messaging Word of Mouth Op-Ed Website Display Community Public Service Video Mobile App Ad Email Listserv Conversation Banner Announcement

Social Media Platforms













Monthly **Users**

2.5 Billion

1 Billion

3 Billion

2 Billion

1.5 Billion

611 Million

Age

Millennials, older adults Millennials, Gen X

Millennials, Gen X, BB

Gen Z, Millennials

Gen Z

Millennials, Gen Z

Content

Long-form video tutorials, vlogs

B2B marketing, networking, thought leadership

Brand awareness, driving traffic, increasing sales

Visual content, fashion, beauty, entertainment, travel, lifestyle

Short-form video content, trends

updates, thought leadership

Stigma Message Testing: What To Ask

- Who is this message for?
- Could this wording feel blaming or shaming?
- Would the audience see themselves in this message?
- Does the image or tone reflect respect, dignity, and real-life context?
- Have people with lived experience reviewed this?

Messaging: Unhoused

Concept	Terms
Supportive	help, safe, care, support, free, access, kit, shelter, space, community
Action-Oriented	get, carry, use, test, check, find, bring, call, ask, protect
Reassuring	no-cost, welcome, available, private, now, ready, easy, safe, open
Trust-Building	peer, worker, team, trusted, local, contact, mobile, here, us

Messaging: Young Adults

Concept	Terms		
Relatable	real, friends, vibe, risk, legit, truth, stuff, test now, alert, quick, drop, fake, hit, OD, crisis, stop,		
Urgent	check		
Action-Oriented	share, scan, try, post, carry, save, tag, swipe, know, learn		
Social Media Friendly	safe, alive, facts, plug, pills, blues, cap, fent, kit, tool		

Audience	Flyers/Poster	Social Media	Face-to-Face
People who use drugs	ODs are preventable!	#EndOverdose #NaloxoneNow	Let's talk safer use.
People in supportive housing	Check lobby for naloxone training	Your housing, your health. Learn more.	You can grab free kits downstairs
Young adults (18-25)	Know what you're taking!	Fake pills = real risk	Seen fake blues? We've got info
Providers/ Clinicians	Provider tip: universal co- prescribing	Training: harm reduction works	How are you screening for OD risk?

Designing a Public Health Campaign

Set a clear, measurable objective

Identify and/or segment your audience

Select appropriate channel(s) to reach audience

Develop simple, memorable, actionable messages

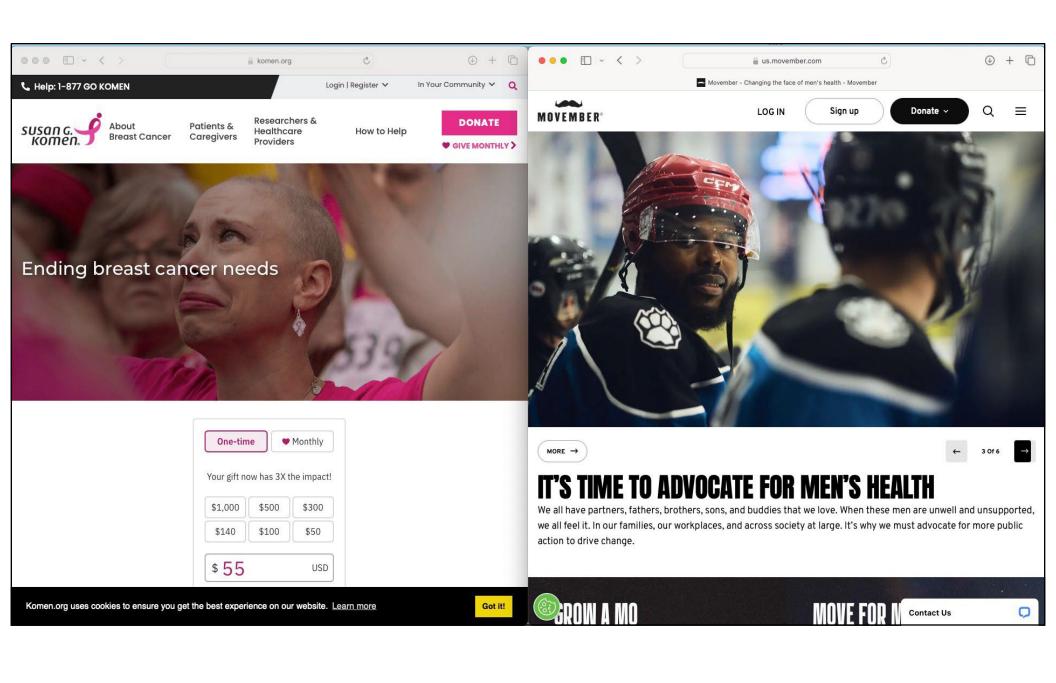
Choose visual & narrative design (colors, branding, fonts)

Engage trusted messengers

Plan timing, duration, coordination for sustained impact

Examples: Komen and Movember

- Who is the target audience?
- How is the messaging tailored to this group?
- How is the audience segmented?
- What is the call to action?



Target Audience



- Technology professionals
- Aged between 25 to 35 years
- Working at mid-sized companies
- Active on social media
- Ambitious





Technology Tom

- Has a Master's Degree in Computer Science
- Works as Tech Team Lead at a mid-sized SaaS company
- Aged 28 to 35 years
- Married. Father of one.
- Annual income: \$130,000
- Responsible for product upgrades and innovation
- Keen on learning about the latest news and industry trends
- Follows popular tech blogs and podcasts
- Spends at least an hour on LinkedIn everyday
- Part of many Facebook tech communities and groups. Active participant in GitHub communities
- Wants to be in a leadership position in the next 5 to 7 years