TWO THIRDS OF ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE LINKED TO OPIOIDS. MISSOURI IS PARTICULARLY AT RISK, AS THE STATE’S OPIOID PRESCRIPTION RATE FAR EXCEEDS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

NOW, THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI IS BRINGING HELP TO THE AREAS THAT NEED IT MOST. MU RECEIVED A $1.2 MILLION GRANT THAT WILL SUPPORT TRAINING FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS TO PROVIDE CLINICAL SERVICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED MISSOURI COMMUNITIES MOST AFFECTED BY THE OPIOID CRISIS.

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR AND CHAIR LAURA SCHOPP EXPLAINS THAT THE PROGRAM PROVIDES ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH OPIOID ABUSE, ALONG WITH HELPING PREVENT OVERDOSES.

“What we know we need to do is improve public health surveillance. We need to improve treatment access, we need to improve access to overdose-reserving drugs.”

ALONG WITH HELPING RURAL MISSOURIANS, THE PREDOCTORAL INTERNs IN THE PROGRAM WILL BE USING THE SKILLS THEY LEARN TO SERVE URBAN, HIGH-NEED AREAS AS WELL.

“We’re going out to rural Missouri, we are serving our own community here in Columbia, Missouri and we’re going to an urban high-need clinic in Kansas City, bringing our interns so that they can have the direct experience and high-quality training that’s going to enable them to go out and meet those needs as they become independent practitioners.”

I’M BRIAN CONSIGLIO, WITH A MIZZOU SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE.