

ACA Impact on Opioid Use Disorder

In 2016 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced 3 key initiatives to counter the opioid epidemic:

1. Improve opioid prescribing practices
2. Increase access and distribution to pharmacologic interventions
3. Allocate funding toward research that would address opioid addiction and pain management

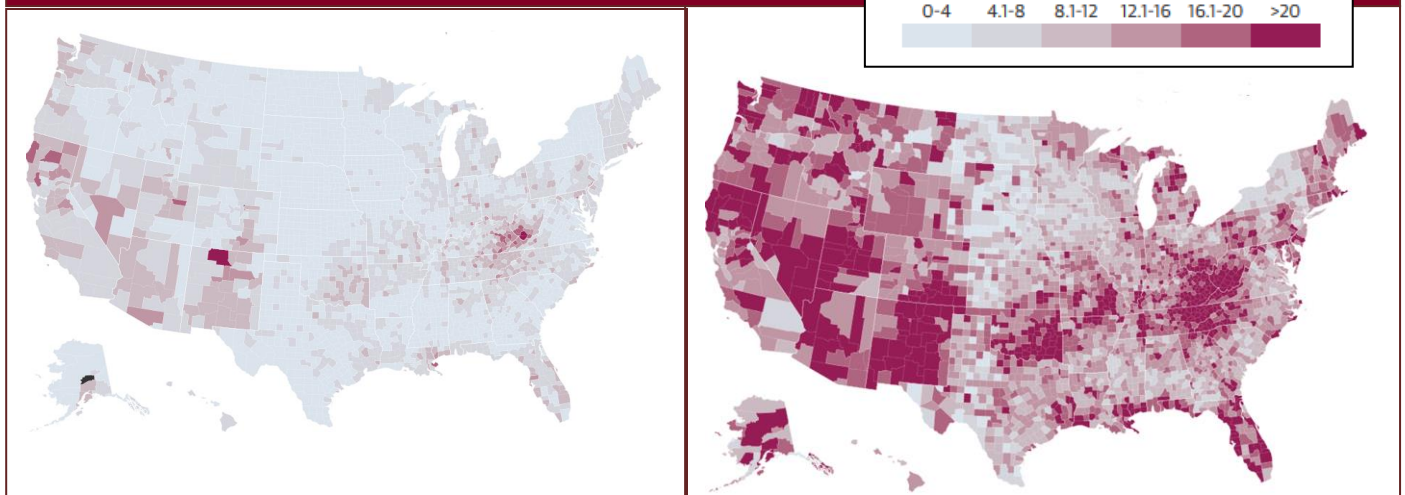
Opioid Use Disorder: A Public Health Problem & National Epidemic

- 21.6 million Americans have a substance use disorder-- but only 9.3% received treatment for their condition
- Pharmaceutical misuse or abuse increased 114% from 2004 to 2011
- In an average day, at least 650,000 opioid prescriptions are written
- Those at greatest risk include men, middle aged Caucasian and Indian/Native American people, people on multiple controlled substances

Cost of Opioid Misuse

- \$55 billion spent on healthcare and social costs attributed to opioid abuse
- \$20 billion spent on Emergency department utilization for opioid poisoning
- Health and Human Services requested \$1.1 billion to combat and prevent treatment for opiate misuse

U.S. Opioid Deaths Rising: 1999 - 2014



<https://www.theguardian.com/society/ng-interactive/2016/may/25/opioid-epidemic-overdose-deaths-map>

Treating Opioid Abuse Saves Money!!

- Medication assisted treatments like suboxone are cost-saving and cost effective
- For every \$1 spent to treat opiate dependence, \$4.78 of healthcare costs and \$7 of crime costs can be avoided

21.6 million Americans have a substance use disorder¹

(Opioid, Cocaine, Alcohol)

If the ACA is repealed 2.8 million Americans with a substance use disorder will lose coverage²

¹2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, SAMHSA

²Richard G. Frank and Sherry A. Glied, *To sustain progress on treating opioid disorders and serious mental illnesses keep the ACA.*

Medicaid Helps Pay for Pharmacologic Aids & Treatment Programs

- Medicaid programs fund a considerable proportion of the US treatments for substance abuse like Naloxone and buprenorphine.
- Medicaid provided funding to implement the goals of the 2016 Health and Human Services

States hardest hit by the opioid epidemic would see the greatest harm

Among the states with the highest rates of death due to drug overdose are:

West Virginia (41.5 per 100,000)

Kentucky (29.9)

Ohio (29.9)

Tennessee (22.2)

Pennsylvania (26.3)

Maine (21.2)

Drug Overdose Death Data, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>

ACA Repeal Will Cut Funding for Medicaid & Opioid Treatment Funding

- \$5.5 billion would be stripped from our treatment system, wasting recent gains in quality and reach of treatment
- The FY-2014 HHS improvements in opioid prescription practices and medication-assisted treatments will be squandered

Adequate Funding for Substance Abuse Care is Essential

If not, millions of people will lose access to addiction care and states with the highest rates of opioid misuse will suffer the most

References

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2. *Department of Human Health Services*. USA. ASPE Issue Brief, Opioid Abuse in the U.S. and HHS Actions to Address Opioid-Drug Related Overdoses and Deaths. Published: March 26, 2015. Accessed January 26, 2017. https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/107956/ib_OpioidInitiative.pdf
3. *Department of Health and Human Services*. CMCCS Informational Bulletin – Best practices for addressing prescription opioid overdoses, misuse and addiction. Published: January 28th, 2016. Accessed January 26, 2017. <https://www.medicare.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-02-02-16.pdf>
4. *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*. Medicaid Coverage and Financing of Medications to Treat Alcohol and Opioid Use Disorders. 2014. Publication SMA-14-4854 <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA14-4854/SMA14-4854.pdf>

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