Strategies on Ending the Overdose Epidemic

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The Human toll of the overdose epidemic (2016-2023)

Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: United States

Illicit fentanyl

Legend for Drug or Drug Class
- Cocaine (T40.5)
- Heroin (T40.1)
- Methadone (T40.3)
- Natural & semi-synthetic opioids (T40.2)
- Synthetic opioids, excl. methadone (T40.4)
- Psychostimulants with abuse potential (T43.6)


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Improving Access to Care for Pregnant and Postpartum People with Opioid Use Disorder: Recommendations for Policymakers

State Toolkit to End the Nation’s Drug Overdose Epidemic: Leading-Edge Actions and Strategies to Remove Barriers to Evidence-based Patient Care

OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC REPORT 2023

Physicians’ actions to help end the nation’s drug-related overdose and death epidemic—and what still needs to be done.

End-Overdose-Epidemic.org
### Five key trends in nation’s overdose epidemic

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<tr>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Opioid prescribing down</strong></td>
<td>• Nearly 50% decrease in opioid Rx since 2012; no meaningful increase in non-opioid pain care</td>
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<td><strong>Some MOUD barriers removed</strong></td>
<td>• Multiple federal barriers removed, including the “x-waiver” and telehealth restrictions</td>
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<td><strong>Naloxone continues to save lives</strong></td>
<td>• Patients need a continuing commitment to have naloxone covered by insurance</td>
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<td><strong>Many MH/SUD barriers remain</strong></td>
<td>• Policies don’t always follow the generally accepted standard of care for MH/ SUDs</td>
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<td><strong>More work remains</strong></td>
<td>• Parity laws extended to Medicaid and CHIP?</td>
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The AMA strongly encourages...

- Use your data collection and enforcement authority of state and federal parity laws
- Use civil monetary policy and opioid settlement funds to pursue more investigations
- Finalize mental health and substance use disorder parity laws at the U.S. Department of Labor
- Require adequate networks of addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry physicians
If physicians’ recommendations for treatment—and ending the epidemic are not followed—we should not be surprised by the consequences.
Physicians’ powerful ally in patient care