

# ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF THE OPIOID CRISIS AND SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS



Mortality in the United States, 2016 NCHS Data Brief No. 293, December 2017. Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths as of 8/6/2017. Clifton, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. [2017]. Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: detailed tables. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA

## SAMHSA's Efforts are Aligned with the HHS FIVE-POINT OPIOID STRATEGY

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| <p><b>Point 1</b></p> <p>Strengthening public health surveillance</p> | <p><b>Point 2</b></p> <p>Advancing the practice of pain management</p> | <p><b>Point 3</b></p> <p>Improving access to prevention, treatment and recovery support services</p> | <p><b>Point 4</b></p> <p>Targeting availability and distribution of overdose-reversing drugs</p> | <p><b>Point 5</b></p> <p>Supporting cutting-edge research</p> |
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## Examples of SAMHSA Resources to Address the Opioid Crisis

**SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator** is a confidential and anonymous source of information for persons seeking treatment facilities for substance use disorders or mental health problems.

**Provider's Clinical Support System for Medication-Assisted Treatment (PCSS-MAT)** is an online national training and mentoring project providing resources on evidence-based practices for addressing the opioid crisis to health professionals at no cost, including free DATA waiver trainings.

**Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC)** is a resource to develop and train providers and create regional training alliances among agencies and organizations that provide substance use disorder treatment and recovery services.

**Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP #63): Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Toolkit** is a guide to educate providers about assessment and strategies for providing medication-assisted treatment (MAT), pharmacotherapy practices, and supporting ongoing recovery (in development).

**Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit** equips individuals and healthcare providers on ways to prevent and respond to opioid overdose.

**Clinical Guidance for Treating Pregnant and Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorder and their Infants** describes for providers the appropriate interventions and behavioral/social services to promote the best possible outcome for both mother and child (in development).

**A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder** is a manual that offers best practices and MAT for pregnant women living with opioid use disorder (OUD).

**Healthy Pregnancy Healthy Baby: Opioids in Pregnancy** is a manual for families that addresses the treatment of OUD in pregnancy, postpartum concerns, and neonatal abstinence syndrome (in development).

**Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Technical Expert Panel** will be meeting in early 2018 to discuss developmental effects related to neonatal exposure to opioids with the goal of identifying research gaps and strategies for practice.

# SAMHSA OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS PRIORITIES

## OPIOID EPIDEMIC PRIORITIES

### Support for evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery services

- Funding to pay for services to reduce opioid abuse
- Technical assistance to states and providers
- Effective treatments: medications, counseling, social services, and recovery assistance
- Opioid overdose antidote: Naloxone
- Substance abuse treatment services for pregnant and post-partum women and treatment for neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)
- Criminal justice programs
- Recovery housing
- Family inclusion in medical and overdose emergencies
- Encourage clinical-state government partnerships
- Increase the number of qualified providers

### Establishment of evidence-based practice in clinical settings to include MAT and psychosocial therapies

### Strengthen and further develop clinician/state government partnerships

### Review of SAMHSA initiatives with other substances, such as alcohol and illicit drugs

## SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS PRIORITIES

### Early intervention and ongoing support

- Clinical and community supports for those with first episode of psychosis
- Crisis intervention programs
- Integrated care to meet mental and physical health needs in one setting
- Diversion from incarceration to care
- Parity in access to care
- Programs designed for adolescents and young adults struggling with mental illness and substance use problems

### Effective medical treatment of psychosis:

#### Centers of Excellence

- Effective use of medication treatments
- Clozapine for treatment-resistant schizophrenia
- Long-acting medications
- Addressing adverse events: metabolic syndrome, medical illnesses, tobacco and co-occurring substance use disorders

### Suicide prevention

- Understanding links between poorly treated pain, depression and addiction, and suicidality
- Zero suicide training of health care providers on recognizing and addressing suicide risk
- Focus on veterans and service members

## Key SAMHSA Activities Address the Opioid Crisis and SMI Challenges

### INTERDEPARTMENTAL SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ISMICC)

The ISMICC is a public/federal partnership that reviews federal programs and current needs in addressing serious mental illness (SMI), then makes specific recommendations for actions that federal departments can take to improve and coordinate SMI services. The ISMICC recommends evidence-based best practices including psychotropics and psychotherapies, peer support, housing and employment programs, and criminal justice diversion programs.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SAMHSA works with federal partners and other stakeholders to increase the supply of skilled professionals able to address the nation's behavioral health needs, including encouragement of certification programs and pre-graduate and advanced professional trainings, such as Drug Addiction Treatment Act waiver training.

### POLICY LABORATORY

SAMHSA's new National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory promotes evidence-based practices and service delivery models through implementation grants and evaluation. It also supports the sharing of information about evidence-based programs and practices for states, communities, nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders, building on existing resources.