

The Opioid Crisis in Rural America



The prevalence of substance use disorders in the United States has increased dramatically in recent years. In 2014, opioids were involved in 28,648 deaths, becoming the leading cause of unintentional injury death. ¹

200%

Rate of increase in overdose deaths involving opioids since 2000. ²

586 thousand

Americans age 12+ with a heroin use disorder. ³



1.9 million

Americans age 12+ with pain reliever disorder. ⁴



The rate of opioid overdose death is 45% higher in rural areas than urban ones. ⁵

Urban

Rural

There is a scarcity of services for substance use treatment in rural areas. ⁶



25%



of the U.S. population lives in rural/non-metropolitan areas. ⁷

Opportunities for Medicaid agencies and safety net providers to collaborate to achieve shared goals in servicing rural populations struggling with opioid use.

47 states have recently passed laws to increase layperson access to naloxone. ⁸



Opportunity 1
Expanding access to naloxone to first responders and laypersons

41 states have enacted Good Samaritan laws to protect those seeking or administering naloxone during an overdose. ⁹



42 states have modified their laws to allow for naloxone to be prescribed to an individual who has not been examined by a provider. ¹⁰



Opportunity 2

Expanding access to treatments for opioid use disorders, including Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT)



As of May 2013, in at least 28 states, Medicaid covers all three FDA-approved medications to treat opioid use disorder. ¹¹

- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone
- Methodone



The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) extended prescribing and dispensing authority to nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants licensed under state law. ¹²



Opportunity 3

Addressing barriers to care

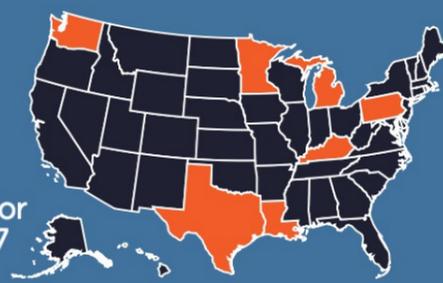


Telehealth

New Mexico, Oklahoma, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming specify coverage for telemedicine when a substance abuse or addiction specialist renders services. ¹³

Medicaid Program Support

Through the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP), CMS is providing support to 7 states to improve systems for SUD service delivery. Through this work, Pennsylvania is developing a health home program for pregnant women with SUD, and may develop a health home program for broader populations with SUD in the future. ¹⁴



Focus Enrollment

Medicaid enrollment efforts should be focused on populations most at-risk for substance use disorders to aid in facilitating connections to treatment.



Sources:

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