

Medicaid's Role in the Opioid Epidemic

Earlier in the year, CNSI's Chief Strategy Officer, Sharif Hussein, [wrote an article](#) about how predictive analytics can help solve the growing opioid epidemic—specifically in Medicaid population. Turns out, [we aren't the only ones](#) looking at the data behind these drug-related deaths.

An infographic published by [The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation](#) is chockfull of numbers that demonstrate the severity of the issue as well as how Medicaid coverage can help. Look below or [read here](#) for more information.

The opioid epidemic is increasing among Americans, with addiction to both heroin and prescription painkillers, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and fentanyl, contributing to this public health crisis.

Medicaid plays a central role in the nation's efforts to address the opioid epidemic. By covering people who are struggling with opioid addiction and enhancing state capacity to provide access to early interventions and treatment, Medicaid is a key tool in the fight against the epidemic. The Medicaid expansion, with enhanced federal funding, has provided states with additional resources to cover many adults with addictions who were previously excluded from the program.

The Opioid Epidemic Continues to Escalate

Over **2 million** people have a prescription opioid addiction and **591,000** have a heroin addiction as of 2015.



Opioid-related inpatient stays increased **64%**, and opioid related ER visits increased **99%** between 2000 and 2014.

Overdose deaths nationwide nearly **tripled** from 2002 to 2015.

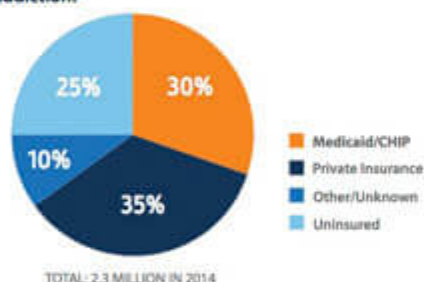


Opioid overdose death rates are highest among **whites** and **males**.

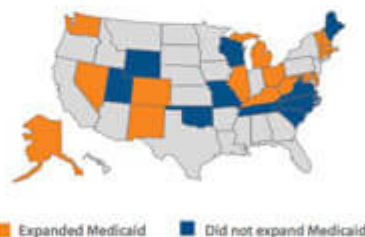


The ACA Broadened Medicaid Coverage for Adults and State Capacity to Address the Opioid Epidemic

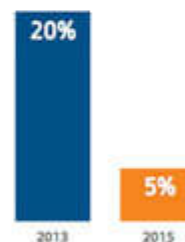
Medicaid and CHIP cover **3 in 10** people with opioid addiction.



States with above average opioid overdose death rates include both Medicaid expansion and non-expansion states.



In Medicaid expansion states, **uninsured hospitalizations** related to behavioral health decreased.

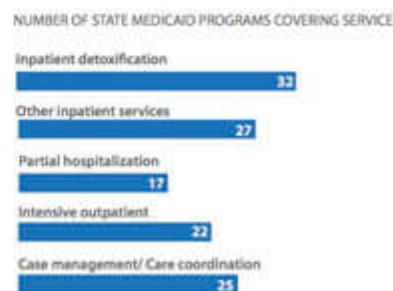


Over half of states have **increased** Medicaid enrollees' access to **naloxone**, a prescription drug that reverses the life-threatening effects of opioid overdoses.

Medication-assisted treatment combines medication with counseling and other therapies. All state Medicaid programs cover at least 1 of the 3 medications, and most cover all 3.



States also cover a range of treatment services in their Medicaid programs.



Sources for this document are available at: <http://kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-in-addressing-opioid-epidemic>
The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Headquarters: 2400 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025 | Phone 650-854-9400
Washington Offices and Barbara Jordan Conference Center: 1330 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 | Phone 202-347-5270
www.kff.org | Email Alerts: kff.org/email | [facebook.com/KaiserFamilyFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/KaiserFamilyFoundation) | twitter.com/KaiserFamFound

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