

Combating the Opioid Epidemic

2019
BUDGET
FACT
SHEET



Combating the Opioid Epidemic: An American Budget

The drug abuse and overdose epidemic, particularly as related to opioids, is tearing apart America's families and devastating communities. In 2016, approximately 64,000 people died from drug overdoses, and the majority of these deaths involved opioids. In 2017, President Donald J. Trump said: "Ending the epidemic will require mobilization of government, local communities, and private organizations. It will require the resolve of our entire country." The Administration has declared the opioid epidemic a nationwide public health emergency. Under the budget caps agreement, the Administration is seeking nearly \$17 billion in opioid-related spending in 2019 to stop this deadly scourge. Notably, the Administration proposes \$3 billion in new funding in FY 2018 and \$10 billion in new funding in FY 2019 in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), for a total of \$13 billion in new funding to combat the opioid epidemic by expanding access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services, as well as support mental health. The Budget also includes investments to help stop the illegal supply of drugs.

In addition to investments outlined in this fact sheet, under the recent two-year budget deal, the Administration is seeking the total \$18 billion request for the border wall. Building the wall is critical to impeding and denying the flow of illicit drugs into our country. The Administration is committed to providing law enforcement personnel with the tools and resources they need to respond to this threat.

Expanding Treatment and Recovery Support Services

People can recover from opioid addiction through evidence-based treatments, such as medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

- *State grants to combat opioid abuse.* The Budget includes new resources to continue and expand grants to States for prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.
- *Helping those who abuse drugs and are involved with the criminal justice system:* The Budget includes new resources in HHS for Drug Courts. The Budget also requests funding in the Department of Justice (DOJ) for opioid-related State and local assistance.
- *Focusing on special populations.* The Budget includes additional resources for prevention, treatment and recovery support services in rural areas, American Indian and Alaska Native communities, and for pregnant and post-partum women.
- *Medicaid.* The Budget calls for expanding coverage of comprehensive and evidence-based MAT options.
- *Medicare.* The Budget proposes to test and expand nationwide a bundled payment for community-based medication-assisted treatment, including Medicare reimbursement for methadone treatment for the first time.
- *Supporting our Veterans.* The Budget provides \$381 million in critical investments to the Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce over-reliance on opioids for pain management and to promote the safe and effective use of opioid therapy, and for addiction treatment.

Enhancing Prevention

Effective prevention can reduce the devastating impact of drug abuse and addiction on America's families and communities.

- *Media campaign.* The Budget invests in a new media campaign aimed at those at risk for opioid abuse and addiction.

- *Surveillance, Prevention, and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.* The Budget invests new resources in CDC to continue and enhance surveillance efforts and support to states to prevent opioid abuse and overdose, including improving state-based Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). In addition, the Budget includes \$12 million in the Department of Justice to support PDMPs, in tandem with HHS efforts.
- *Medicaid.* The Budget previews forthcoming guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would set minimum standards for State Drug Utilization Reviews to reduce clinical abuse, and requires States to track and act on prescribers that do not adopt best practices.
- *Medicare.* The Budget also proposes to prevent prescription drug abuse in Medicare Part D and protect beneficiaries from potentially harmful drugs by requiring plan participation in a program to prevent prescription drug abuse. In addition, the Budget proposes to authorize the Secretary of HHS to work with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to revoke a provider's certificate when that provider is barred from billing Medicare based on a pattern of abusive prescribing.
- *Overdose reversal drugs.* The Budget includes additional resources to improve first responder access to overdose-reversal drugs.

Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs

It is important to disrupt the flow of illicit drugs into our country, and reduce drug trafficking domestically.

- *Identifying high-risk shipments.* The Budget provides \$253 million for U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) National Targeting Center to better target illicit goods, including illicit drugs.
- *Detecting illicit drugs.* The Budget includes \$44 million for the CBP to deploy new Non-Intrusive Inspection technology used to screen cargo and conveyances for contraband at Ports of Entry.
- *Targeting drug traffickers.* The Budget requests an additional \$31 million for the DEA to add eight new heroin enforcement teams, for a total of fourteen, and bolster staffing at field divisions to target emerging drug threats.
- *Fentanyl tracing.* The Budget also includes \$7 million to expand the DEA's Fentanyl Signature Profiling Program, which provides comprehensive, in-depth analyses of fentanyl samples to generate forensic investigative leads on drug sources where linkages were either unknown or only suspected.
- *Disrupting transnational criminal organizations.* The Budget supports all 57 Immigration and Customs Enforcement Border Enforcement Security Task Force units – the Agency's primary platform to investigate opioid smuggling—and continues support for DHS's Joint Task Force. The Budget further provides an additional \$5 million for the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force to support the investigation and prosecution of transnational organized crime through enhanced interagency intelligence sharing and analysis.
- *Additional resources:* With the recent two-year budget deal, the Administration is also seeking additional resources for border security, including \$18 billion for building the border wall and additional funds for CBP detection equipment to identify and interdict illicit drugs.

Investing in Research

Medical research can discover new and better ways to prevent opioid misuse, treat opioid addiction, and manage pain.

- *National Institutes of Health (NIH).* The Budget requests \$500 million for NIH to support a public-private partnership with the pharmaceutical industry to develop prevention and treatments for addiction, overdose-reversal, and non-addictive therapies for pain.
- *Food and Drug Administration (FDA).* The Budget invests new resources for FDA regulatory science activities to develop tools to stem the misuse and abuse of opioids.
- *MAT.* The Budget includes new resources to evaluate the impact of MAT on reducing overdose deaths.