



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to exploring all options to address the national opioid crisis. As evidence of the Agency’s commitment to the health and well-being of our beneficiaries and consumers, CMS published a [roadmap](#) outlining efforts to address this issue of national concern. The roadmap describes a three-pronged approach to combating the opioid epidemic, focusing on prevention of overuse and misuse, treatment for people with opioid use disorders and pain, and utilization of data from across the country to target prevention and treatment activities. CMS is committed to enhancing its activities in these areas in ways that best serve our beneficiaries nationally, as well as through state-focused efforts. CMS supports this Action Collaborative in its goal of developing, sharing, and spreading promising practices to help solve this national crisis.

*NOTE: The roadmap is highlighted on the next page.

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CMS Roadmap

TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Opioids killed more than 42,000 in 2016, or 116 people a day.²




40% of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid.¹



PRESCRIPTION OPIOID MISUSE



When used correctly, prescription opioids are **helpful** for treating pain.



The CDC outlined **guidelines** for safe prescribing of opioids.



An estimated **11.5 million** people misused prescription opioids²—putting them at risk for dependence and addiction.



3 out of 4 people who used heroin misused prescription opioids first.³

OPIOID USE DISORDER



Over **two million** people suffer from opioid use disorder.



Treatment **options** exist, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT).



Only 20% of people with opioid use disorder receive treatment.³

[Learn more about prescription opioid misuse](#)

[Learn more about opioid use disorder and treatment](#)

KEY AREAS OF CMS FOCUS

As one of the largest payers of healthcare services, CMS has a key role in addressing the opioid epidemic and is focused on three key areas:



PREVENTION

Manage pain using a safe and effective range of treatment options that rely less on prescription opioids



TREATMENT

Expand access to treatment for opioid use disorder



DATA

Use data to target prevention and treatment efforts and to identify fraud and abuse