

Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

With deaths from drug overdoses now surpassing deaths during the height of the AIDS epidemic, reducing opioid misuse, substance use disorders (SUD), and overdose is an urgent public health crisis. Responding to this complex and evolving epidemic will require leaders from across the public and private sector to come together to develop innovative solutions, improve research capabilities, and invest in evidence-based approaches to prevent opioid-related harms and increase access to high-quality substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support.

The mission of Duke University's Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy is to improve health and the value of health care through practical, innovative, and evidence-based policy solutions. The Margolis Center is committed to leveraging its deep policy expertise, research capabilities, and partnerships with public and private stakeholders to develop practical, evidence-based health system approaches to address the opioid crisis, and is pleased to support the National Academy of Medicine's *Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic*.

In support of this work, the Center has partnered with the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to lead a number of workshops and research projects supporting agency priorities for enhancing safe and appropriate prescribing of opioid analgesics and improving access to medications for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. The Center is also actively engaged with health system leaders, payers, patients, and experts to advance policy in the following areas of interest:

- Developing payment and delivery approaches to improve coordination of non-opioid pain management and high-quality SUD treatment
- Supporting evidence-based prevention strategies as part of a comprehensive, patient-centered approach to care
- Identifying and addressing gaps in access to SUD treatment throughout the care continuum, and recommending approaches to address opioid-related issues in vulnerable populations
- Leveraging data to inform and evaluate policy approaches