

The Institute for Research on Poverty's Statement of Commitment to the [Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic](#)

The Institute for Research on Poverty, located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is committed to countering the opioid epidemic by focusing on research and by working with the broader university community on prevention, treatment, and recovery. IRP researchers conduct research on the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in the United States. The Institute originated as the research arm of the US War on Poverty. As such, our main focus in countering the epidemic is to focus on the incidence of opioid addiction to understand how lower-income and minority populations are represented, to work with our affiliates to encourage broader understanding of the epidemic, and to encourage and evaluate new initiatives. Current activities include:

IRP has produced two Fast Focuses (research/policy briefs designed for policymakers and practitioners who want a concise summary of a research study or policy innovation) on opioids: "The opioid epidemic and socioeconomic disadvantage" (<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FF32-2018.pdf>) and "Are recent increases in child welfare cases and the opioid epidemic related?" (<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FF34-2018.pdf>), and is producing two fact sheets on opioids, one focused on Wisconsin and one national in focus. IRP is also pulling together a table of state statutes and policies on opioid and child welfare for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition, IRP is working with University affiliates on a "Campus Engagement Event" on the "Opioid Crisis in Wisconsin", a public outreach event. IRP affiliates are also collaborating on a HEALing Communities proposal. It has the following aims:

- 1.** Develop and support interdisciplinary community coalitions in identifying local assets and needs related to the opioid crisis in Wisconsin's most impacted areas.
- 2.** Obtain and analyze data on opioid-related impact and pertinent resources most relevant to the identified communities and generate community-level reports to assist coalitions in refining action plans and prevention and treatment initiatives.
- 3.** Implement centralized care navigation through prevention and treatment support tools easily accessed by all communities, coalitions, and service providers through the use of multi-modal technology.
- 4.** Support communities and their coalitions in implementing evidence-based practices (informed by results from Aims 1 and 2) that are tailored to specific community needs as informed by qualitative data collected from community coalitions, the expert advice of the Community Advisory Board, and local data.
- 5.** Develop and disseminate an implementation guide for other vulnerable communities in Wisconsin and beyond.