



Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

About 130 Americans die each day from opioid overdose and the numbers are increasing. Millions more misuse prescription opioid medications, or use illicit opioids, with an annual economic toll of \$115 billion.

A wide range of researchers at the University of Michigan are working to tackle the root causes of, and potential solutions for, this national crisis. The university launched its Opioid Solutions network to encourage and coordinate efforts across campus to find solutions to what the federal government has declared a public health emergency.

The network draws on more than 100 U-M faculty — in fields ranging from medicine, psychiatry, pharmacy and dentistry to basic sciences, public policy and law — whose research explores opioid misuse and overdose.

As a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic, U-M is committed to developing and disseminating evidence-based strategies in the following areas:

- *Health professional education and training:* U-M researchers developed an innovative training program for administering naloxone, the antidote that reverses opioid overdoses. Researchers have delivered the naloxone training program to more than 1,700 employees in police departments, community agencies, schools and members of the public in southeastern Michigan, and delivered as many naloxone kits, with more than 250 overdose saves from law enforcement agencies in Lenawee, Washtenaw, Livingston, and Monroe counties.
- *Opioid prescribing guidelines and evidence standards:* U-M researchers helped establish the Michigan Opioid Prescribing and Engagement Network, which aims to develop a preventative approach to the opioid epidemic in the state of Michigan through a focus on acute care prescribing (surgery, dentistry, emergency medicine, and trauma). Addressing opioid prescribing during the acute care period among those patients not using opioids has the greatest potential to reduce the number of new chronic opioid users and minimize unintended distribution of prescription opioids into communities.
- *Prevention, treatment, and recovery services:* The Injury Prevention Center, funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, focuses much its efforts on opioid overdose prevention. The center addresses opioid overdose prevention by funding numerous U-M research projects to understand and address the epidemic, and

educating students, practitioners and providers on safe opioid prescribing, and effective prevention and treatment strategies.

- *Research, data, and metrics needs:* The Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation is the nation's leading university-based institute of health services researchers, with more than 500 faculty members from all three U-M campuses evaluating how healthcare works and how it can be improved, while advising policymakers to inform change. The institute aims to disrupt the epidemic of prescription opioid misuse and opioid addiction through research and innovative programs on appropriate prescribing, misuse prevention, overdose intervention and addiction treatment.

U-M looks forward to partnering with network organizations to find comprehensive solutions to the opioid epidemic and end this public health crisis.

To learn more about the university's response to the opioid epidemic, please visit opioids.umich.edu.