

California Department of Health Care Services' Opioid Response

Common Terms

» **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**

- A treatable mental disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.

» **Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)**

- A treatable illness characterized by compulsive use of opioid drugs even when the person wants to stop, or when using the drugs negatively affects the person's well-being.

» **Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP)**

- Programs that provide medication assisted, detoxification, and/or maintenance treatment services which include medical evaluations and rehabilitative services.

» **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

- The use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders.

The Evolving Opioid Crisis in California

- » 1990s: Release of OxyContin and overprescribing of opioids to manage pain.
- » 2000s: Increase in overdose deaths from prescription opioids.
- » 2010: Second wave of opioid crisis begins – shift from misuse of prescription opioids to heroin.
- » 2019: Third wave of opioid crisis begins in California – shift to overdose deaths from illicit fentanyl.
- » 2021 – 2023: Rise of “fentapills” (fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills).

COVID-19 and the Opioid Crisis

The pandemic led to social isolation, economic hardships, and reduced access to services for people who use drugs and the providers who serve them.

Overview of State Opioid Response



Master Plan for Tackling the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis

- » Governor Newsom has invested over \$1 billion in funding to fight the opioid crisis by removing opioids from the streets, providing resources to California communities in need, and increasing education and awareness to prevent harm in the first place.
- » The Master Plan includes:
 - **\$79 million** for the Naloxone Distribution Project to meet increased demand;
 - **\$10 million** for grants for education, testing, recovery, and support services;
 - **\$4 million** to make fentanyl test strips more widely available; and
 - **\$3.5 million** in Prop 98 funding to provide overdose medication to all middle and high schools.
- » In fiscal year 2022-23, DHCS invested more than **\$558 million** in various opioid prevention and treatment grant activities.
- » In fiscal year 2023-24, the Naloxone Distribution Project received \$110.25 million from the California Opioid Settlements and the State General Fund to help support increasing demand.

*To view California's full master plan, visit https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Fentanyl-Opioids-Glossy-Plan_3.20.23.pdf.

DHCS's Opioid Response

- » DHCS is focused on addressing the opioid crisis across the continuum of care: prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.
- » DHCS opioid projects focus on reducing health inequities through community-based initiatives.
 - Populations of focus include Black, Tribal and Urban Indian, Hispanic and Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities, people experiencing homelessness, people in criminal justice settings, and youth.



DHCS Opioid Response Investments

Focus	Investment	Activities
Prevention	\$161 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing awareness of opioid use disorder, reducing stigma, and connecting people to treatment. Preventing opioid use disorder through community-based initiatives
Treatment	\$522 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding treatment in community access points
Harm Reduction	\$348 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips Providing low-barrier opioid use disorder treatment at syringe services programs
Recovery	\$117 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the availability of recovery housing Strengthening the peer workforce Promoting recovery among youth
Health Equity	\$148 million*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding MAT in Tribal communities Preventing substance use disorder in communities of color Prevention, treatment, and recovery from substance use disorder in youth Expanding opioid use disorder treatment in justice-involved populations

*Health Equity projects are included in the Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction and Recovery project totals listed above.

Project Spotlight: Choose Change Media Campaign

- » The [Choose Change Media Campaign](#) aims to increase awareness of opioid and stimulant use disorder statewide, reduce stigma, and connect people to treatment.
- » Resulted in over 2.3 Billion media impressions through:
 - Television
 - Radio
 - Digital Outdoor
 - Convenience Store Posters
 - Print
 - Digital

Project Spotlight: Increasing MAT Services in Criminal Justice

DHCS has provided funding to increase **access to MAT** in county jails and drug courts and to build county capacity to effectively respond to individuals with justice-system involvement.

37 counties have participated in the project, leading to over **31,000+ individuals** receiving MAT while in county jails.



**Increase MAT
Access in County
Jails**



**Increase MAT
Access in Drug
Courts**



**Expand Juvenile
Justice
Collaboration**



**Expand Child
Welfare
Collaboration**

Project Spotlight: BCHIP

- » DHCS was authorized through [2021 legislation](#) to establish the [Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program \(BHCIP\)](#) with \$2.2 billion to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets or to invest in needed mobile crisis infrastructure to expand the community continuum of behavioral health treatment resources.
- » DHCS is releasing BHCIP grant funds through six rounds that target various gaps in the state's behavioral health facility infrastructure, including behavioral health crisis services, services for children and youth, and planning grants.
- » The [BHCIP data dashboard](#) includes information about project outcomes, searchable by region and type of facility.

Project Spotlight: The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP)

- » The NDP provides naloxone which is a life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication.
- » The NDP distributes intranasal and intramuscular naloxone directly to organizations.
 - Nasal Narcan spray: \$41/unit.
 - Intramuscular naloxone: \$3/vial.
- » DHCS encourages cities to use opioid settlement funds to procure naloxone, to increase distribution channels.



Distributed more than **2,900,000** units



to more than **4,000** organizations



in all **58 California counties**



resulting in over **200,000** overdose reversals

How to Apply For and Receive Naloxone

- » To apply for naloxone through the NDP:
 - Submit the application and supplemental materials via the [NDP online application](#) form.
- » Manufacturer ships naloxone directly to approved applicants.
- » Eligible organizations include:
 - First Responders
 - Law Enforcement
 - Community Clinics
 - Schools and Libraries
 - Faith-based Organizations
 - Community Coalitions and Organizations
 - Substance Use Treatment and Recovery
 - City and County Agencies
 - Tribal Entities
 - Harm Reduction Organizations
 - Hospitals and Emergency Departments

Other Funding and Supports



California's Opioid Settlements

- » California has reached settlement agreements with the following opioid manufacturers and distributors:
 - McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen (collectively, the Distributors)
 - Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS (collectively, the Pharmacies)
 - Janssen Pharmaceuticals
 - Teva
 - Allergan
 - Mallinckrodt
- » California is expected to receive over \$4 billion from these settlements, which will be received in payments to the state, cities and counties.
 - **85%** will go to cities and counties, who have received \$310M as of August 2023.
 - **15%** will go to state government, which has received \$108M as of August 2023.

*Based on payment information provided by BrownGreer and the National Opioid Abatement Trust II.

Focus on Opioid Remediation

- » The settlement agreements define opioid remediation as “care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures ... designed to:
 - Address the misuse and abuse of opioid products,
 - Treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, and
 - Mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.
- » Opioid remediation activities are listed in [Exhibit E](#) of the National Opioid Settlement Agreements. Exhibit E is broken into Schedule A (Core Strategies) and Schedule B (Approved Uses).
- » In addition to the opioid remediation activities outlined within Exhibit E, California has designated a set of five High Impact Abatement Activities (HIAA).

*Resources regarding allowable expenditures can be found on the [California Opioid Settlement Fund](#) webpage.

California's High Impact Abatement Activities

No.	Activity
1	Provision of matching funds or operating costs for substance use disorder facilities within the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP).
2	Create new or expanded SUD treatment infrastructure.
3	Addressing the needs of communities of color and vulnerable populations (including sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations) that are disproportionately impacted by SUD.
4	Diversion of people with SUD from the justice system into treatment, including by providing training and resources to first and early responders (sworn and non-sworn) and implementing best practices for outreach, diversion and deflection, employability, restorative justice, and harm reduction.
5	Interventions to prevent drug addiction in vulnerable youth.
6	The purchase of naloxone for local entities including for distribution and efforts to expand access to naloxone for opioid overdose reversals.

Best Practices for Allocating Funds

- » When allocating funds, cities should consider:
 - Investing in [evidence-based practices](#) with a focus on those listed in California's HIAA and the Core Strategies (Schedule A) of Exhibit E.
 - Supplementing current successful efforts by partnering with organizations already doing opioid remediation work in your jurisdiction.
 - Creating a transparent process for planning, including engaging people with lived experience and people working in SUD prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery to understand community needs.

*Additional guidance is available through the [Guiding Principles resource](#) on the California Opioid Settlement webpage.

Opioid Settlement Funds for Law Enforcement

- » Exhibit E Law Enforcement Activities fall into the below categories, all of which must focus on opioid remediation:
 - Education/training for first responders related to opioids
 - Diversion activities
 - Warm handoff/overdose response
 - Naloxone purchase/distribution
 - Treatment within corrections or transitioning into the community
 - Drug takeback/disposal
 - Wellness and support services for first responders related to secondary trauma associated with opioid-related emergency events

Questions?

The image features the word "Questions?" in a bold, dark blue font, centered in the upper half of the frame. Below the text, there are two thick, wavy lines that span the width of the image. The top line is a teal color, and the bottom line is a darker blue. Both lines have a slight curve, creating a decorative border at the bottom of the page.

Resources and Questions

- » Visit the [CaliforniaMAT](#) website to learn more about DHCS' opioid response and related projects.
 - For questions about the California State Opioid Response grant, please email DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov.
 - For questions about the Criminal Justice MAT project, please contact Health Management Associates (HMA) at MATinCountyCJ@healthmanagement.com.

- » Visit the [California Opioid Settlements](#) website to learn more about California's opioid settlements and bankruptcies.
 - Questions can be directed to OSF@dhcs.ca.gov.

Thank You

