



**Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
 FY 2018 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	2015	2016	2017	2018 TFAH
Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention	\$23,000,000	\$70,000,000	\$112,000,000	\$112,000,000

Background: Opioid abuse is a public health epidemic. Opioid overdoses result in 91 deaths every day, quadruple the amount in 1999. More than 2 million people have a prescription painkiller dependence, which has contributed to a related rise in heroin use. According to the CDC, 45 percent of people who used heroin were also addicted to prescription painkillers. Overall, misuse of prescription painkillers contributed to more than 14,000 deaths in 2014, and deaths from heroin more than tripled from 2010 to 2015. Addressing the misuse and abuse of prescription and illicit opioids requires investments both in prevention and in treatment of those already suffering from substance misuse.

Impact: The CDC’s Injury Center has steadily increased its work in prescription drug overdose (PDO) prevention over recent years, working with state health departments to accelerate prevention efforts. CDC developed and released the *Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain* in March 2016 and is working with partners on implementation, including a variety of professional societies and many other entities. The *Prevention for States* program funds 29 states to combat the ongoing prescription drug overdose (PDO) epidemic; the *Data-Driven Prevention Initiative* funds 13 states and the District of Columbia advance and evaluate their actions to address opioid misuse, abuse, and overdose; and the *Enhanced State Surveillance of Opioid-Involved Morbidity and Mortality* program is funding 12 states to monitor illicit opioid use risk factors and improve the timeliness and quality of opioid overdose data.

CDC is supporting nearly all states with funding to improve prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), expand insurer mechanisms to address PDO, and improve clinical practice. As the opioid overdose epidemic evolves, specifically with a recent surge in heroin overdose deaths, CDC continues to provide scientific expertise, enhance surveillance activities, and tailor resources to address states’ growing and changing needs. For example:

- Oklahoma has made strong progress linking Medicaid and PDMP data to better understand and target interventions.
- Rhode Island’s PDMP staff are working with hospitals to reach prescribers not registered in their PDMP. Their goal is to reach 100% registration in their PDMP.
- Illinois is integrating their PDMP data into Electronic Healthcare Records (EHRs) by creating automated connections that will make access to their PDMP faster and easier.

- The Kentucky Injury Prevention Research Center (KIPRC) designed Drug Overdose County Profiles comprised of rich data, including drug-related hospital visits, diagnoses of drug dependence or abuse, and co-morbid diseases. After KIPRC staff shared the Profiles, local health departments started education campaigns, practitioners got involved in prevention program planning, and law enforcement used the data to inform enforcement training and prosecutions.
- CDC has engaged in Epi Aids in a variety of states, including Ohio and Massachusetts, on illicit fentanyl-related deaths/overdoses. CDC has also assisted with investigations of outbreaks of HBV, HCV, and HIV-associated with injection drug use.

Recommendation: TFAH is requesting \$112 million for the CDC Injury Center’s Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention line in FY18, which constitutes level funding. This would enable the Injury Center to continue to continue expanding its core PDO activities, supporting states in their efforts to implement effective solutions and interventions to reduce PDO, to equip healthcare providers with data and tools needed to improve the safety of their patients, and to continue disseminating prescribing guidelines.