

# MEDICAID'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The opioid epidemic continues to affect individuals across the US. Thousands die each year from opioid overdoses, and the number is increasing, driven by a spike in overdoses from fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

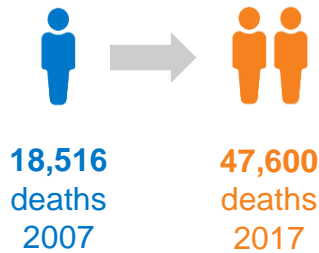
Medicaid plays a central role in the nation's efforts to address the opioid epidemic. By covering people who are struggling with OUD and enhancing state capacity to provide access to early interventions and treatment, Medicaid is a key tool in the fight against the epidemic. State Medicaid programs have implemented several measures to curb opioid prescribing. Additionally, Medicaid expansion has provided states with additional resources to cover many adults with substance use disorders.

## THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

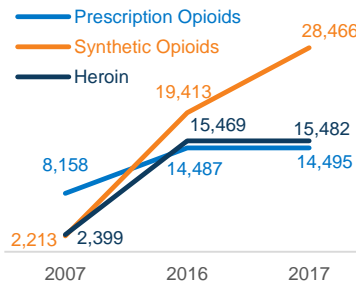
In 2017, **more than 2.1 million** people had an opioid use disorder.



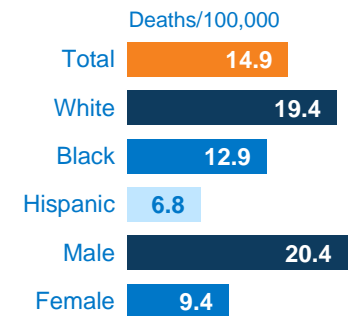
Overdose deaths continue to increase and have more than **doubled** from 2007 to 2017.



Overdose deaths from heroin & synthetic opioids are more common than prescription opioids.

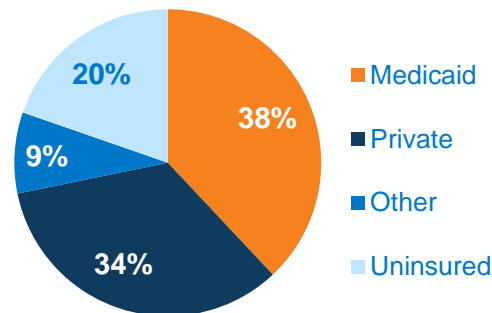


Opioid overdose death rates are highest among **whites** and **males**.



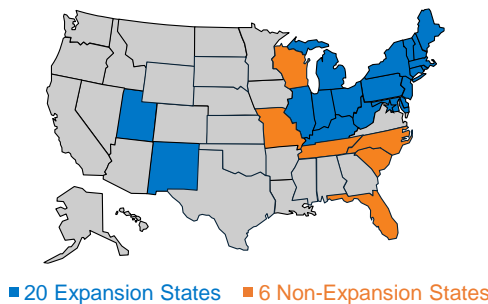
## THE ACA BROADENED MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ADULTS AND STATE CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE EPIDEMIC

Medicaid covers nearly **4 in 10** nonelderly adults with OUD.



Total: 1.98 Million

**26** states with above average opioid overdose death rates are mainly in the northeast, but include both expansion & non-expansion states.



**Nearly all states** have made naloxone, a medication that reverses the life-threatening effects of opioid overdoses, available without prior authorization.

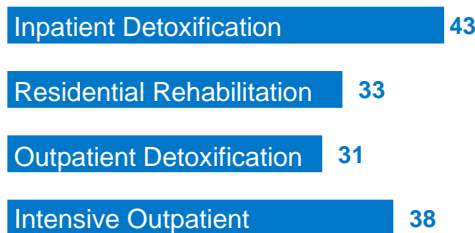
All state Medicaid programs cover at least 2 Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) medications and most cover all 3.



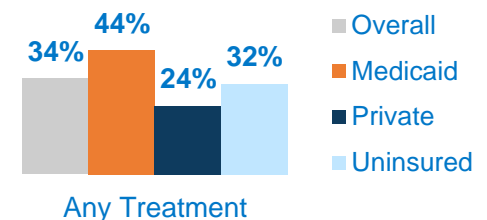
**Methadone**  
(41 States)  
**Buprenorphine**  
(51 States)  
**Naltrexone**  
(51 States)

State Medicaid programs cover a range of treatment services.

NUMBER OF STATES COVERING SERVICES, 2018



Nonelderly adults with OUD and Medicaid are more likely than other adults to receive any treatment.



Source: Original source information and data are available at: <https://www.kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-in-addressing-opioid-epidemic/>.

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Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco, California.