Opioids (prescription and illicit) are the main driver of drug overdose deaths. Since 1999, opioid overdoses have quadrupled in the U.S. and were involved in 33,091 deaths in 2015.¹

Like other states in the industrial Midwest, Michigan has been significantly impacted by the prescription opioid epidemic.

- In 2015, Michigan ranked 15th out of 51 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in drug overdose mortality (20.4 deaths per 100,000 people).²
- Michigan experienced a significant increase (13.3% increase) in the drug overdose death rate from 2014 to 2015.²

Number and age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths by state, US 2015*

Statistically significant drug overdose death rate increase from 2014-2015, US states*

*Deaths are classified using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD–10). Drug-poisoning deaths are identified using underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated as deaths per 100,000 population using the direct method and the 2000 standard population.

Addiction Treatment

- Substantial evidence indicates that Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT; the combination of medications and therapy) for opioid use disorders is the most effective treatment for this condition, prevents overdoses, and saves lives. In Michigan and elsewhere, access to these treatments are limited.
- As one of the states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Michigan subsidizes substance abuse treatment for eligible patients.
- As of 2013, Michigan had 479 physicians authorized to prescribe buprenorphine (4.8 per 100,000)
- Even with the ACA -70% of OTP = opioid treatment programs (and many do not offer medication assisted therapy) in MI are over 80% of capacity in 2015.
- Substance treatment covered by Medicaid may be threatened by legislation currently pending in Congress (the American Health Care Act) aimed at rolling back provisions of the ACA.

References