



**NIH
HEAL
INITIATIVE**

Achieving Health Equity in the NIH HEAL Initiative

February 1, 2021

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Director, HEAL Initiative, NIH OD

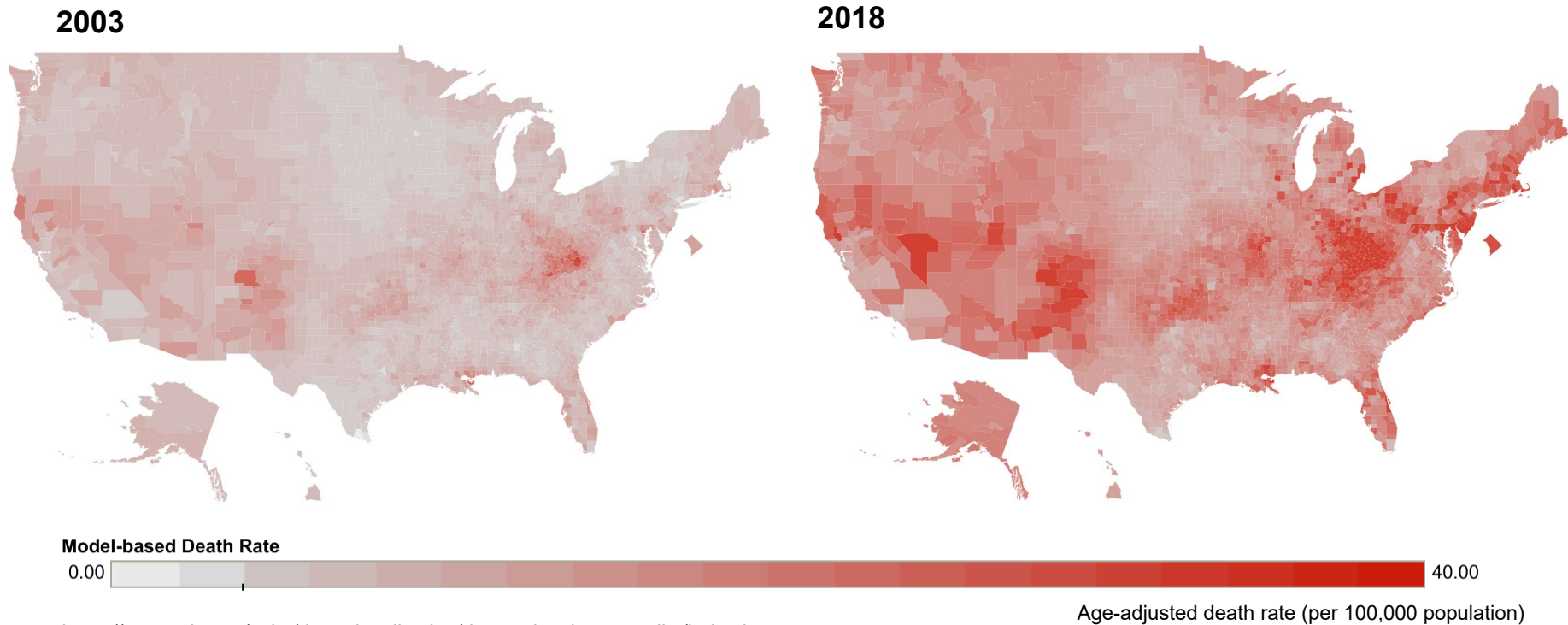


National Institutes of Health
HEAL Initiative

NIH HEAL Initiative and Helping to End Addiction Long-term are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Crisis #1: National Overdose Deaths

In 2018, there were 67,367 overdose deaths – dramatically higher than in 2003

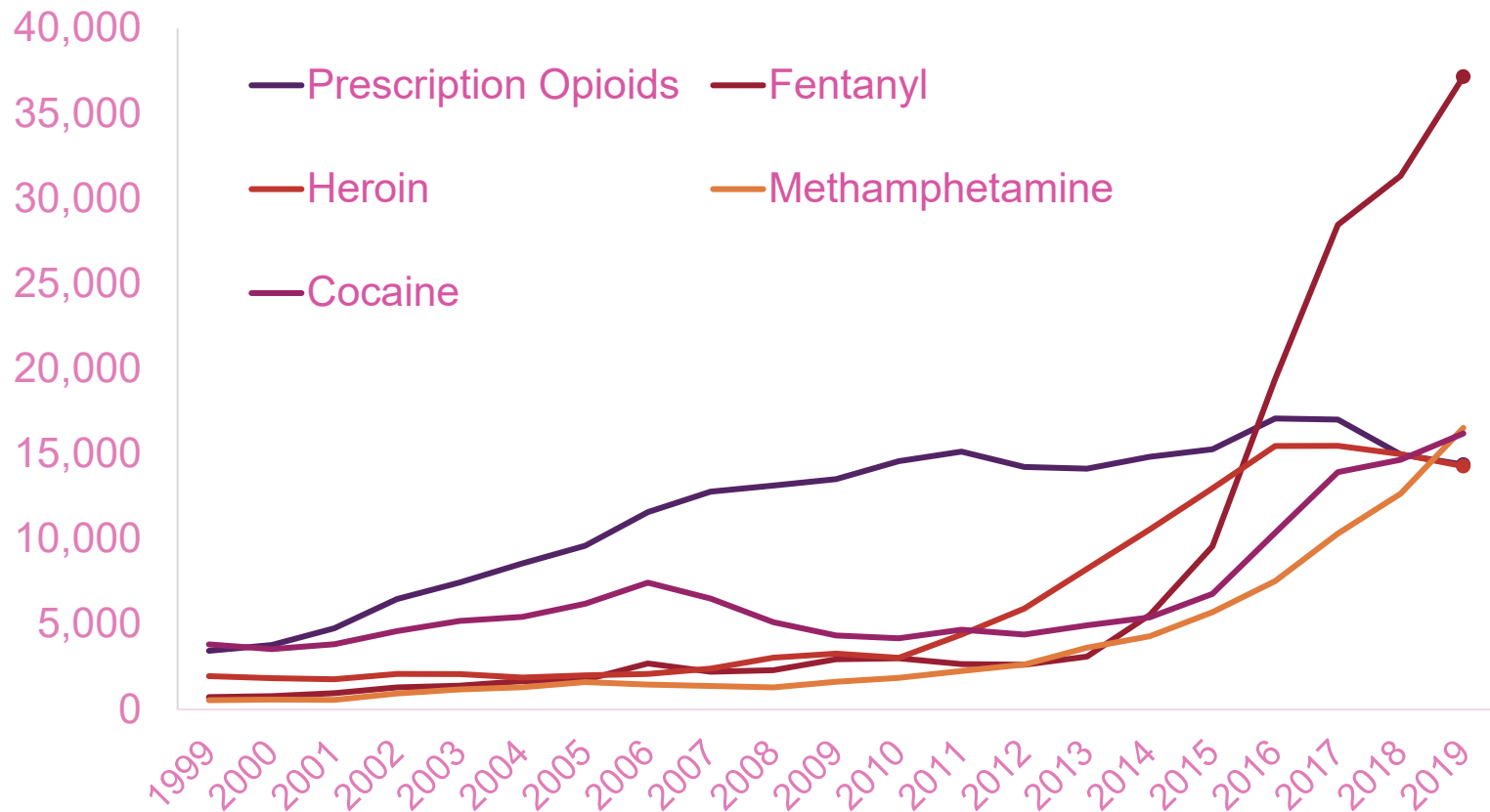


Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/drug-poisoning-mortality/index.htm>

National Public Health Emergency declared in 2017

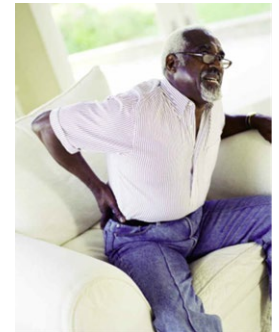
Overdose Deaths continue to increase, fueled by powerful synthetic drugs

Number of Deaths



Crisis #2: Chronic Pain in the U.S.

- 50 million adults are affected by chronic pain
- 25 million report severe pain on a daily basis
- 20 million have high impact chronic pain



[CDC](#), Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Sept. 2018

The Response:

\$500 million/year Sustained Research Investment

25+ HEAL Research Programs

Prevention – Basic & Translational Research – Clinical Trials – Implementation Science

12 NIH ICs leading studies

Trans-NIH governance structure

Partnerships across government, communities, and the private sector

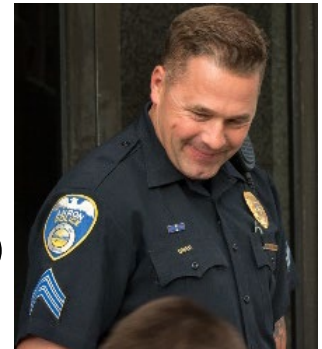


NIH HEAL INITIATIVE RESEARCH OVERVIEW



Problem: Many people with opioid use disorder do not receive appropriate treatment

- **HEAL Research:** Develop new interventions and test integration into community, justice and emergency settings where people come seeking help



Problem: Need for pain control is in balance with the risks of long-term opioid therapy

- **HEAL Research:** Test non-addictive medications for pain and new models of care in real world settings
 - Phase 2 testing of novel therapeutics for multiple different pain conditions
 - Effectiveness studies for nonpharmacological pain management strategies
 - e.g. Trial of acupuncture for chronic low back pain in older adults, in collaboration with CMS

Cross-cutting HEAL themes

- Sharing and open access of data
 - HEAL Public Access and Data Sharing Policy
 - Secure infrastructure for making HEAL data FAIR
 - Harmonized measures established by HEAL teams
- Engagement of research participants, patients, and stakeholders
- Importance of partnerships, diversity and inclusion in HEAL research studies

Call to action - NIH is committed to addressing racial and health disparities

BLACKS, DISCRIMINATION, TRAUMA, UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

NIH Director Message: Grieving For Loss and Confronting Social Injustice



June 5, 2020

By: Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

The long history of discrimination against racial minorities in America bears directly on NIDA's mission to address addiction as a disease ...

Nora Volkow 2020, August 5. A Message from the Director on Racially Motivated Violence.



I am charged with striving to transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through basic and clinical research, paving the way for prevention, recovery, and cure.

Joshua Gordon, 2020, June 19. Racism and Mental Health Research: Steps Toward Equity.



The mission of NINDS is to generate knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disorders, *for all people*.

Walter Koroshetz 2020, June 19. A time for change: NINDS' commitment to diversity and eliminating racial bias.



On Engagement

It's really important that everybody has a chance to participate in clinical trials. That's how we learn the differences and similarities and certainly underrepresented groups ought to be part of that. To make that more possible, we can do better outreach so people hear about these trials, we need to knock down barriers that might get in the way and we need to be sure we are getting people information back about themselves ...

—Francis Collins, NIH Director



HEAL Funding Opportunities

Open Now... More to Come



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FOA #	FOA Title	Research Focus Area	Earliest Submission Date	Expiration Date	Posted Date
RFA-DA-21-029	HEAL Initiative: Integrative Management of chronic Pain and OUD for Whole Recovery (IMPOWR): Coordination and Dissemination Center (R24 Clinical Trial Optional)		Fri, 02/26/2021	Thu, 04/01/2021	Mon, 01/11/2021
RFA-DA-21-023	HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Data Coordinating Center (U24)	Enhanced Outcomes for Infants and Children Exposed to Opioids	Mon, 03/01/2021	Thu, 04/01/2021	Mon, 01/11/2021
RFA-HD-21-032	HEAL Initiative: Data Coordinating Center for the Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome Pharmacological Treatments Comparative Effectiveness Trial (U24 Clinical Trial Required)	Enhanced Outcomes for Infants and Children Exposed to Opioids	Sun, 02/28/2021	Wed, 03/31/2021	Mon, 01/11/2021
RFA-DA-21-020	HEAL Initiative: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study (Collaborative U01-Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	Enhanced Outcomes for Infants and Children Exposed to Opioids	Mon, 03/01/2021	Thu, 04/01/2021	Mon, 01/11/2021
RFA-MH-21-145	HEAL Initiative: Optimizing Multi-Component Service Delivery Interventions for People with Opioid Use Disorder, Co-Occurring Conditions, and/or Suicide Risk (R01 Clinical Trials Optional)	New Strategies to Prevent and Treat Opioid Addiction	Thu, 02/18/2021	Fri, 03/19/2021	Mon, 01/11/2021

