

The **NIH HEAL Initiative**[®] seeks scientific solutions to accelerate the development of prevention strategies and safe, non-addictive, innovative treatments for opioid misuse, addiction, and pain. For more information, visit heal.nih.gov.

Why the NIH HEAL Initiative?

- In 2021, the number of overdose deaths for the first time exceeded 100,000 in a 12-month period. The majority involved opioids.
- Chronic pain affects about 1 in 5 adults in the United States. Lack of safe, non-addictive pain treatments contributes to the opioid crisis.

A sharp rise in overdose deaths, especially due to highly potent synthetic opioids, co-use of dangerous drugs like stimulants, and related mental health challenges, is worsening the crisis.

HEAL by the Numbers

- Most NIH Institutes and Centers are involved in HEAL research.
- More than **\$2 billion** invested to date.
- More than **1,000** research projects nationwide supported to date.

Learn more about HEAL research funding opportunities at heal.nih.gov/funding.

HEAL Research—Scientific Solutions for the Evolving Opioid Crisis

The NIH HEAL Initiative supports a wide array of basic, translational, and clinical research; and implementation and prevention science—as well as drug and device development and technology applications. To learn more about NIH HEAL Initiative research, visit heal.nih.gov/research.

Translation of Research to Practice for the Treatment of Opioid Addiction



Partnering with communities to test implementation strategies of effective ways to prevent and treat addiction

New Strategies to Prevent and Treat Opioid Addiction



Intervening in community systems to prevent opioid use among at-risk individuals

Enhanced Outcomes for Infants and Children Exposed to Opioids



Finding better ways to help opioid-exposed infants and uncover long-term effects

Novel Therapeutic Options for Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose



Developing innovative treatments for all aspects of opioid addiction

Clinical Research in Pain Management



Testing a range of non-opioid pain treatments for use in clinical practice

Preclinical and Translational Research in Pain Management



Uncovering biology and targets to facilitate early stage development of non-opioid pain treatment

Making an Impact

Launched in 2018, HEAL research is achieving its goals by combining the power of science and community. Through a wide spectrum of innovative research strategies and the hard work of diverse partners, HEAL is making an impact for individuals and communities across the nation.

HEAL research:

- Explores new biology to understand and treat suffering
- Uses a patient-centric, whole-person focus
- Addresses health system problems and inequities
- Focuses on stigma at multiple levels
- Works with communities to bring research to life

To learn more, visit heal.nih.gov/research.

HEAL Results

- Launched the first-in-human trial of an opioid vaccine
- Conducting the largest ever community-based addiction science research study
- Guiding standard of care for infants born dependent on opioids
- Launched Phase 2 clinical trial of new non-addictive pain treatment for knee osteoarthritis
- Filed 30 Investigational New Drug Applications with FDA
- FDA Investigational Device Exemption for high-resolution spinal cord stimulation to treat neuropathic pain
- Showed that opioid use disorder treatment reduced later criminal activity in jailed individuals
- Testing collaborative care model for addiction, mental health, and chronic pain treatment
- Seven patents filed by HEAL-funded small businesses

To learn about other HEAL research advances, read the annual report. Visit <https://heal.nih.gov/about/heal-annual-report>.

The HEAL Data Ecosystem— Driving New Discovery

The urgency of the opioid crisis demands rapid sharing of data. The NIH HEAL Initiative will make data and results accessible immediately and widely via a cloud-based workspace for sharing and re-analyzing HEAL data.

This HEAL Data Ecosystem will transform research data, findings, and publications into virtual, annotated, and searchable assets for scientists, clinicians, agencies, partners, patients, and communities through the cloud-based HEAL Data Platform. For more information, visit healdata.org.

Join the HEAL Research Community!

The NIH HEAL Initiative funds many different types of projects for academic investigators, institutions, businesses, and health systems, including career development awards and small business grants. To learn more about funding opportunities, visit heal.nih.gov/funding.

To learn more about the NIH HEAL Initiative or to sign up to receive a monthly e-newsletter, visit heal.nih.gov, or contact HEALquestion@od.nih.gov.

HEAL Data Platform

