

PRESENTATION ON OPIOID RESPONSE

Moderator: Commissioner **Sue Hansen**, Montrose County

Director of Opioid Response **Heidi Williams**, Attorney General's Office

Arapahoe County Attorney **Ron Carl**

Commissioner **Wendy Buxton-Andrade**, Prowers County

Commissioner **Steve O'Dorisio**, Adams County



The Problem

- Colorado has lost over 5000 people to opioid overdose in the past 10 years
- An estimated additional 2000 people have lost their lives to fentanyl and heroin
- Roughly 70% of people who use heroin report they used opioid medications first
- Our state has only around 30% of the total drug treatment capacity we need.

Current proposed settlements with Johnson & Johnson and three large distributors provide significantly more settlement funds to Colorado if local governments join in the settlement.

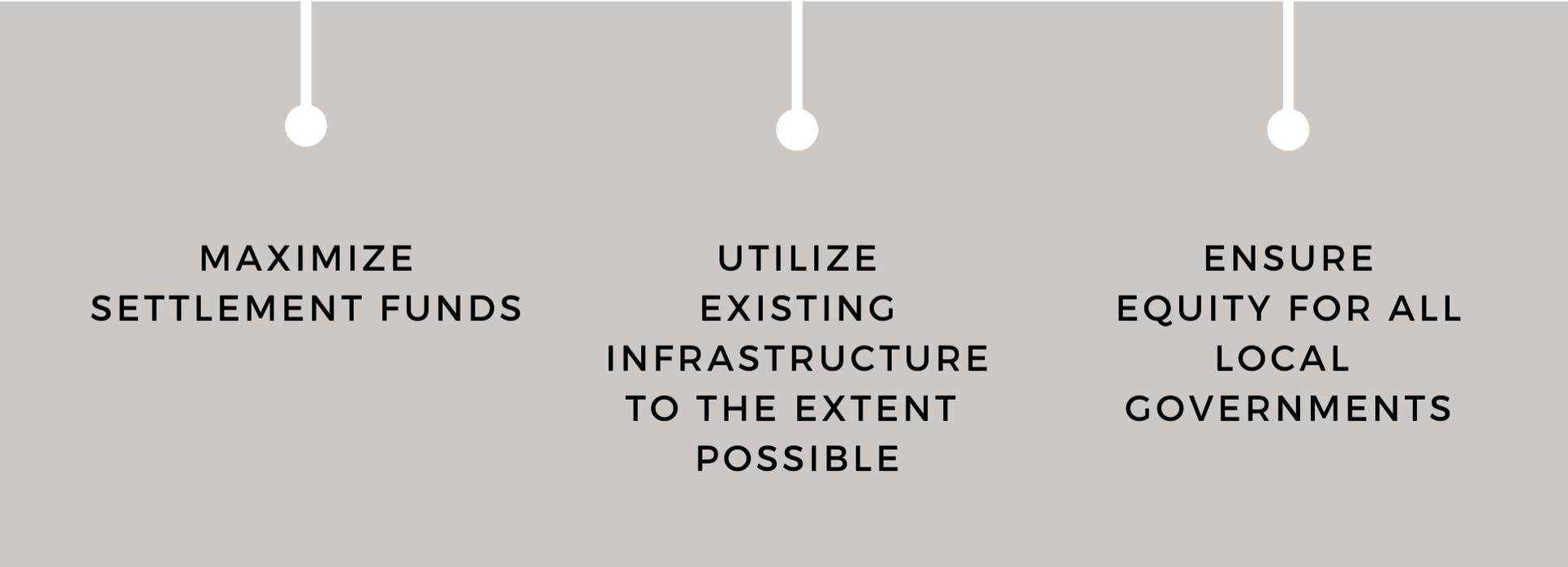


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Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Consortium. (n.d.). Heroin in Colorado (p. 3. Rep.). doi:<http://www.corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/Heroin-in-Colorado-FINAL-April-2017.pdf>

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Core Principles for All Colorado Plan Agreement



**MAXIMIZE
SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

**UTILIZE
EXISTING
INFRASTRUCTURE
TO THE EXTENT
POSSIBLE**

**ENSURE
EQUITY FOR ALL
LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS**



ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

TREATMENT

Evidence-based treatment models

PREVENTION, EDUCATION

Widespread prevention and education efforts among communities

HARM REDUCTION

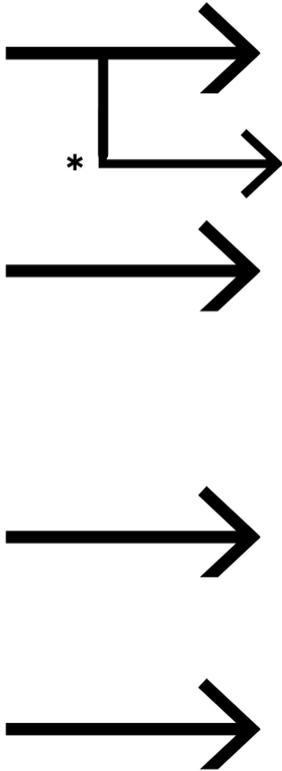
Preservation of health & dignity

RECOVERY

Evidence-based recovery models

**OPIOID
SETTLEMENT
FUNDS**

**TOTAL
COLORADO
SHARE**



Direct Allocation by Formula to Participating Local Governments
*Requirement - Full Transparency

Opioid Abatement Fund
Formula Allocations to Regions
Regional Committee to formulate and submit a 2-year plan
Regional Committee to implement plan
Reporting and Auditing at end of annual cycle

Infrastructure Fund - State
This fund will support hard hit areas in the state with resource needs

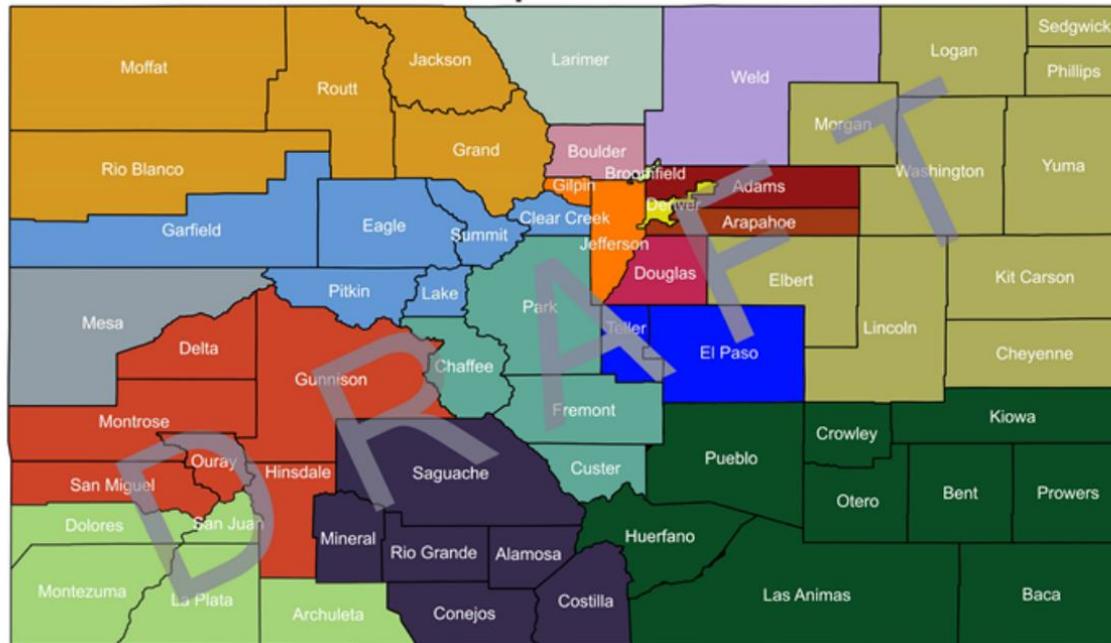
Direct Allocation to State Government
*Requirement - Full Transparency

Local Governments

State Government

* Local Govt. may direct its share to county or region

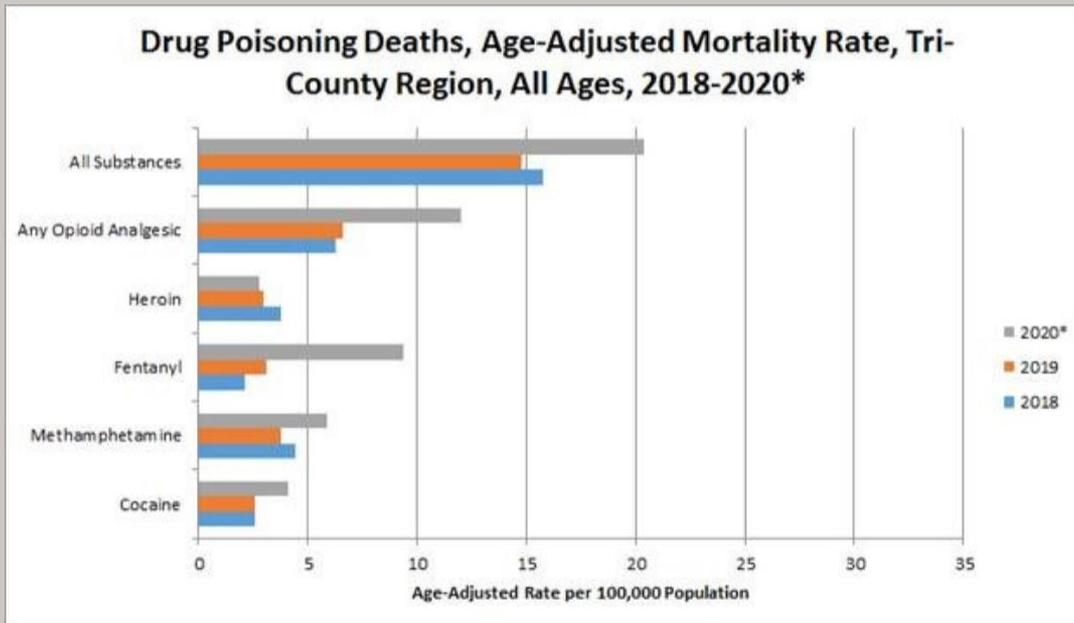
Proposed Regions for the Regional Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds



UPDATED 4/21/2021

Region 1	Region 5	Region 9	Region 13	Region 17
Region 2	Region 6	Region 10	Region 14	Region 18
Region 3	Region 7 (Broomfield)	Region 11 (Denver)	Region 15	Region 19
Region 4	Region 8	Region 12	Region 16	

The Opioid Crisis in Urban Colorado



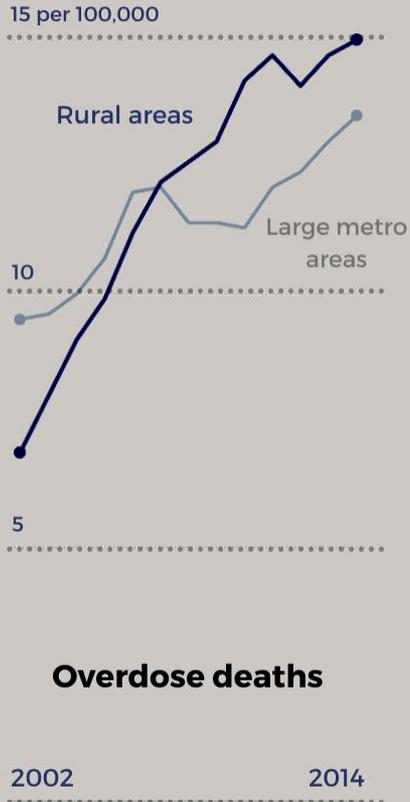
DENVER OVERDOSE DEATHS

2017	201
2018	209
2019	225
2020	317

STATEWIDE OVERDOSE DEATHS

2018	974
2019	1,062
2020	1,216

The Opioid Crisis in Rural Colorado



Overdose deaths

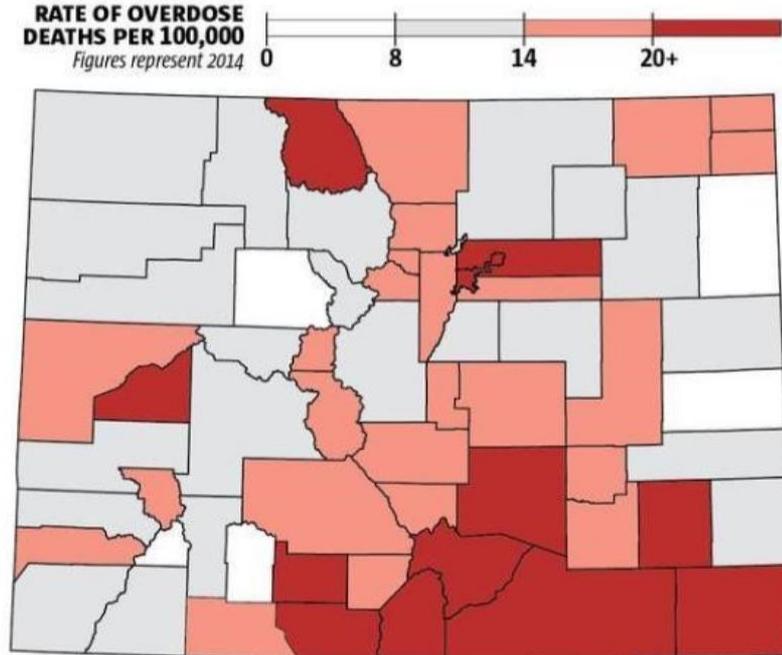
2002

2014

Via The New York Times

Overdoses rising

Drug overdose deaths have reached the highest level measured by the federal government in eight southern Colorado counties. Four other counties including Denver and Adams are in the same category.



Source: Colorado Health Institute

The Denver Post



Proposed Governance

Statewide Opioid Abatement Oversight Council

- 6 Local Government Appointees
- 6 Attorney General Appointees
- Chair, non-voting, except in the instance of a tie



Voting Members (Recommended List: Participating Local Governments to Decide)

- 1 rep appointed by each county (can be commissioners)
- 1 rep appointed by the rotating city within each county (or other city agreed upon) (can be councilmembers and mayors)
- 1 rep from each public health department within the region
- 1 rep from a county human services department
- At least 1 rep appointed from law enforcement within region (sheriff, police, DA etc.)
- 1 rep from a municipal or county court system within region

*Such other reps as participating counties/cities agree on (not to include providers who may be recipients of funds)

Proposed Governance

REGIONAL



Non-Voting Members (Optional)

- Reps from behavioral health providers
- Reps from health care providers
- Recovery/treatment experts
- Other county or city reps
- AG rep(s)
- Community rep (s)

Proposed Governance

REGIONAL



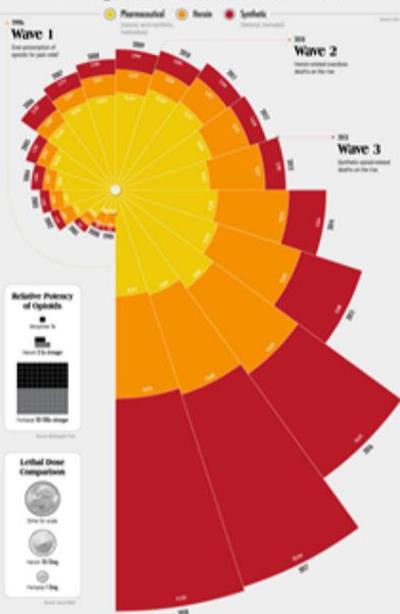
Preparing for Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds:
Colorado Opioid Response Blueprint

COMMISSIONER WENDY BUXTON-ANDRADE
POWERS COUNTY

The Spiraling Opioid Epidemic IN AMERICA

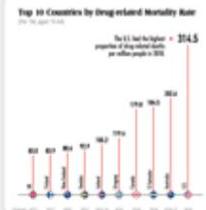
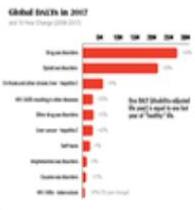
Over the last 20 years, the U.S. opioid crisis has escalated dramatically—leaving a trail of harm in its wake.

U.S. Opioid Overdose Deaths



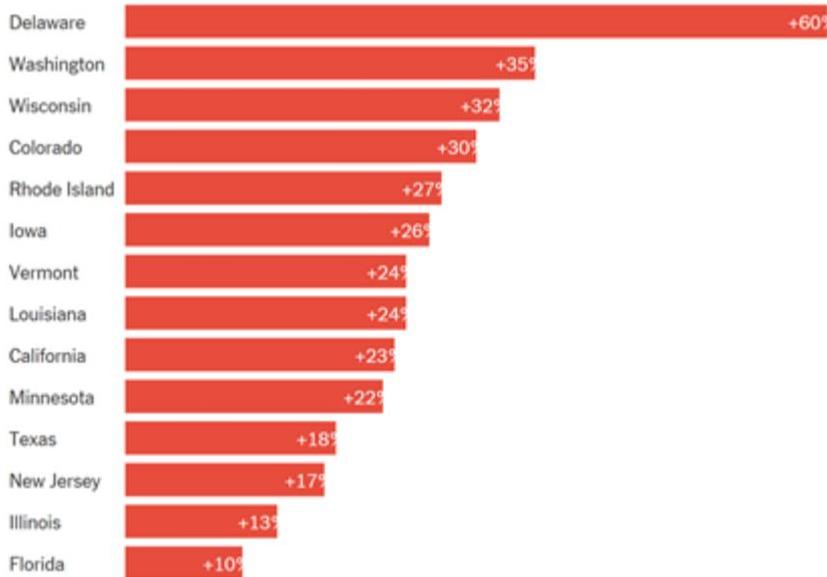
Drug use disorders are a significant cause of death, but due to poor health or early deaths.

How does the U.S. drug crisis compare to other countries?



Drug-related deaths have risen in 2020 in states across the country.

Increase in drug-related deaths from 2019 through the first portion of 2020.



All data is provisional. Definitions of what counts as a drug-related death vary by state. Data for Arizona, California, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin includes only a subset of counties within each state.

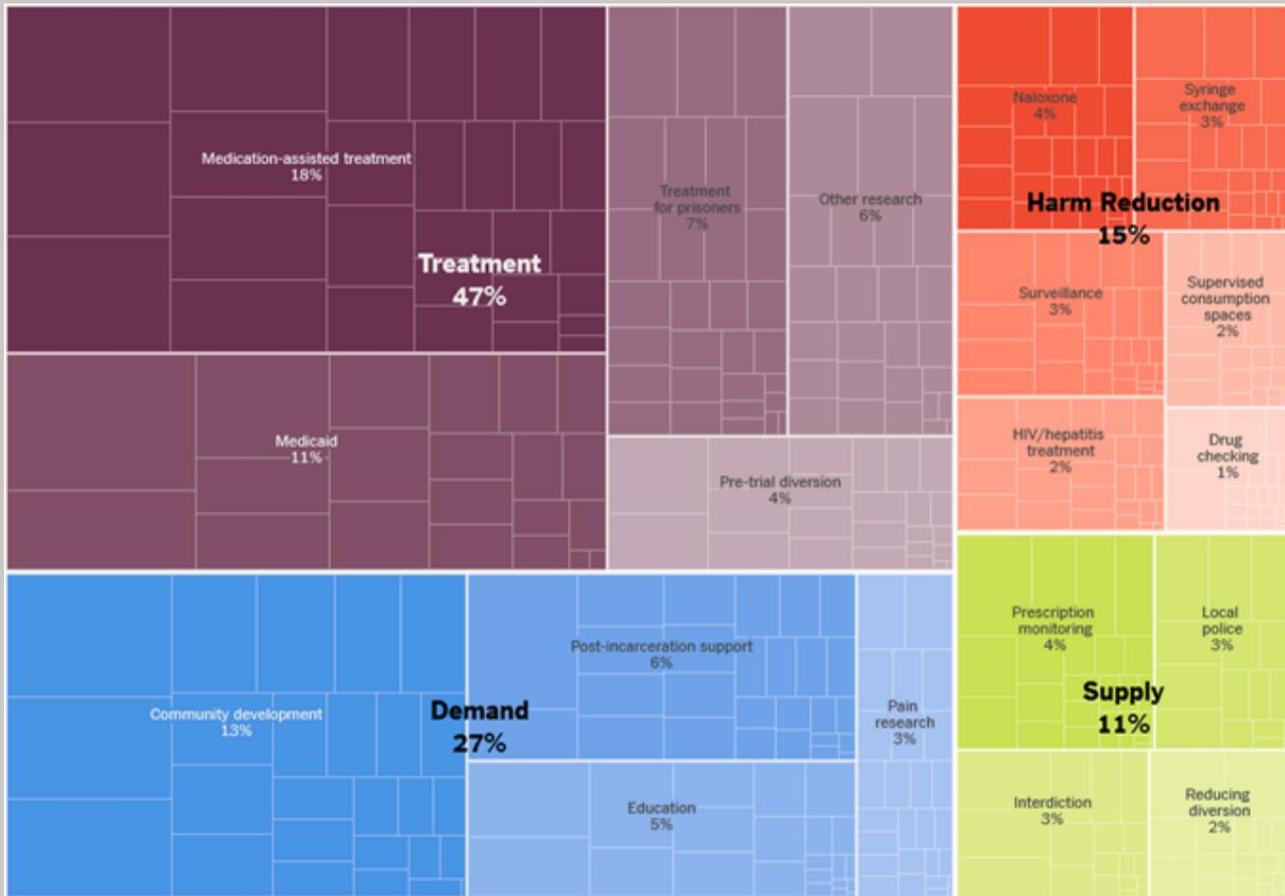
Source: State and local health departments, coroners and medical examiners

NATIONAL OPIOID ABUSE CRISIS

State Lawsuits: Attorneys General

“...within the emerging settlement framework, the States have proposed to assign the bulk of the settlement proceeds to an ‘abatement fund’ that would allow state and local public health officials to provide services to victims of the opioid crisis.”

Letter of 2-24-20, National Association of Attorney’s General



Katz, Josh. "How a Police Chief, a Governor and a Sociologist Would Spend \$100 Billion to Solve the Opioid Crisis, The Upshot (NY Times), February 14, 2018.

COLORADO OPIOID RESPONSE BLUEPRINT

*A guide for Opioid
Settlement Investments*



COLORADO
HEALTH
INSTITUTE

Survey Questions

Adapted from the Katz-Ciccarone-Frieden Survey



PREVENTION



CRIMINAL
JUSTICE



TREATMENT &
RECOVERY

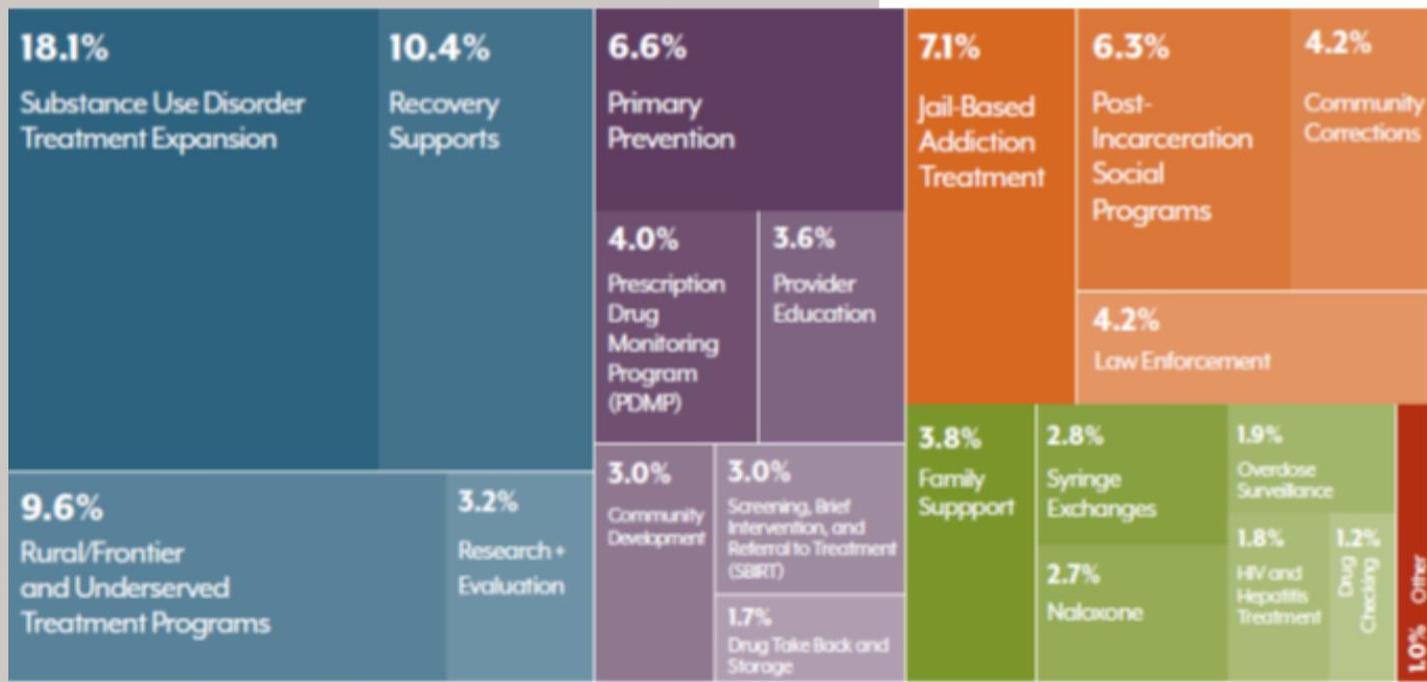


HARM
REDUCTION



Aggregate Survey Results

- Treatment and Recovery (41.3 percent)
- Prevention (21.8 percent)
- Criminal Justice (21.7 percent)
- Harm Reduction (14.2 percent)
- Other (1.0 percent)



References

[Colorado Opioid Crisis Response Blueprint: A Guide for Opioid Settlement Investments](#), December 2019.

Gluck, Abbe. "[Opioids and Unorthodox Civil Procedure: Will the MDL Solve the Crisis?](#)," Take Care Blog, (Mar. 7, 2018)

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Pack, Robert P., Heaton, Cheryl G., and Galea, Sandro. "[Maximizing Public benefit From Opioid Settlement Resources](#)," The Milbank Quarterly, February 20, 2020

Richards, Michelle L. "[Pills, Public Nuisance, and *Parens Patriae*: Questioning the Propriety of the Posture of the Opioid Litigation](#)," *University of Richmond Law Review*, 54:405, Jan. 2020.

[MDL 2804: National Prescription Opiate Litigation](#), US District Court, Northern District of Ohio

Regional Collaboration



Questions

