

# Health Equity Strategy

## Division of Overdose Prevention

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# Agenda

- + **Core Health Equity Strategy Goals**
- + **Core Health Equity Milestones to Date**
- + **Draft Update to DOP Research Priorities**

# CORE Health Equity Strategy Goals

# Goals and Timeline

## + Research Goals

- Invest at least \$30 million in extramural research that incorporates a health equity lens
- Develop a plan to systematically integrate health equity into *all* extramural research funding opportunities.
- By September 2024

## + Non-Research Goals

- Collect, or improve efforts to collect, data on social determinants of health and data on populations disproportionately affected by substance use and overdose
- Implement overdose prevention strategy(ies) that address key drivers of health inequities and social determinants of health
- By September 2027

# Core Health Equity Milestones to Date

- By November 2021, develop at least **two comprehensive research NOFOs that include language that clearly defines populations disproportionately affected by substance use and overdose** in the context of an evolving overdose epidemic and specific factors that increase risk (e.g., social determinants of health, exposure to ACEs).
- By January 2022, develop language that **defines populations disproportionately affected by substance use and overdose** in the context of an evolving overdose epidemic and specific contextual factors that increase risk (e.g., social determinants of health, exposure to ACEs).
- By May 2022, **develop guidance to consistently and systematically incorporate social determinants of health and health equity principles into all future research NOFOs.**

## Research Milestones

- Develop Notices of Funding Opportunities
- Develop Language
- Develop Guidance

# Non-Research Milestones

- Develop Language
- Develop Guidance
- Identify Social Determinants of Health Indicators

- By January 2022, develop language that **defines populations disproportionately affected by substance use and overdose** in the context of an evolving overdose epidemic and specific contextual factors that increase risk (e.g., social determinants of health, exposure to ACEs).
- By September 2022, DOP will develop **guidance for applicants and objective review panels on how social determinants of health and health equity are defined within the context of substance use and overdose** surveillance and prevention activities.
- By September 2022, DOP will work with other Offices and Divisions across NCIPC to **identify indicators of social determinants of health and health equity that could be monitored by or linked with existing DOP data sources.**

# Draft Updates to DOP Research Priorities



# Purpose of Update

- Draft updates to the 2020 Overdose Prevention Research Priorities in order to infuse a healthy equity lens
- Focus on Social Determinants of Health
- Highlight importance of systemic inequities
- Emphasize importance of including diverse population groups

# 2020 Overdose Prevention Research Priorities

## + Problem Description

Fundamental to CDC's Injury Center overdose prevention efforts are rigorous applied research and evaluation projects that:

- Address key drivers of health inequities
  - E.g., through focusing on better understanding of social determinants of health and people experiencing a disproportionate burden of substance use disorders and overdose and developing or evaluating tailored and culturally appropriate prevention interventions.
- Identify risk and protective factors at the societal, community, family, and individual levels that contribute to or protect against overdose, including adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), another Injury Center priority
- Evaluate the impacts of policies, programs, or practices designed to reduce overdose or antecedents to overdose, with a focus on health system and public health-public safety innovations
- Identify barriers and strategies to translate and scale-up effective interventions to different communities, populations, or settings

2020

# OVERDOSE PREVENTION RESEARCH PRIORITIES

## PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

The [drug overdose epidemic](#) in the United States continues to evolve and substantially impact individuals, families, and communities across the nation. The first wave of the opioid overdose epidemic began with deaths involving prescription opioids starting in the 1990s.<sup>1</sup> Since 2013, deaths involving illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs have been increasing each year.<sup>2,4</sup> More recently, the rise in overdose deaths involving stimulants, primarily methamphetamine and cocaine,<sup>5</sup> often in combination with opioids, highlights the importance of polydrug use and the complexity of developing and implementing prevention and response interventions to reduce overdose deaths and related harms.<sup>6,7</sup>

▼ Preventing drug overdose, including opioid overdose, in the United States requires a comprehensive public health approach. To this end, CDC's efforts focus on the following areas:

1. Conducting surveillance and research to monitor emerging trends, identify risk factors, and inform prevention activities
2. Strengthening state, local, territorial, and tribal capacity to improve data collection and implement evidence-based prevention strategies
3. Working with providers, health systems, and payers to support safer and more effective opioid prescribing and pain management
4. Coordinating with public safety and community-based partners to rapidly identify and respond to overdose threats
5. Increasing public awareness about the risks of opioids and other drug overdoses and related harms

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As part of addressing the drug overdose epidemic, the Injury Center also aims to reduce cross-cutting negative health outcomes and related behaviors, including suicide and drug impaired driving. Detailed below are a set of research priorities that provide a road map for future applied research that will address key gaps in our current understanding of the drug overdose epidemic and supporting strategies.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Atlanta, GA



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# Gaps and Priorities

- + Identify **risk and protective** factors for drug overdose, with a focus on overdoses involving opioids, emerging drugs, and polydrug combinations.
- + Evaluate the impact, implementation, and adoption of **health system interventions** designed to reduce drug overdose and other drug-related harms.
- + Evaluate programs, practices, and policies that enhance **public health and public safety collaborations** to prevent and respond to overdose, and increase linkage to and retention in care, with a focus on health outcomes.
- + Evaluate **federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies** with potential to address risk factors for and prevent prescription opioid and other prescription drug misuse, illicit drug use, overdose, and related harms
- + Develop and evaluate **innovative prevention strategies** designed to prevent overdose, including among those at greatest risk.

# Examples of Draft Updates to Research Priorities Incorporating Health Equity

Addressing the drug overdose epidemic will require a better understanding of the unique risk and protective factors **...Also, important to consider is how long-standing structural barriers, systemic inequities, including racism, introduce additional or worsen other risk factors. Similarly, community strengths, assets, and solutions are key protective factors to explore.**

...linkage of patients and families to additional health and social services that are needed to improve health outcomes. **It is also important to consider how access to and provision of care differs among diverse population groups and options for adapting strategies to address systemic inequities among people experiencing a disproportionate burden of substance use disorders and overdose through institutional changes and culturally appropriate interventions.**

Additionally, it is important to assess potential unintended consequences of such policies, **including whether these policies worsen existing health disparities and systemic inequities.**

**Risk and Protective Factors**

**Health System Interventions**

**Federal, State, and Local Laws, Regulations, and Policies**

# Other DOP Health Equity Accomplishments & Activities

Addressing knowledge gap around health inequities related to drug overdose

## DOP Health Equity Style Guide

- Terms specific to overdose prevention and surveillance
- Consistent set of standards

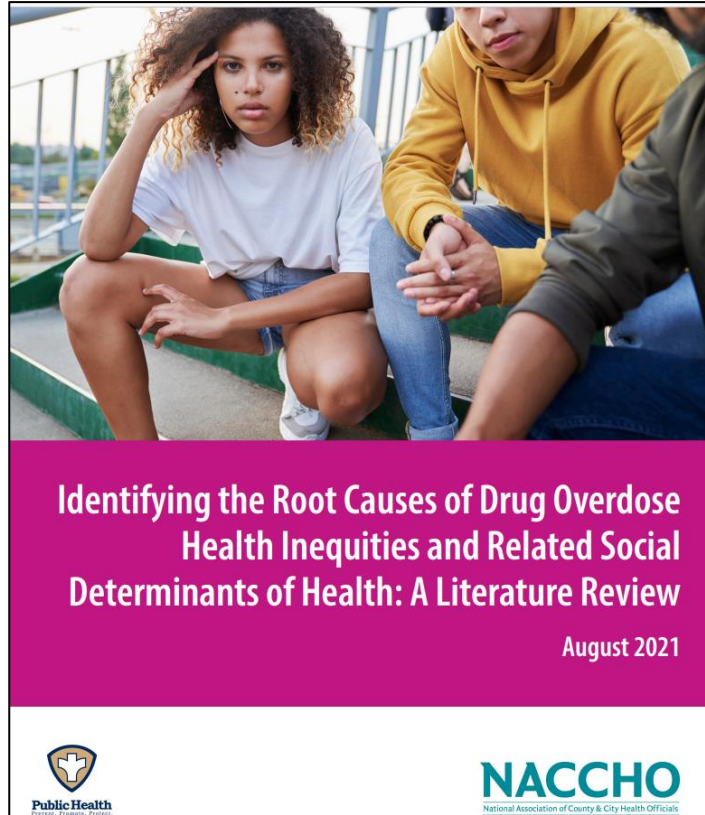


Image credit: [NACCHO](#)



Image credit: [The White House](#)

# Seeking Feedback

- Do the highlighted examples of how we've infused health equity throughout the research priorities resonate with BSC members?
- Are there concerns that the examples we've highlighted substantively change or redirect our priorities as previously published?
- Is there concern about a broad definition of populations disproportionately affected by substances potentially inadvertently diverting prevention activities away from populations experiencing the greatest burden of morbidity and mortality related to substance use/overdose?

Questions for the  
Board of Scientific  
Counselors (BSC)

# Thank you!

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

