



# Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis

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**2017 Harold Rogers National PDMP Meeting  
September 7, 2017**

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Practices**

# Agenda

- ❑ **NGA Background**
- ❑ **Snapshot of the Problem**
- ❑ **NGA Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis**
  - **Policy Academies**
  - **Compact**
  - **Road Map**
  - **Learning Labs**

# The National Governors Association



## **What We Do**

The National Governors Association (NGA) is the bipartisan organization of the nation's governors. Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with a collective voice on national policy and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism.

# The NGA Center for Best Practices

## Policy Areas:

- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environment, Energy, & Transportation
- Health
- Homeland Security & Public Safety

## Services:

- National Meeting of Governors
- In-State Assistance
- Multi-State Policy Academies
- Research & Published Reports

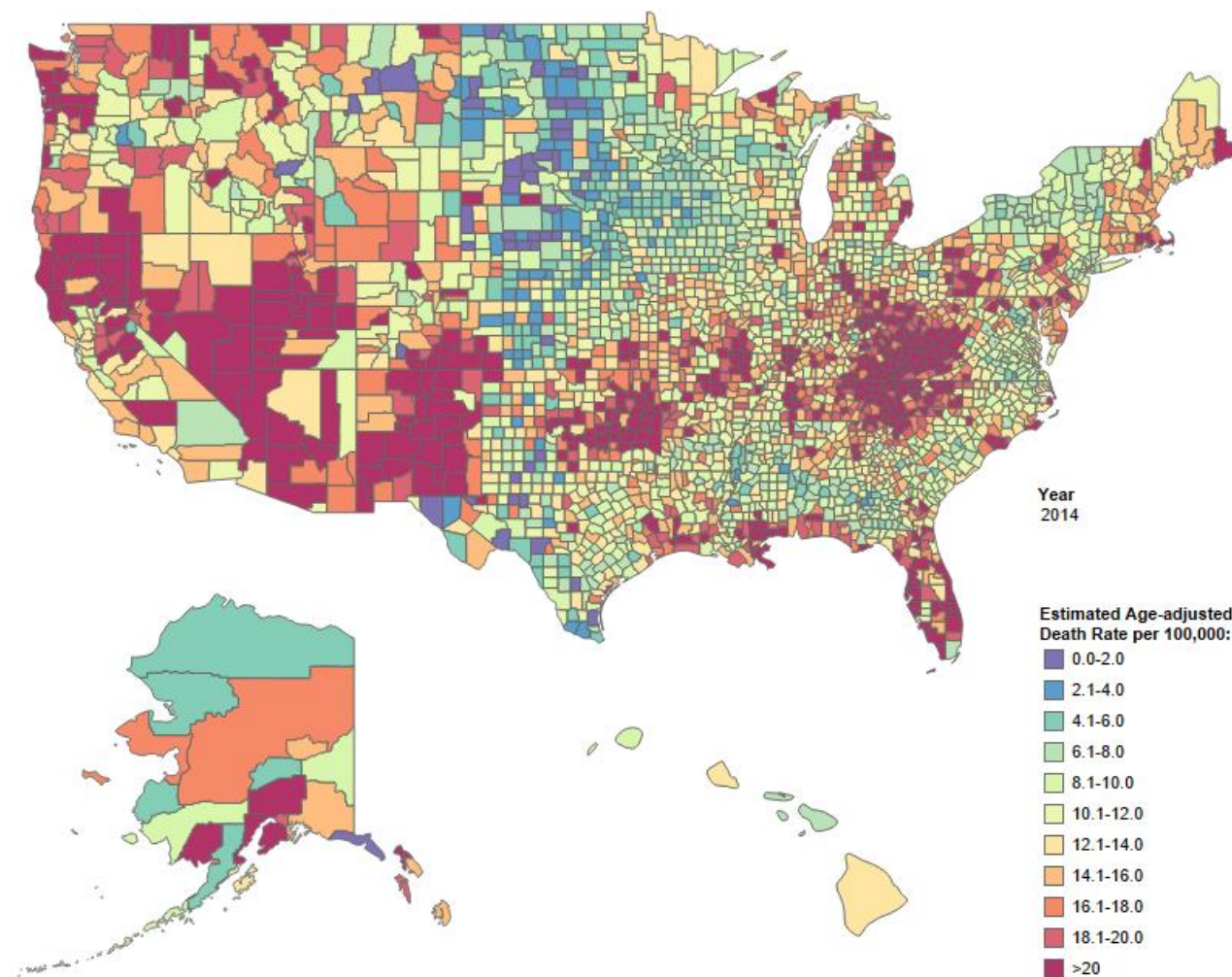


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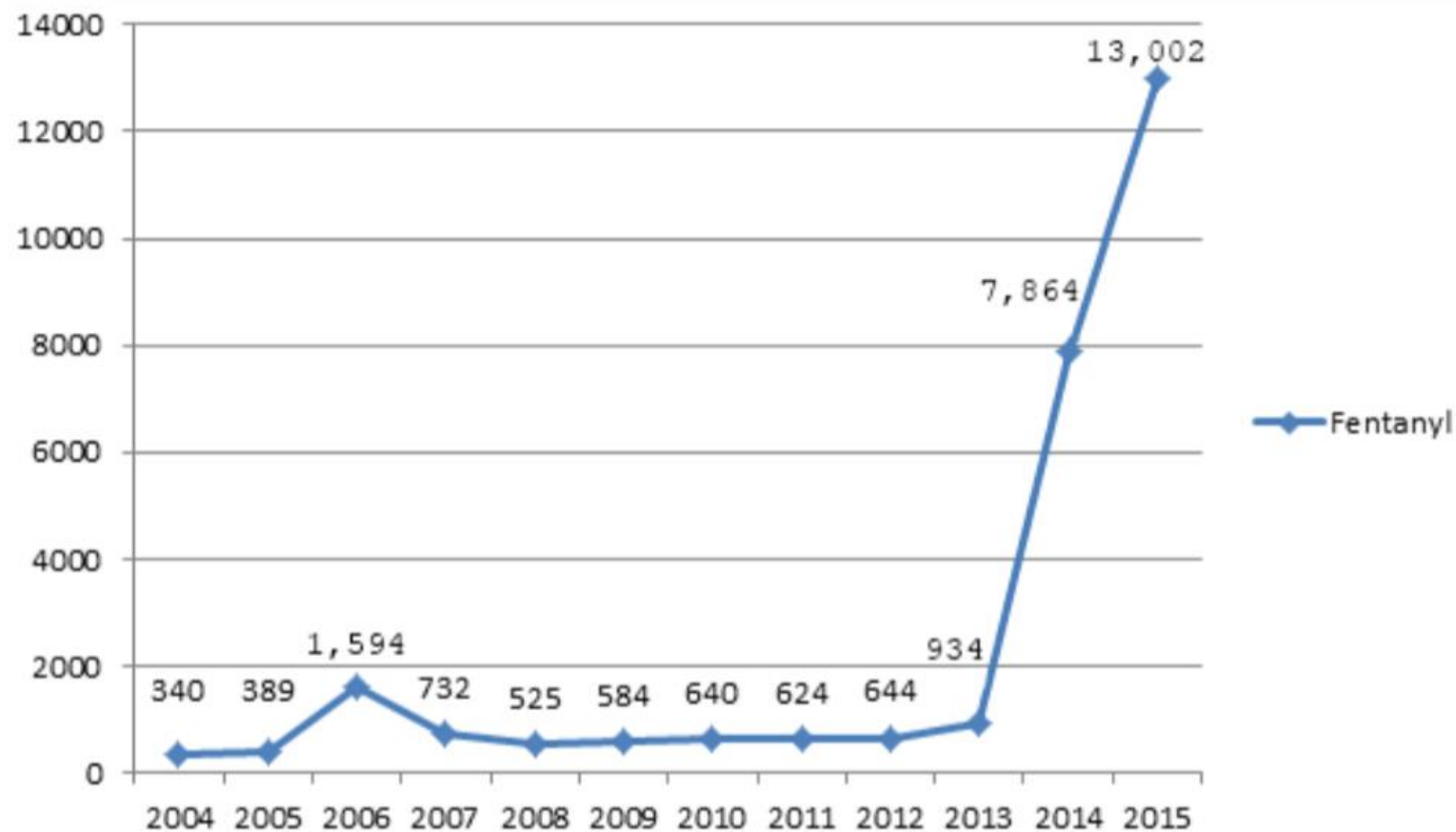


# 2014 RAPID INCREASE IN DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH RATES



Source: CDC

# Number of Fentanyl Exhibits in NFLIS, 2004-2015



Source: 2016 DEA Intelligence Brief: Counterfeit Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyls

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## A Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction

Governors have long been at the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat opioid addiction, working with health care providers, law enforcement and other stakeholders to mount a comprehensive response to the opioid crisis. Although there has been progress in recent years, inappropriate opioid prescribing continues to fuel one of the deadliest drug epidemics in our nation's history, claiming the lives of 78 people every day. More Americans died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any year on record. Driven by a spike in opioid-related deaths, drug overdose now surpasses motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of injury death in the United States. While most opioid-related overdoses involve prescription painkillers, an increasing number are linked to heroin and fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid often packaged and sold as heroin. The consequences of the opioid epidemic continue to reverberate through society, ruining lives, devastating families and overwhelming the health care system, law enforcement and social services.

During the 2016 NGA Winter Meeting, governors agreed that collective action is needed to end the opioid crisis. With more lives lost every day, governors are redoubling their efforts to combat the epidemic with bold and thoughtful new strategies. While states play a central role in ending this public health and safety emergency, they cannot do it alone. Turning the tide on the epidemic requires a coordinated response across all levels of government and strong leadership from the private sector, including opioid manufacturers and prescribers.

**With this compact, the undersigned commit to build on their efforts to fight opioid addiction by**

- **Taking steps to reduce inappropriate opioid prescribing, which may include:**
  - Partnering with health care providers to develop or update evidence-based opioid prescribing guidelines, which may be informed by CDC's guideline, and consider prescription limits with exceptions for certain patients and circumstances;
  - Requiring that physicians, osteopaths, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, veterinarians and all other opioid prescribers receive education on pain management, opioid prescribing and addiction throughout their training and careers;
  - Integrating data from state prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) into electronic health records and requiring PDMP use by opioid prescribers and dispensers; and
  - Reducing payment and administrative barriers in Medicaid and other health plans to promote comprehensive pain management that includes alternatives to opioid painkillers.
- **Leading efforts to change the nation's understanding of opioids and addiction, which may include:**
  - Developing a communications strategy through the governor's office to raise awareness about the risks of abuse associated with opioid use and reduce the stigma of addiction;
  - Establishing social media campaigns and integrating education into schools, athletic programs and other community-based settings to raise awareness about opioid abuse and addiction among youth and other at-risk groups; and
  - Partnering with professional associations to improve understanding of the disease of addiction among health care providers and law enforcement.

# A COMPACT TO FIGHT OPIOID ADDICTION

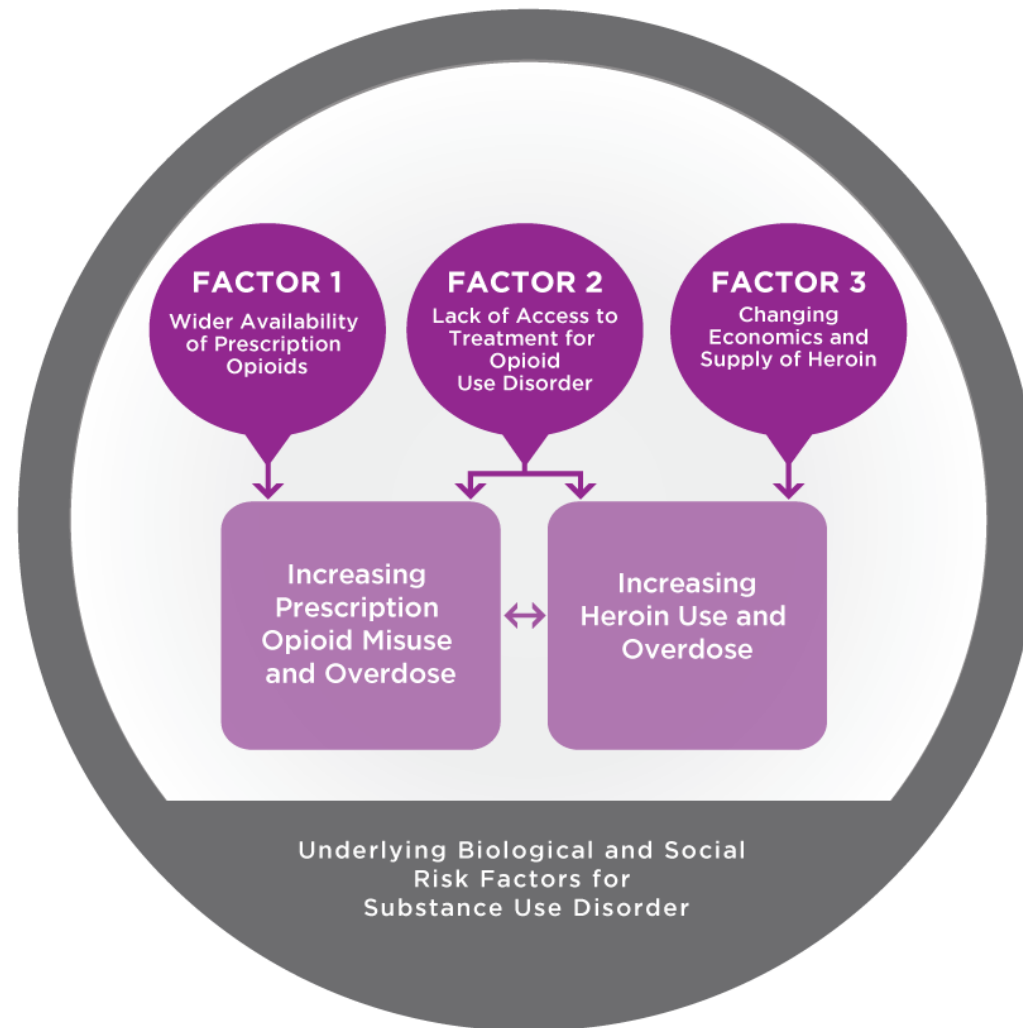
- NGA Opioid Compact signed by 46 governors in July 2016
- One year later, governors reported on the steps they have taken since
- Nine newly elected governors signed on

**Finding  
Solutions to the  
Prescription  
Opioid and  
Heroin Crisis:  
A Road Map  
for States**

National Governors Association

**NGA OPIOID ROAD  
MAP RELEASED JULY  
2016**

# MAJOR FACTORS DRIVING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC



# OVERARCHING PRESCRIPTION OPIOID MISUSE AND HEROIN POLICY FRAMEWORK



# Overview: Health Care Strategies for Prevention and Early Identification

- Educate providers and limit opioid prescriptions.
- Modify Medicaid and other state-run health programs to encourage treatment and discourage inappropriate drug prescriptions (i.e., methadone).
- Use data to monitor trends and strengthen prevention efforts.
- Maximize the use and effectiveness of state PDMPs.
- ~~Raise public awareness about the dangers of prescription opioids and heroin.~~

# Overview: Public safety strategies for reducing illicit supply

- Establish relationships across state agencies to partner in data collection, data and intelligence sharing, using data to target over-prescribers, and implement best practices.
- Expand statutory tools for prosecuting major distributors.
- Establish and enhance stakeholder coalitions.



# Overview: Health Care Strategies for Treatment and Recovery

- Develop payment policies, workforce, and infrastructure to provide evidenced-based MAT and recovery services.
- Increase access to naloxone.
- Consider authorizing and providing support to syringe service programs.
- Reduce stigma by changing the public's understanding of substance use disorder.

# Overview: Public safety strategies for response

- Empower, educate, and equip law enforcement personnel to prevent overdose deaths and facilitate access to treatment.
- Reinforce use of best practices in drug treatment courts and strengthen pre-trial drug diversion programs to offer substance use treatment.
- Ensure access to MAT in correctional facilities and upon reentry.
- Ensure compliance with Good Samaritan laws.

# NGA Opioid Learning Labs

- Since August 2016, the NGA Center has provided four intensive technical assistance opportunities to assist states in addressing the opioid epidemic.
  - Focus area #1: Information Sharing Learning Lab
    - Based on New Jersey's Drug Monitoring Initiative
  - Focus area #2: Heroin and Illicit Fentanyl Learning Lab
    - Based on Rhode Island's Strategic Plan on Addiction and Overdose
  - Focus area #3: Improving Access to Addiction Treatment in Rural Areas
    - Based on New Mexico's Integrated Addictions and Psychiatry teleECHO program
  - Focus area #4: Medication Assisted Treatment for Justice-Involved Populations
    - Based on Massachusetts' opioid use disorder treatment for justice-involved populations

Since the start of Project ECHO's IAP Clinic in 2005, New Mexico has gone from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest ranking state in terms of buprenorphine-waivered physicians per capita.

# Thank you!

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**NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION**