



# THE TRUMP BUDGET IS A DISASTER FOR FIGHTING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The U.S. is in the midst of an opioid epidemic that kills [tens of thousands](#) of Americans each year, and has caused more than [400,000](#) deaths since 1999. And yet, at a time when [8 in 10](#) people want the government to do more to address this epidemic, President Trump's Budget would defy public opinion and cut off vital resources in fighting this crisis.

**The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):** The Trump Budget slashes funding for SAMHSA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agency whose mission is to "reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities," by **\$8 billion over ten years**. In FY 2021 alone, funding for SAMHSA's substance abuse prevention work is cut by \$113 million, while funding for substance abuse treatment is cut by \$107 million. Specific programmatic cuts include:

- **The Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) Program:** Funding for SABG, which provides funds across the country and accounts for more than 60 percent of total state substance abuse prevention and public health funding, is frozen at \$1.8 billion, a \$2.1 billion cut over the decade.
- **Medication-Assisted Treatment Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA):** The MAT-PDOA grant program, which provides funding to states to expand and enhance access to medication-assisted treatment services, is eliminated, a \$1 billion cut over the decade.
- **Screening, Brief, Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT):** The Trump Budget eliminates the SBIRT grant program, which provides funding for states, medical residency training programs, health professional training programs, and colleges and universities to promote integrative primary care and substance use disorder treatment models, is eliminated, a \$313 million cut over the decade.

**Medicaid Opioid Treatment:** Instead of ensuring all Americans can access the health care they need, the Trump Budget absolutely guts the Medicaid program, which covers 1 in 5 Americans and nearly [40 percent](#) of nonelderly adults with an opioid use disorder, by **\$920 billion**. Today, all state Medicaid programs cover Medication-Assisted Treatment, and nonelderly individuals with opioid use disorders who are covered by Medicaid are more likely to receive treatment than those who have private health insurance. President Trump's promises to address the U.S. opioid epidemic are meaningless if his budget also proposes to destroy Medicaid.

**The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):** The Trump Budget would cut HRSA by \$11.5 billion. Funding for **the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program**, which provides high risk rural communities with funding to address the opioid crisis, would be frozen at FY 2020 levels and funds could be used for non-opioid substance use disorders. **Oral Health Training programs**, which the administration acknowledges improve access to pain management and opioid treatment services, would be eliminated.

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** Trump's Budget cuts CDC funding by \$23 billion. Funding for **Opioid Abuse and Overdose Prevention**, which supports all 50 states and territories to track and prevent opioid overdose deaths, would be frozen at the FY 2020 level of \$476 million.

**The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA):** The Trump Budget cuts total NIDA funding by \$58 million, down to \$1.4 billion in FY 2021, a \$2.1 billion cut over the decade. Research project grants would be cut by more than \$17 million, and the agency would fund 39 fewer grants next year.

**Office for the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH):** The Trump Budget cuts OASH, which leads HHS- and government-wide policy coordination that enables HHS to respond to public health challenges including the opioid epidemic, by \$146 million in FY 2021, \$2 billion over the decade.

