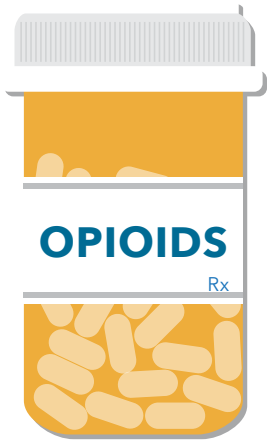


# The Governors' Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction: A Snapshot of State Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis



In July 2016, 46 of the nation's governors signed a [Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction](#), marking the first time in more than 10 years that governors developed a compact through the National Governors Association (NGA) to spur coordinated action on an urgent national issue. Governors who signed on to the compact committed to redoubling their efforts by taking new steps to:

- Reduce inappropriate opioid prescribing;
- Change the nation's understanding of opioids and addiction; and
- Ensure a pathway to recovery for individuals with addiction.



The opioid epidemic claims the lives of

**91 PEOPLE EVERY DAY** in the United States

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

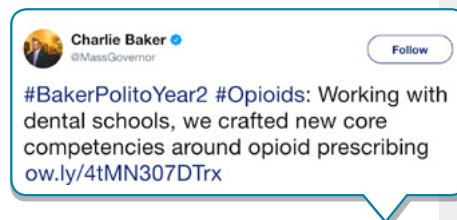


One year after signing the compact, governors continue to take bold steps to prevent opioid addiction, save lives and lead the nation in addressing the opioid crisis. Below is a summary of the themes that have emerged from governors' efforts during the last year. More detailed information can be found on NGA's [website](#).

## Steps to Reduce Inappropriate Opioid Prescribing

Governors are taking steps to reduce inappropriate opioid prescribing—a key driver of the opioid epidemic—while preserving access for patients with legitimate needs for pain management. Governors reported a variety of actions, including the following:

- Increasing the use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) by adding requirements for clinicians to check the systems, integrating data with electronic health records and data dashboards, and allowing law enforcement or medical examiners to access the PDMP when appropriate for overdose investigations.
- Establishing new limits on first-time prescriptions for acute pain, with exceptions, and working with providers to implement opioid prescribing guidelines.
- Updating curricula for health care providers in training and requiring continuing education related to pain management and addiction.



## Governors Who Signed on to the Compact

- Former Governor Robert Bentley  
Alabama
- Governor Bill Walker  
Alaska
- Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga  
American Samoa
- Governor Doug Ducey  
Arizona
- Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Arkansas
- Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
California
- Governor John Hickenlooper  
Colorado
- Governor Dannel Malloy  
Connecticut
- Former Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware
- Governor Eddie Calvo  
Guam
- Governor David Ige  
Hawaii
- Governor Eric Holcomb\*  
Indiana
- Former Governor Mike Pence  
Indiana
- Governor Kim Reynolds\*  
Iowa
- Former Governor Terry Branstad  
Iowa
- Governor Sam Brownback  
Kansas
- Governor Matt Bevin  
Kentucky
- Governor John Bel Edwards  
Louisiana
- Governor Larry Hogan  
Maryland
- Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts
- Governor Rick Snyder  
Michigan
- Governor Mark Dayton  
Minnesota
- Governor Phil Bryant  
Mississippi
- Former Governor Jay Nixon  
Missouri
- Governor Pete Ricketts  
Nebraska
- Governor Brian Sandoval  
Nevada



## Efforts to Change the Nation's Understanding of Opioids and Addiction

Governors are leading efforts to raise awareness about the risks of opioids, address the stigma of addiction and increase the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). Governors reported a variety of actions, including the following:

- Using their annual State of the State addresses, press conferences and social media platforms to highlight the problem, reduce stigma and bring attention to new programs.
- Issuing emergency declarations and executive orders to provide new resources and flexibility to respond to the crisis.
- Developing communications campaigns as well as targeted resources and curricula for teens, parents, criminal justice professionals and health care providers.
- Working with pharmacies to educate consumers receiving opioid and naloxone prescriptions, and increasing awareness around drug take-back programs.



### The Two Trends Driving the Opioid Overdose Epidemic:

A 15-year increase in deaths from **prescription opioid overdoses** and a surge in **illicit opioid overdoses** driven mainly by heroin and illegally manufactured fentanyl.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

## Actions to Ensure a Pathway to Recovery for Individuals With Addiction

Governors are working to stem the tide of overdose deaths by expanding access to the life-saving overdose reversal drug naloxone and ensuring a pathway to treatment and recovery for those struggling with addiction. Governors reported a variety of actions, including the following:

- Making naloxone more readily available through first responders and standing orders at pharmacies, and connecting individuals to treatment and recovery services following an overdose or arrest.
- Increasing the number of MAT providers and requiring public and private insurance coverage of MAT.
- Expanding treatment for populations that have been disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis, such as mothers and babies, rural communities and justice-involved populations.
- Investing in counseling and recovery service providers, such as peer providers who are in recovery themselves and are trained to help those struggling with addiction in their path to recovery.



Former Governor Maggie Hassan  
New Hampshire

Governor Chris Christie  
New Jersey

Governor Susana Martinez  
New Mexico

Governor Andrew Cuomo  
New York

Governor Roy Cooper\*  
North Carolina

Former Governor Pat McCrory  
North Carolina

Governor Doug Burgum\*  
North Dakota

Former Governor Jack Dalrymple  
North Dakota

Governor John Kasich  
Ohio

Governor Mary Fallin  
Oklahoma

Governor Kate Brown  
Oregon

Governor Tom Wolf  
Pennsylvania

Governor Ricardo Rosselló\*  
Puerto Rico

Former Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla  
Puerto Rico

Governor Gina Raimondo  
Rhode Island

Governor Henry McMaster\*  
South Carolina

Former Governor Nikki R. Haley  
South Carolina

Governor Dennis Daugaard  
South Dakota

Governor Bill Haslam  
Tennessee

Governor Gary Herbert  
Utah

Governor Phil Scott\*  
Vermont

Former Governor Peter Shumlin  
Vermont

Governor Terry McAuliffe  
Virginia

Governor Jay Inslee  
Washington

Governor Jim Justice\*  
West Virginia

Former Governor Earl Ray Tomblin  
West Virginia

Governor Scott Walker  
Wisconsin

Governor Matt Mead  
Wyoming

\*Denotes governors who signed on as of July 12, 2017