

Opioid Settlement Funds & Community Opportunities



PennState

2022 Opioid Settlement Structure for Pennsylvania



Perspective

Conceptualizing and Measuring Abatement
from the Opioid Epidemic: A Case Study
from Pennsylvania

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Policy Points

- In 2021, four major pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors reached a proposed settlement agreement with 46 state Attorneys General of \$76 billion to address their liabilities in fueling the US opioid epidemic. It raises important questions about abatement conceptualization and measurement for allocating settlement funds among substate entities.
- We outline the political economy tensions undergirding the settlement and allocation, introduce an abatement conceptual framework, describe how an abatement formula was developed for Pennsylvania to allocate settlement funds, and summarize considerations for future settlement allocation efforts.
- Documenting the challenges and experiences of this task is essential to inform future efforts.

Keywords: Opioid epidemic, abatement, settlement

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Allocation Formulas

Table 1. Measures, Weights, and Data Sources used in the Different Allocations

| Measure ^a : Source | Interstate Replication (Years) | Proposed Model (Years) | Final Model ^b (Years) |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overdose Deaths: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WONDER Multiple Cause of Death | 22% ^c (2007-2017) | 50% (2010-2019) | 40% (2015-2019) |
| Amount of Opioids Dispensed: The Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) | 34% (2006-2014) | 50% (2006-2014) | 20% (Adjusted) (2006-2014) |
| Prevalence of Pain Reliever Use Disorder: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) | 22% (2015-2017) | | |
| OUD-Related Hospitalizations: Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) number of unique individuals hospitalized for any OUD-related diseases | | | 20% (2016-2019) |
| EMS-Administered Naloxone: Pennsylvania Department of Health number of naloxone (Narcan) doses administered by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) | | | 20% (2018-2020) |
| Population: US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates | 22% (2018) | | |

^a The formulas use county share (%) for each measure

^b The top-up approach described below was used in the final formula

^c Whereas the final and proposed models used overdose deaths from all drugs, the interstate replication used the average of all overdose deaths and opioid-specific overdose deaths.

Source:

Rhubart et al. (2022)

Key Elevate Pennsylvania Initiative Components

County Evaluation

- Implementation
- Outcomes
- State-Level Impacts

Public Health & Safety Outcomes

- Cross-County Comparison
- Data Warehouse

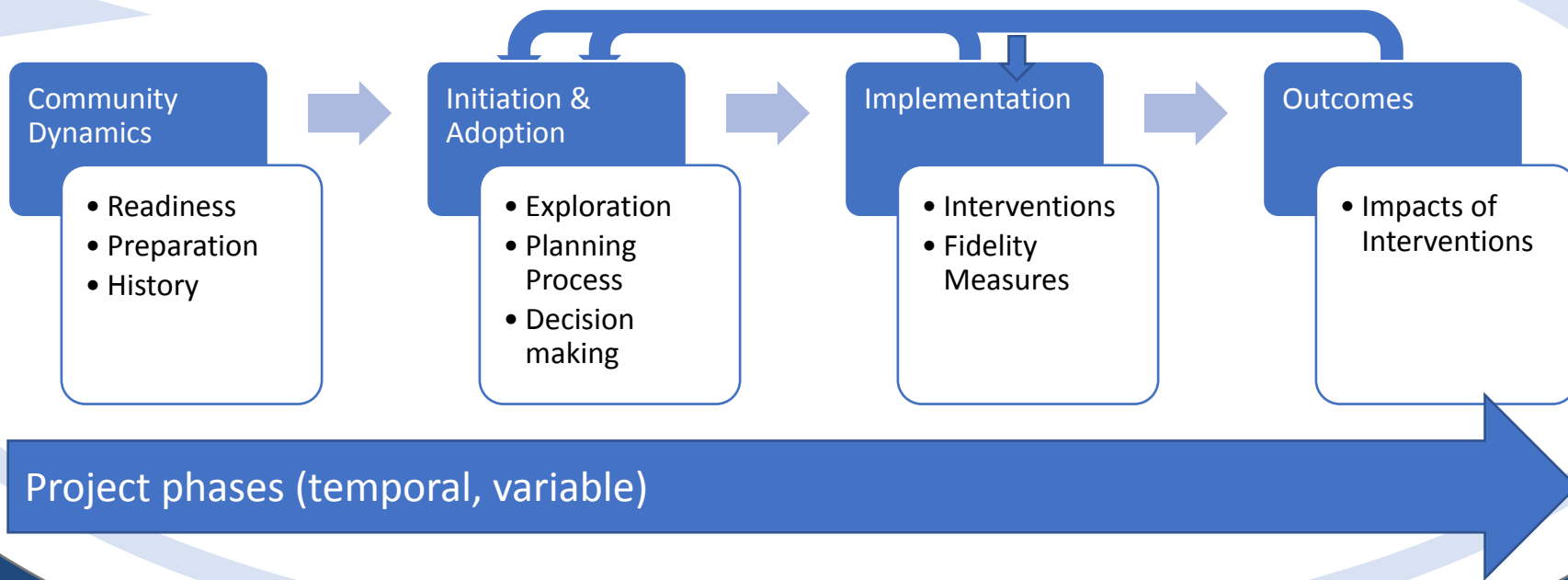
Cross State Comparison

- Disbursement Structure
- Outcomes Comparison

Stakeholder Engagement

- Knowledge Sharing Communities
- Continuous Quality Improvement Model

Contextual factors





Organizing Initiative Seeded by SSRI

- **Aim 1: Understand Trust-level decision-making processes for oversight of settlement funds and reporting requirements for funded entities.**
- **Aim 2: Develop a profile structure for documenting decision-making processes for utilization of the opioid settlement funding and abatement strategies implemented through settlement funding in Pennsylvania counties and state-level agencies.**
- **Aim 3: Establish a protocol for collecting opioid-related population health measures and develop analytical methodologies for longitudinal evaluation and allocation decision support.**
- **Aim 4: Identify the structure of settlement distributions among participating states outside of Pennsylvania.**

Aim 1: Understand Trust-level decision-making processes for oversight of settlement funds and reporting requirements for funded entities.

- Board of Trustees currently focused on funds dispensation, formation
- Developed proposal to assist with grantee reporting
- Board of Trustee meeting schedule is available online

Aim 2: Develop a profile structure for documenting decision-making processes for utilization of the opioid settlement funding and abatement strategies implemented through settlement funding in Pennsylvania counties and state-level agencies.

Research Questions

- 1. How are decisions being made for the settlement funding? How are decisions being made for the funding expenditure abatement uses? Do they differ?**
- 2. How was the process for making decisions about funding expenditures developed? How was the process for making decisions about funding expenditure abatement uses developed?**
- 3. What is the funding used for?**
- 4. Does the existing social infrastructure impact the decision making process for use of funding and abatement strategy implementation?**
- 5. What are the populations targeted by the interventions? And Why?**

Aim 2: Develop a profile structure for documenting decision-making processes for utilization of the opioid settlement funding and abatement strategies implemented through settlement funding in Pennsylvania counties and state-level agencies.

Sampling

- Convenience Sample, Maximum Heterogeneity
- 5 counties (4 coalition, 1 noncoalition), 1 State Agency

Methodology

- Multiple Qualitative Case Study Methodology
- Participatory Action Research Framework
- Initial Focus Group/Key Informant Interview
- Key Informant Interviews

Next Steps

- IRB Submission
- Data Collection
- Profile Structure & Standardized Data Collection Instrument Created
- Implementation Evaluation Sampling

Aim 3: Establish a protocol for collecting opioid-related population health measures and develop analytical methodologies for longitudinal evaluation and allocation decision support.

▣ **Identified List of Measures & Data Sources**

- ▣ Overdose Outcomes
- ▣ Health Services & Prevention
- ▣ Substance Use Behaviors & Disorders
- ▣ Criminal Justice & Public Safety
- ▣ Treatment Resources
- ▣ Economic Impacts
- ▣ Special Vulnerable Populations
- ▣ Contextual Factors

- ▣ Developed Data Warehouse Structure, Level 2 Data Plan
- ▣ Began Agency Data Requests
- ▣ Coordinating Data

Aim 4: Identify the structure of settlement distributions among participating states outside of Pennsylvania.

Profile Structure

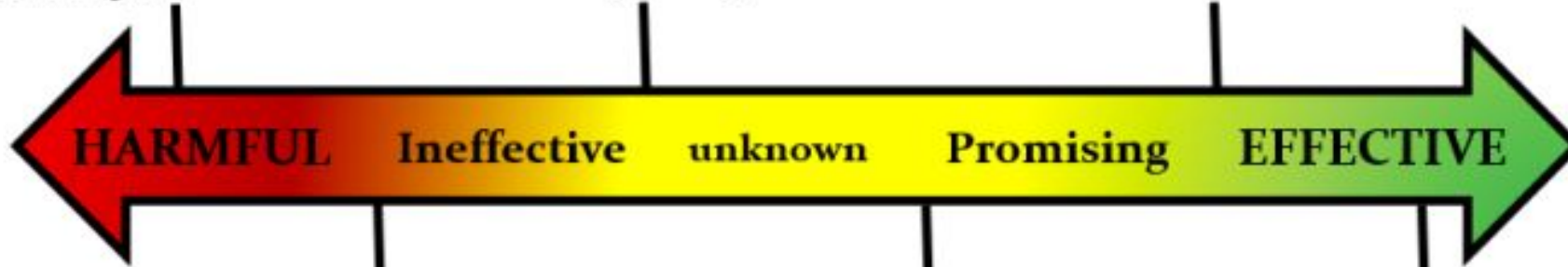
- Total Awarded Amount
- State Government Share
- Distribution Formula
- Funding Dispensation Mechanism
- Expenditure Rules/Requirements
- Areas of Permitted Funding
- Data Sources

✗ Harmful (Iatrogenic)
"This program has been rigorously evaluated and shown to be harmful"

✗ Discouraged Approaches
"This program is similar to other ineffective or harmful programs, but has not been rigorously evaluated"

✓ Research-based
"This program is based on sound theory informed by research"

Very
Confident



Very
Confident

✗ Ineffective
"This program has been evaluated and shown to have no positive or negative effect"

✓ Promising Approaches
"This program is similar to other effective programs, but has not been rigorously evaluated"

✓ Evidence-based
"This program has been rigorously evaluated and shown to work"

Bumbarger & Rhoades, 2012

Evidence Based Criteria

- Demonstrated effectiveness in rigorous scientific evaluations including randomized control trials.
- Was assessed in large studies with diverse populations or through multiple replications by independent researchers (not the developer of the model)
- Resulted in significant and sustained effects for a minimum of 6 months, post program.

Resources

PENNSYLVANIA INFORMATION

PA Opioid Misuse and Addiction Abatement Trust

<https://www.paopioidtrust.org/>



Resources

MAKING DECISIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Johns Hopkins, Principles for Opioid
Settlement Fund Allocation

<https://opioidprinciples.jhsph.edu/about/>



Resources

EVIDENCE BASED STRATEGIES

CORE-NC

Community Opioid Resources Engine for
North Carolina

<https://ncopioidsettlement.org/resources/>



Questions

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