The HEALing Communities Study

A Cooperative Agreement in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

FOR MDWG Information

Nora D. Volkow, M.D.
Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse
HEAL Initiative Research: Overview

Enhancing Pain Management

Pre-Clinical Research in Pain

Clinical Research in Pain Management

Expand Therapeutic Options

Enhance Treatments for Affected Newborns

Develop New/Improved Prevention & Treatment Strategies

Optimize Effective Treatments

Improving Treatments for Misuse and Addiction
Improving Prevention and Treatment for Opioid Addiction

- **Optimize Effective Treatments**
  - Enhancing the NIDA Clinical Trials Network to address opioids
  - Promoting innovation in the criminal justice system
    - Justice Community Opioid Intervention Network
  - Understanding the role of behavioral health interventions
    - Behavioral Research to Improve Adherence to Medication-based treatment for OUD (BRIM)
  - Integrating multiple evidence based interventions in communities
    - The HEALing Communities Study
### The HEALing Communities Study: Primary Goal and Key Outcomes

**Primary Goal:**
- Develop an evidence-based, integrated and comprehensive strategy that reduces opioid-related overdose fatalities by 40% in 3 years across communities highly affected by the opioid crisis

**Key Outcomes:**
- Reduce overdose fatalities and events
- Increase naloxone access
- Decrease incidence of OUD
- Increase the number of individuals:
  - receiving medication and behavioral treatment
  - retained in treatment beyond 6 months
  - receiving recovery support services
The HEALing Communities Study: Settings

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<tr>
<th>Healthcare</th>
<th>Criminal Justice</th>
<th>Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Primary care</td>
<td>• Jails</td>
<td>• Families</td>
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<td>• Emergency departments</td>
<td>• Prisons</td>
<td>• Schools</td>
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<td>• Inpatient hospital care</td>
<td>• Parole/Probation</td>
<td>• Police and fire departments</td>
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<td>• Behavioral health</td>
<td>• Drug courts</td>
<td>• Faith-based organizations</td>
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<td>• Housing &amp; Employment</td>
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The HEALing Communities Study: 3-Step Review Process

1. Primary Review:
   - Peer review panel of non-federal subject matter experts
   - Assess for scientific and technical merit
   - Site visits

2. Secondary Review:
   - NIDA National Advisory Council
   - Recommend for approval most meritorious applications

3. Final Selection:
   - NIDA Director
The HEALing Communities Study: Research Sites

Ohio State University
PI: Rebecca Jackson

Columbia University
PI: Nabila El-Bassel

Boston Medical Center
PI: Jeffrey Samet

University of Kentucky
PI: Sharon Walsh
Overdose Rates per 100,000 Population (age-adjusted) in Research Site States

Opioid Overdose Deaths

All Drug Overdose Deaths

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation
• RTI International, North Carolina
• PIs: Rick Williams, Kevin Conway, and Gary Zarkin
• Data Collection and Data Analysis
• Health Economic Research
• Dissemination of Research Findings
The HEALing Communities Study: Study Design and Timeline

**Intervention arm**

- **Protocol development**
- **Randomization**
- **IRB approval**
- **Staffing**
- **Community engagement**
  - Organize coalitions
  - Develop community profile
  - Create a plan
  - Implement plan
  - Ongoing feedback on impact of plan
  - Adapt as indicated
- **Regularly measure primary and secondary outcomes**
- **Conduct final data analyses**
- **Disseminate research findings**

**Control arm**

- **Start Up (6 months)**
- **Control (24 months)**
- **Intervention Roll-out (12 months)**