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Overview of the HEALing Communities Study (HCS)

• A partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

• $87 million was awarded to the University of Kentucky. Other institutions funded:
  – Columbia University, NY
  – Boston Medical Center, MA
  – The Ohio State University, OH

• Our project is being conducted in partnership with numerous federal, state, community, public health, criminal justice, behavioral health, and health care partners.
  – Adam Meier, Secretary of the Cabinet for Health & Family Services, is a Co-I.
HCS Organizational Structure
KY HCS & State Government Partnerships

Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Department for Medicaid Services
Department for Behavioral Health
Kentucky Opioid Response Effort

Department for Public Health
Local Health Departments

Office of Inspector General
PDMP

Office of Health Data and Analytics

Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
Primary Outcome of the HEALing Communities Study (HCS)

• To reduce opioid-related overdose deaths by 40% over 3 years within 67 highly affected communities in KY, MA, NY, and OH.
HEALing Communities Study (HCS) Design

• The HCS will test the impact of the Communities that Heal (CTH) intervention on opioid-related overdose deaths.
  – CTH is a community-engaged intervention that produces a comprehensive, data-driven community response plan to deploy evidence-based practices (EBPs) across multiple sectors to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths.

• The study design is a multisite parallel-arm cluster randomized waitlist-controlled trial evaluating the impact of the CTH intervention compared to usual care.
HEALing Communities Study: Kentucky

County Selection and How Data was used to Inform Design

- 120 Counties in Kentucky
- 48 Counties with ≥ 25 opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 residents in 2017
- 35 Counties without ‘suppressed data’ (i.e., ≥ 5 opioid overdose deaths)
- 28 Counties with justice infrastructure (i.e., jails)
- 25 Counties with treatment infrastructure (i.e., ≥ 1 provider licensed to prescribe medication)
- 19 Counties with public health infrastructure (i.e., SSP)
- 16 Counties not already involved in a major UK intervention project
HEALing Communities Study Sites

- Rural Communities
- Urban Communities

Ohio (OH)

New York (NY)

Massachusetts (MA)

Kentucky (KY)
# HEALing Communities Study: Design & Timeline

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<th>PHASE</th>
<th>2019</th>
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- **Startup**: Initial stages of the study.
- **Intervention**: Phases where interventions are implemented.
- **Usual Care**: Phases where usual care is maintained.
- **Intervention**: Phases where additional interventions are introduced.
- **Sustainability**: Phases focusing on sustainability and maintenance of interventions.

Timeline:
- **2019**: Early planning and foundational work.
- **2020**: Introduction of initial intervention.
- **2021**: Further development and implementation of interventions.
- **2022**: Expansion of interventions and evaluation.
- **2023**: Continuation of interventions and sustainability efforts.
HEALing Communities Conceptual Framework to Reduce Overdose Deaths

**Health Communication Strategy to Increase Demand for EBIs**
- Media Campaign and Mobile-Responsive Website
- Reduce stigma about OUD, medication for OUD (MOUD), and overdose prevention
- Increase awareness of each community’s EBIs

**Improve OUD Cascade of Care**
- MOUD Treatment Entry and Retention
  - Expand the workforce of MOUD providers
  - Reduce cost-related barriers to MOUD
  - Increase care navigation in MOUD settings
  - Improve linkage to MOUD in criminal justice and syringe services programs
  - Increase telephonic recovery supports

**Expand Overdose Prevention**
- Overdose Education, Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strips, Safe Injection Practices
  - Syringe services programs
  - Pharmacies
  - Community supervision (i.e., probation and parole)
  - Jails

**Reduce Opioid Supply**
- Detailing to Prescribers and Pharmacies
  - Change high-risk prescribing behaviors
  - Increase the safe disposal of unused opioids

**Primary Outcome**
- Reduce overdose deaths by >40%

Community Engagement and Implementation Science
KY Care Navigation

- Develop an integrated care network within the local community, reach those at highest risk and increase access to evidence-based care
- Can help overcome historical silos in substance use disorder care
- Opportunity to collect data on effectiveness of community navigation models
Thank You!

• For more information: https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/heal-initiative/healing-communities-study