

# FUND THE EXPANSION OF OPIOID & OTHER SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Youth suffer higher rates of opioid and other substance use disorders than any other age group

4.5%

of adolescents &

14.1%

of young adults have an opioid or other substance use disorder

(SAMSHA, 2019)

From 1999 to 2018, youth opioid overdose mortality rates increased by

384%

and polysubstance use related deaths increased by

784%

(Lim et al., 2021)

Since 2015, Fentanyl-related deaths increased:

5.1 fold

in Black youth

4.7 fold

in multiracial youth

3.5-fold

in White youth

(CDC WONDER, 2021)

Evidence-based, effective treatments for youth substance use exist...

- family-based interventions
- cognitive behavioral therapy
- pharmacological treatment



yet... less than 1 out of 10

youth that need substance use treatment actually receive it

Why? The limited quantity of developmentally-appropriate treatment options for youth is one major barrier to access.

## SOLUTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

### RECOMMENDATION #1: Fund program development

Pass the Opioid Settlement Accountability Act (HR 2448) with modifications to include specific requirements for allocating funding to expand of opioid and other substance use treatment for youth that is evidence-based, developmentally tailored, and culturally informed

### RECOMMENDATION #2: Connect youth with care

Expand care coordination programs and utilize them to support youth in accessing treatment services for opioid and other substance use disorders



Early intervention for youth substance use is essential for preventing long-term harms, promoting positive health outcomes, and addressing health disparities.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Visit: <https://www.sbm.org/UserFiles/YouthOpioidTreatment.pdf> for the full call to action