

# Is Kentucky doing all it can to end the opioid epidemic?

The drug overdose epidemic continues to devastate communities across the country, claiming nearly **70,000** lives in 2018. Last year, nearly **1,000** people died of an opioid overdose in Kentucky, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Removed health insurance barriers to treatment for opioid use disorder



Increased access to non-opioid pain care options



Expanded Medicaid



Reduced opioid prescriptions by 39.9%



Increased use of state prescription drug monitoring program by 30.3%



Increased access to naloxone

The AMA urges policymakers in Kentucky to remove prior authorization and other barriers to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder, continue to expand access to naloxone, and increase access to affordable non-opioid pain care options.

Learn more about the American Medical Association's recommendations on how to stop [the epidemic in your state](#).