



## OPIOID RESEARCH INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# THE UNITED STATES OPIOID EPIDEMIC

How we are working to address the issue  
from a data and research perspective

### Issue Background

- Opioids are one important tool for treating acute pain
- Opioids work for some people with chronic pain, but not all
- Overdose epidemic in the U.S. currently driven by illicit drugs (fentanyl)
- Prescription pills are a pathway to heroin and fentanyl
- Cocaine and psychostimulants use is increasing

### Potential Solutions

- Evidence-based prescribing guidelines
- Non-opioid pain care
- Disposal of unused opioids
- Screening for substance use disorders
- Treating opioid use disorder (addiction)
- Reducing stigma
- Naloxone training and distribution