Overview of Ongoing and Completed Opioid Related OIG Studies—As of May 2021

I. Prescribing Focused Work
   a. Medicare
      i. Medicare Part D Payments for Transmucosal Immediate-Release Fentanyl Drugs (W-00-20-35846) Ongoing Audit
      ii. Data Brief: Opioid Use in Medicare Part D During the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. February 2021 (OEI-02-20-00400)
      iii. Yearend Review of Opioid Use in Medicare Part D in 2020 (OEI-02-20-00401) Ongoing Evaluation
      v. Toolkit for Calculating Opioid Levels and Identifying Patients At Risk of Misuse or Overdose: R and SQL Programming Code. May 2020 (OEI-02-17-00561)
      ix. Data Brief: Concerns About Opioid Use in Medicare Part D in the Appalachian Region. April 2019 (OEI-02-18-00224)
      xi. Toolkit: Using Data Analysis To Calculate Opioid Levels and Identify Patients At Risk of Misuse or Overdose. June 2018 (OEI-02-17-00560)
      xii. Data Brief: Opioid Use in Medicare Part D: Concerns about Extreme Use and Questionable Prescribing. July 2017 (OEI-02-17-00250)
      xiii. Data Brief: High Part D Spending on Opioids and Substantial Growth in Compounded Drugs Raise Concerns. June 2016 (OEI-02-16-00290)
      xv. Retail Pharmacies With Questionable Part D Billing. May 2012 (OEI-02-09-00600)
   b. Medicaid
      i. Opioids in Medicaid: Concerns About Opioid Use Among Beneficiaries in Six Appalachian States. December 2020 (OEI-05-19-00410)
   c. Other HHS Programs
      i. FDA’s Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies: Uncertain Effectiveness in Addressing the Opioid Crisis. September 2020 (OEI-01-17-00510)
      ii. Review of Opioid Use in Indian Health Service (OEI-05-18-00470) Ongoing Evaluation
      iii. Prescription Opioid Drug Abuse and Misuse Prevention—Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (W-00-18-59428) Completed Audit Series


v. States’ Use of the Child Welfare Information Systems To Monitor Medication Prescribed to Children in Foster Care (W-00-18-59434) Ongoing Audit


II. Treatment Focused Work
   a. Medicare
      i. Opportunities Exist for CMS and Its Medicare Contractors To Strengthen Program Safeguards To Prevent and Detect Improper Payments for Drug Testing Services (A-09-20-03017), Ongoing Audit
      ii. Nationwide Audit of Medicare Part B Drug Testing Services (A-09-21-03006), Ongoing Audit
      iii. Utilization of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Medicare (OEI-02-20-00390), Ongoing Evaluation

   b. Medicaid
      i. CMS Should Pursue Strategies To Increase the Number of At Risk Beneficiaries Acquiring Naloxone Through Medicaid. September 2020 (OEI-BL-18-00360)
      ii. Review of Medicaid Claims for Opioid Treatment Program Services (W-00-17-31523) Partially Completed Audit Series
         1. New York Claimed Tens of Millions of Dollars for Opioid Treatment Program Services That Did Not Comply With Medicaid Requirements Intended To Ensure the Quality of Care Provided to Beneficiaries. February 2020 (A-02-17-01021)
         2. California Claimed at Least $2 Million in Unallowable Medicaid Reimbursement for a Selected Provider’s Opioid Treatment Program Services (A-09-20-02001)
         3. Review of New Hampshire’s Medicaid Opioid Treatment Programs (A-01-20-00006), Ongoing Audit
         4. Audit of Oklahoma Opioid Treatment Program Services (A-06-20-08000), Ongoing Audit
         5. Opioid Treatment Programs in Colorado Did Not Always Provide Services in Accordance with Federal and State Requirements (A-07-20-04118), Ongoing Audit
         6. Review of California's Claims for Opioid Treatment Program Services (Statewide) (A-09-20-02009), Ongoing Audit
         7. Audit of Opioid Treatment Program Services In Washington State (A-09-21-02001), Ongoing Audit
      iii. Provider Shortages and Limited Availability of Behavioral Health Services in New Mexico's Medicaid Managed Care. September 2019 (OEI-02-17-00490)
c. Other HHS Programs

i. Data Snapshot: SAMHSA Lacks Adequate Data to Monitor Access to Medication Assisted Treatment Through the Buprenorphine Waiver Program (OEI-BL-20-00260), Ongoing Evaluation


iv. Opioid Treatment Programs Reported Challenges Encountered During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Actions Taken to Address Them. November 2020 (A-09-20-01001)

v. SAMHSA’s Oversight of Accreditation Bodies for Opioid Treatment Programs (W-00-18-59035) Partially Completed Audit Series
   1. SAMHSA’s Oversight of Accreditation Bodies for Opioid Treatment Programs Did Not Comply With Some Federal Requirements. March 2020 (A-09-18-01007)

vi. HRSA’s Monitoring Did Not Always Ensure Health Centers’ Compliance with Federal Requirements for HRSA’s Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Supplemental Grant Funding. July 2020 (A-02-18-02010)

vii. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Program (W-00-19-50100) Partially Completed Audit Series
   1. New York Provided Projects for Assistance in Transition From Homelessness Grant Services to Ineligible Individuals and Did Not Contribute Any Required Non-Federal Funds. December 2020 (A-02-19-02006)

viii. In Selected States, 67 of 100 Health Centers Did Not Use Their HRSA Access Increases in Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Grant Funding in Accordance With Federal Requirements. November 2020 (A-02-19-02001)

ix. Post-Award State or Tribal Audits of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Opioid Response Grants. (W-00-20-59441) Partially Completed Audit Series

x. SAMHSA Followed Grant Regulations and Program-Specific Requirements When Awarding State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grants. March 2019 (A-03-17-03302)

xi. New York Did Not Provide Adequate Stewardship of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Funds. March 2019 (A-02-17-02009)

III. Work Focused on Both Treatment and Prescribing

a. Review of States’ Oversight of Opioid Prescribing and Monitoring of Opioid Use

   Completed Audit Series

i. Update on Oversight of Opioid Prescribing and Monitoring of Opioid Use: States Have Taken Action to Address the Opioid Epidemic. October 2020 (A-09-20-01000)


b. Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives Administered by a Federally Qualified Health Center Completed Audit Series (W-00-17-59052)

i. The Penobscot Indian Nation Did Not Meet All Federal and Tribal Health and Safety Requirements. November 2018 (A-01-17-01502)

ii. The Passamaquoddy Tribe's Pleasant Point Health Center Did Not Always Meet Federal and Tribal Health and Safety Requirements. July 2018 (A-01-17-01500)


For more detail on OIG’s opioid work, visit:

https://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/featured-topics/opioids/