



Addressing Michigan's Opioid Crisis

The Case for Emergency Department Medication for Opioid Use Disorder

The opioid epidemic is a public health crisis, averaging eight deaths a day and more than 31,000 non-fatal overdose emergency room visits a year Michigan. Hospitals are at the center of this battle. Emergency departments, in particular, are critical intervention points to reach and treat those with opioid use disorder (OUD). In Michigan, through the Emergency Department Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (ED MOUD) Initiative, hospitals are at the center of efforts to address the state's opioid crisis.

MOUD is the Gold Standard in Treating Opioid Use Disorder

According to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) is an evidence-based approach to treat OUD, prevent overdose, and sustain recovery. Medications, such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, improve treatment outcomes and reduce the utilization of emergency departments and hospital care by decreasing:

- ✓ Cravings
- ✓ Infectious disease transmission
- ✓ Overdose
- ✓ Poor birth outcomes
- ✓ Withdrawal symptoms
- ✓ Illicit opioid use

MOUD is Cost-Effective, Beneficial Method for Treating Opioid Use Disorder

OUD patients tend to have more admissions, readmissions, outpatient visits, and longer lengths of stay than the general population. MOUD delivers significant health benefits and is cost-effective. **Improving access to evidence-based treatments for OUD has been associated with savings of \$25,000 to \$105,000 in lifetime costs per person.**

ODD HOSPITAL COSTS NATIONALLY

\$11.3B

Added annual costs to hospitals in caring for opioid overdose patients, which represents

1%

Of total annual hospital expenditures in the United States



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Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN OPIOID PARTNERSHIP

MHA
Keystone Center
A Certified Patient Safety Organization

Michigan Hospitals Making Strides in Treating Opioid Overdoses

Emergency departments are critical access points for treating those with opioid use disorder, making hospitals vital partners in overcoming Michigan's opioid public health crisis.

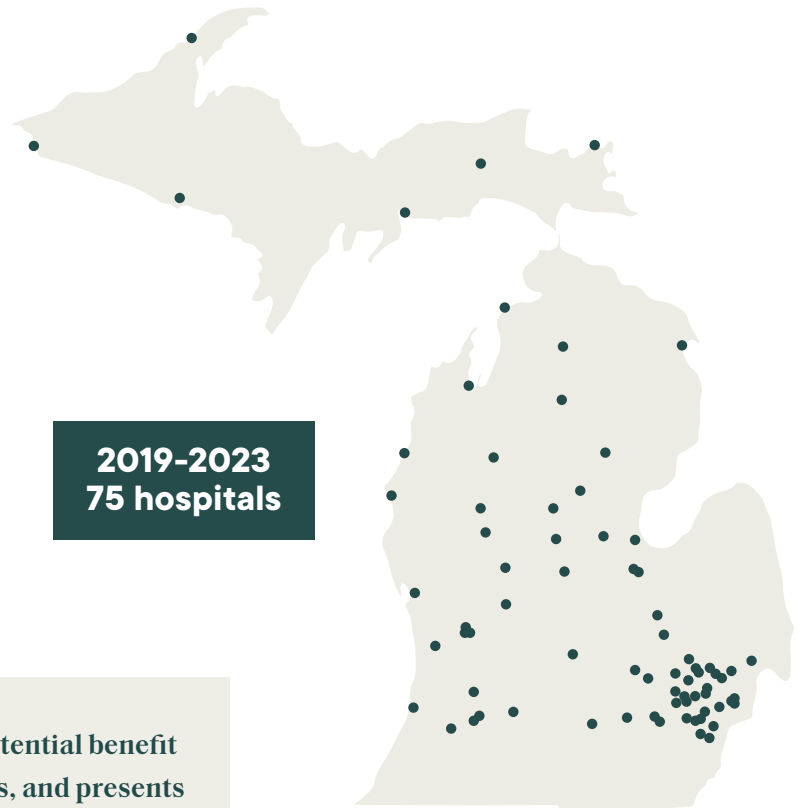
In collaboration with the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center, the Michigan Opioid Partnership at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan leads the Emergency Department Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (ED MOUD) initiative. The goal is to increase access to evidence-based ED MOUD throughout the state and support the transition to long-term, office-based treatment upon discharge.

ED MOUD Growth and Impact in Michigan

Since 2019, participation in the ED MOUD initiative has grown from six to 75 hospitals — representing approximately half of Michigan's emergency departments and all 10 prepaid inpatient health plan regions.

A recent evaluation with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that from October 2020 to September 2021 participating hospitals:

- Increased the use of buprenorphine, a prescription treatment used to curb substance use disorder.
- Connected more than 500 patients to follow-up behavioral health care after leaving the emergency department.
- Established and improved protocols to identify patients with OUD, start MOUD in the emergency room, and provide warm hand-offs to community-based care and outpatient services.



A modest investment in MOUD has “potential benefit to patients, communities, and clinicians, and presents a significant opportunity to reduce costs in the entire health care continuum,” according to a detailed analysis from the [Colorado Hospital Association](#).

