

# Public Health Impacts of Medicaid: The Case of the Opioid Epidemic

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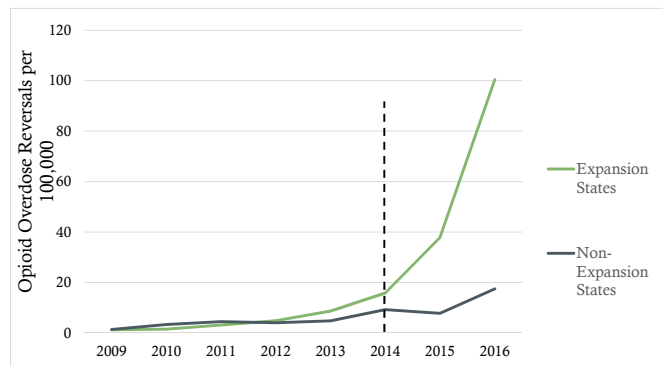
## Take Aways

- Medicaid is a critical tool in addressing many types of public health emergencies: Opioids, Zika, flu
- By expanding access to preventive interventions and treatment, Medicaid is an important part of the fight against opioid addiction and mortality
- Proposals for repeal of Medicaid expansion and shift to a per capita cap (PCC) will be destructive to state efforts to combat the opioid epidemic
- Proposed federal monies specifically for the opioid epidemic will not be enough to replace the treatment and prevention services that Medicaid currently provides

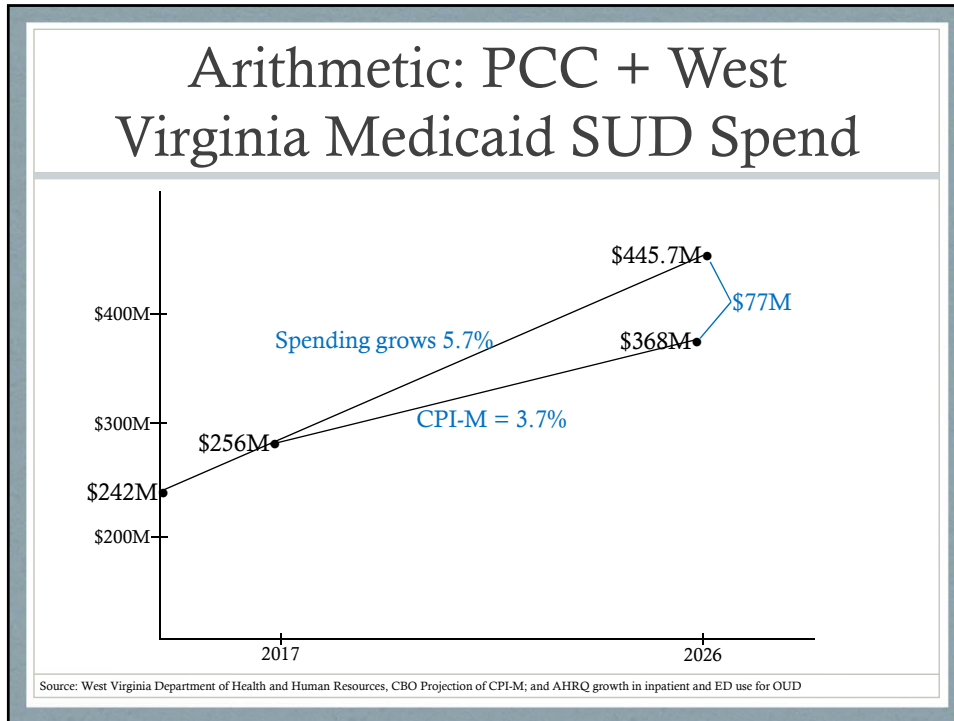
## Important Facts

- In 2015 there were over 52,000 overdose deaths and more than 33,000 involved opioids
- Overdose deaths grew more than 15% from 2014 to 2015 and have averaged 9% per year since 1979 (Buchanich et al, 2017)
  - 65% of opioid related deaths in Maryland were people on Medicaid (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2016)
- More than 50% of people with an Opioid Use Disorder use other drugs and many suffer from other chronic diseases (HCV, HIV)
  - The average annual spending in Medicaid for someone with an Opioid Use Disorder is between \$11,000 and \$12,000

## Medicaid Expansion Increased Naloxone Use: Reversing ODs



Source: Authors' analysis of 2009-2016 Medicaid Rebate Data. Naloxone categorization includes naloxone and Narcan



- ### Expansion Repeal and SUD Spend - WVA
- West Virginia Medicaid treated roughly 50,000 people in the expansion population for an SUD in FY 2016 (West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources)
  - SUD spending on people in the Medicaid expansion population with a diagnosis of SUD accounted for \$112 million in spending (West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources)
  - Accounting for all their health needs is estimated to cost Medicaid \$550 million using national spending estimates