

Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: The National Institutes of Health HEAL Initiative Working to Address the Opioid Epidemic

The Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative, or National Institutes of Health (NIH) HEAL Initiative is an aggressive, trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis. Almost every NIH Institute and Center is accelerating research to address this public health emergency from all angles. The initiative is funding hundreds of projects nationwide. Researchers are taking a variety of approaches to tackle the opioid epidemic through understanding, managing, and treating pain and improving treatment for opioid misuse and addiction. The ultimate aim is to help prevent the increasing opioid overdose deaths by understanding how the addictions are being treated both from the pain and the addiction aspect of this epidemic.

One particular study, the HEALing Communities Study will test the integration of prevention, overdose treatment, and medication-based treatment in select communities hard hit by the opioid crisis. This comprehensive treatment model will be tested in a coordinated array of settings, including primary care, emergency departments, and other community settings. Findings will establish best practices for integrating prevention and treatment strategies that can be replicated by communities nationwide and tailor treatment to meet the needs of local communities for increasing the number of people receiving medication to treat OUD, preventing opioid overdose deaths, and reducing high-risk opioid prescribing, creating a model to curb the nation's opioid crisis.

The HEALing Communities Study includes 67 communities across four states to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based practices in a variety of settings, such as primary care clinics, hospital emergency departments, community health centers, addiction treatment centers, and correctional institutions. An integral feature of the study's design is to test the impact of engaging state and local governments, as well as community groups such as police departments, faith-based organizations, and schools.

Study research sites include the University of Kentucky, Lexington; Boston Medical Center; Columbia University, New York City; and Ohio State University, Columbus. The study will track communities as they work to increase the number of individuals receiving medication-based treatment for OUD, increase treatment retention beyond six months, provide recovery

support services, expand the distribution of naloxone, a medication to reverse opioid overdose, and reduce high-risk opioid prescribing.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation's medical research agency and includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH HEAL initiative please visit <https://heal.nih.gov/>

SAFE, Inc. is the only alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency in the City of Glen Cove. Its Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled, "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at www.safeglencove.org.