

Press Release

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New analysis: FY 2027 budget would cut the overdose programs that helped drive a 15% drop in deaths

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Overdose Prevention Initiative review finds the President's Budget Request does not fund the priorities in the 2026 National Drug Control Strategy

Washington- D.C., June 2026 – The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), Overdose Prevention Initiative has [released](#) a new analysis finding that the FY 2027 President's Budget Request would weaken the federal overdose prevention and treatment system at the very moment overdose deaths are falling for the first time in years.

The analysis compares two essential documents, the FY 27 President's Budget Request with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) 2026 National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). The NDCS, mandated by Congress, commits to expanding access to treatment, affordable naloxone and recovery support. In direct contrast, the FY 2027 President's Budget Request proposes cuts to many of the programs that deliver those services.

The analysis identifies cuts that would weaken several parts of the system at once:

- More than \$222 million in cuts to prevention programs at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- A merger of three behavioral health formula grants into a single pool, forcing addiction and mental health programs to compete for the same funding
- A cut of close to 44% to the federal behavioral health workforce pipeline
- The elimination of recovery housing programs the Strategy calls essential to lasting recovery
- A 95% cut to ONDCP, the office responsible by law for coordinating and certifying the federal drug control budget

The cuts come as the country reaches a turning point. Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate 68,632 drug overdose deaths in 2025, a decline of 15% from the year before, or roughly 12,000 fewer deaths. The analysis notes that this progress followed more than a decade of sustained federal investment in the prevention, treatment and recovery programs the Budget Request would now reduce or eliminate.

"We are finally saving lives at a scale and this budget would defund the programs making that possible," said Libby Jones, Associate Vice President of the Overdose Prevention Initiative at the Global Health Advocacy Incubator. "Congress has stepped in before to protect this funding, and lawmakers have a short window to do it again before the progress we fought for starts to slip away."

The analysis stresses that the Budget Request is the start of the appropriations process, not the end. Congress writes and passes the bills that set actual funding levels. When the Administration proposed similar cuts for FY 2026, Congress preserved funding for most of the affected programs with bipartisan support. GHAI urges advocates, policymakers and partners to review the analysis and contact appropriators while the decisions are still open.

The full analysis is available at [\[LINK\]](#).