

# White House launches initiative to combat heroin use

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The White House is launching a new \$5 million initiative to combat heroin use and trafficking of the drug, particularly in states along the East Coast.

About half of the money will fund a program to link public health and [law enforcement agencies](#), with the goal of prioritizing treatment for drug users over punishments. Monday's announcement comes amid a spike in heroin use and deaths in the United States.

The rise in heroin use has become a frequent topic in the 2016 [presidential campaign](#). Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton recently held a forum in New Hampshire on drug addiction, an issue she said voters have been frequently raising as she's campaigned in the early voting state.

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