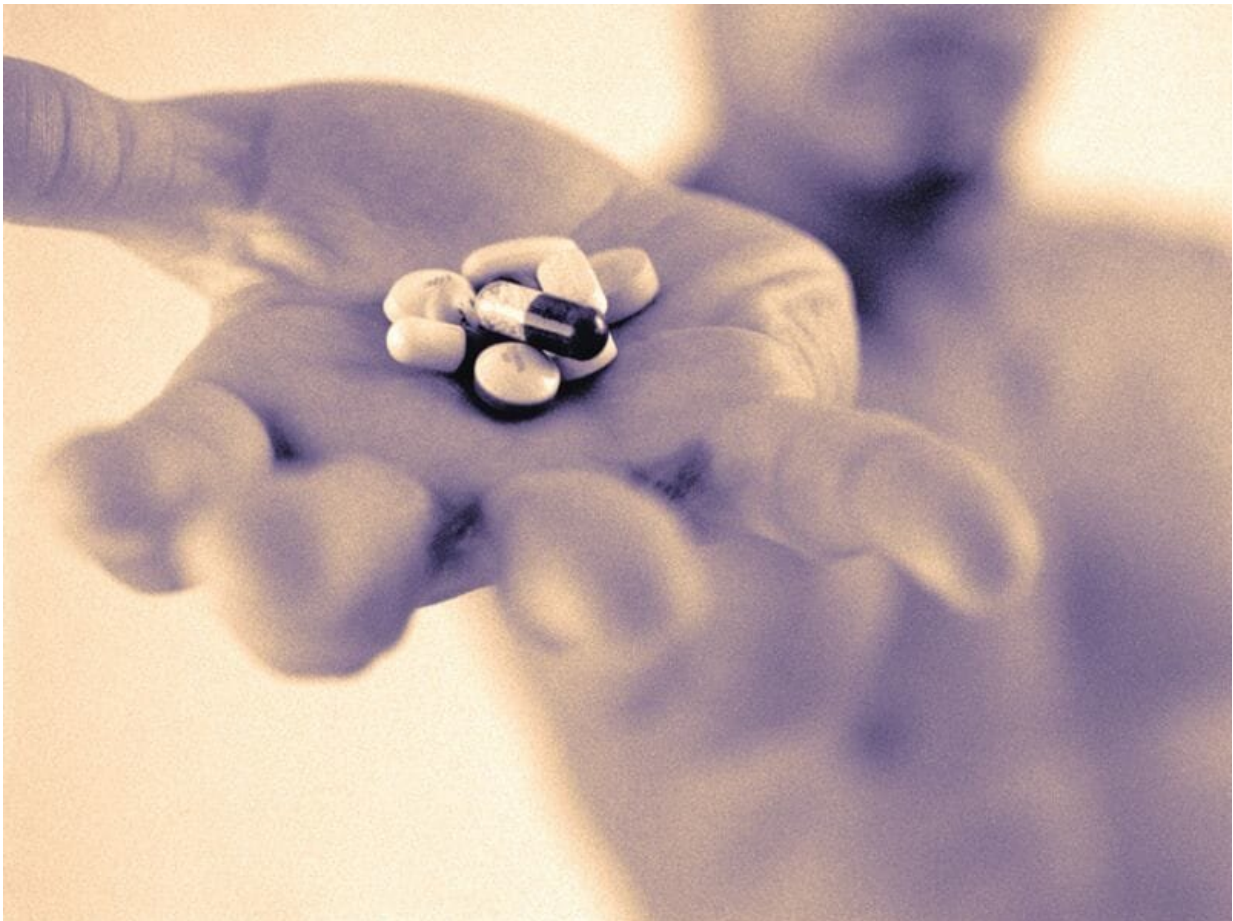


# Opioid addiction treatment used more in states that expanded Medicaid

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(HealthDay)—The use of the opioid addiction medication

buprenorphine is much higher in states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act than in those that did not expand the program, according to a new report from the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research group.

The authors of the report noted that the five states with the highest prescribing rates for buprenorphine—Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky, Montana, and Ohio—all expanded the program, *The New York Times* reported. Nationwide, there was a nearly fivefold increase in the number of Medicaid-covered prescriptions for buprenorphine between 2011 and 2018, from 1.3 million to 6.2 million.

The findings add to evidence that the Affordable Care Act is playing a major role in combating the nation's opioid epidemic, according to *The Times*. "Expanding Medicaid is probably the most important thing states can do to increase treatment rates," said study lead author Lisa Clemans-Cope.

During the past decade, there have been hundreds of thousands of opioid overdose deaths in the United States, including nearly 48,000 last year, but most people with opioid addiction do not receive treatment, according to government data, *The Times* reported.

**More information:** [The New York Times Article](#)  
[Urban Institute Report](#)

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