

**MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY
RESOLUTION 2021-75**

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**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF MADISON, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING
THE JUDGE/EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID
SETTLEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO THE
NATIONAL OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the County is plaintiff in litigation against certain defendants who are contributors of opioids within the County resulting in the availability of the drug and its abuse; and,

WHEREAS, the County has been advised by the attorneys retained to represent the County of possible settlement of claims; and

WHEREAS, the County has been presented with "One Kentucky Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding" with the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky ("MOU"), attached hereof and made a part hereof as "Exhibit A"; and

WHEREAS, upon advice of the attorneys representing the County in the litigation, the County desires to enter into the MOU and authorize its attorneys to proceed with finalization of settlement negotiations with defendants, in accordance with the MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF THE COUNTY OF MADISON, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Fiscal Court, as the governing body of the County, hereby authorizes and approves the execution of the "One Kentucky Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding" with the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky ("MOU"), attached hereof and made a part hereof as "Exhibit A" and further authorizes its attorneys in the litigation to negotiate further settlement agreements with the County in accordance with the MOU.

Section 2. The Fiscal Court hereby authorizes and approves, or confirms authorization and approval of, the MOU, substantially in the form attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference thereto as Exhibit "A" and directs the Judge/Executive to execute and enter into the MOU on behalf of the County. The MOU may be amended, after approval of this Resolution without further action of the Fiscal Court, upon the approval of the Judge/Executive, provided that such amendment does not conflict with this Resolution and the County/Judge/Executive is acting on the advice of its attorneys in the litigation. Further, the County Judge/Executive is authorized and directed to enter into such other settlement agreements presented to the Judge/Executive in settlement of the litigation, or parts thereof, with the defendants, upon advice of its attorneys, without further action of the Fiscal Court, provided such settlement is in accordance with the MOU.

Section 3. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT HEREBY AUTHORIZES JUDGE/EXECUTIVE REAGAN TAYLOR TO ENTER INTO THE ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PURPOSES RELATING TO THE NATIONAL OPIOID LITIGATION.

Approved this 22nd day of June 2021, by the Madison County Fiscal Court.

Motion made by Tom Botkin, seconded by John Tudor.

Vote:	Yes	No
Judge Reagan Taylor	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate Paul Reynolds	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate John Tudor	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate Roger Barger	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Magistrate Tom Botkin	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>

Signed:
R-29
Reagan Taylor
Madison County Judge Executive

Attested:
Kenny Barger
Kenny Barger
Madison County Clerk

ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

General Principles

- The people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Kentucky communities have been harmed by the opioid epidemic, which was caused by entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain.
- The Commonwealth of Kentucky, *ex rel.* Daniel Cameron, Attorney General (the “State”), and certain Participating Local Governments are separately engaged in litigation seeking to hold the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants accountable for the damage they caused.
- The Commonwealth and the Participating Local Governments share a common desire to abate and alleviate the impacts of the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants’ misconduct throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- The Commonwealth and the Participating Local Governments enter into this One Kentucky Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to approach Settlement negotiations with the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants.
- This MOU has been drafted collaboratively to maintain the Parties’ existing or potential legal claims (to the extent legally cognizable) while allowing the Parties to cooperate in exploring all possible means of resolution.
- Nothing in this MOU binds the Parties to a specific outcome. Any resolution under this MOU will require a subsequent acceptance by the Commonwealth and the Participating Local Governments of a final opioid Settlement plan.

A. Definitions

As used in this MOU:

1. "Approved Purpose(s)" shall mean those uses identified in the agreed Opioid Abatement Strategies attached as Exhibit A.
2. "Litigation" means existing or potential legal claims against Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants seeking to hold them accountable for the damage caused by their misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance relating to the unlawful manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution, or dispensing of prescription opioids.
3. "Opioid Funds" shall mean monetary amounts obtained through a Settlement as defined in this MOU.
4. "Participating Local Government(s)" shall mean all counties, cities, and towns within the geographic boundaries of the State that have chosen to sign on to this MOU. The Participating Local Governments may be referred to separately in this MOU as "Participating Counties" and "Participating Cities and Towns" (or "Participating Cities or Towns" as appropriate).
5. "Parties" shall mean the Commonwealth and the Participating Local Governments.
6. "Pharmaceutical Supply Chain" shall mean the process and channels through which licit opioids are manufactured, marketed, promoted, distributed, or dispensed.
7. "Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant" shall mean any entity that engages in or has engaged in the manufacture, marketing, promotion, distribution, or dispensing of licit opioids.
8. "Settlement" shall mean the negotiated resolution of legal or equitable claims against a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participant when that resolution has been jointly entered into by the Commonwealth and the Participating Local Governments.
9. "Trustee" shall mean an independent trustee who shall be responsible for the ministerial task of releasing the Opioid Funds that are in trust

as authorized herein and accounting for all payments into or out of the trust.

B. Distribution

1. All Opioid Funds allocated to the Commonwealth of Kentucky from settlement in the multi-district litigation or in bankruptcy proceedings shall be divided with 50% to the Commonwealth ("State Share") and 50% to the Participating Local Governments ("LG Share").¹
2. All Opioid Funds, regardless of allocation, shall be utilized in a manner consistent with the Approved Purposes definition set forth in Exhibit A. Compliance with this requirement shall be verified through reporting, as set out in Section F.
3. The LG Share will be distributed directly to each Participating Local Government by the national settlement administrator or through a designated Trustee but shall not pass through the State Treasury. The Trustee shall be appointed by the boards of the Kentucky Association of Counties and The League of Cities. The Participating Local Government share shall be distributed as set forth in Section 8(2). The share for each Participating County, including its constituent Participating Cities and Towns shall be determined using the Negotiation Class Formula resulting in a percentage share as set forth in the table in Exhibit B.
4. Participating Counties and their constituent Participating Cities and Towns may distribute the funds allocated amongst themselves in any manner they choose. If the county and its cities and towns cannot agree on how to allocate the funds, Exhibit C reflects the methodology for which a default allocation that will apply. The default allocation formula uses historical federal data showing how the specific county and the cities and towns within it have made opioids-related expenditures in the past. If the county or any cities or towns within a county do not sign on to this MOU and subsequent Settlement, and if

¹ This MOU assumes that any opioid settlement for Native American Tribes and Third-Party Payors, including municipal insurance pools, will be dealt with separately.

the Participating Local Governments cannot agree on how to allocate the funds amongst themselves, they shall reallocate the funds proportionally amongst themselves by applying this same methodology to only the Participating Local Governments in the Region.

5. If the LG Share for a given Participating Local Government is less than \$5,000, then that amount will instead be distributed to the county in which the Participating Local Government is located to allow practical application of the abatement remedy. If the county did not sign on to the Settlement as defined herein, they are not eligible for distribution from the LG Share as set forth in B(3).
6. The Commonwealth Share shall be paid by check or wire transfer directly to the State by the national settlement administrator consistent with K.R.S.48.005(3).
7. The State Share shall be used only for (1) Approved Purposes within the State or (2) grants to organizations for Approved Purposes within the State pursuant to H.B. 427.
8. The LG Share shall be used only for (1) Approved Purposes by Participating Local Governments.

C. Participation of Cities and Towns

1. If a Participating County does not achieve 100% participation of its cities and towns with populations greater than 10,000 within the period of time required in a Settlement document for subdivision participation, the remaining portions of the LG Share that were otherwise available to the Participating County will be reallocated to the LG Share for the Participating Counties which have achieved 100% participation of their cities and towns in accordance with the percentages described in Sections B(2), C(1), and C(3), and set forth in Exhibits B and C.

D. Payment of Counsel and Litigation Expenses

1. The Parties anticipate that any National Settlement will provide for the payment of all or a portion of the fees and litigation expenses of certain state and local governments.
2. If the court in *In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) or if a national Settlement establishes a common benefit fund or similar device to compensate attorneys for services rendered and expenses incurred that have benefited plaintiffs generally in the litigation (the “Common Benefit Fund”), and requires certain governmental plaintiffs to pay a share of their recoveries from defendants into the Common Benefit Fund as a “tax,” then the Participating Local Governments shall first seek to have the settling defendants pay the “tax.” If the settling defendants do not agree to pay the “tax,” then the “tax” shall be paid from the LG Share prior to allocation and distribution of funds to the Participating Local Governments.²
3. Any Participating Local Government that seeks attorneys’ fees and expenses from the Litigation shall seek those fees and expenses first from the national Settlement. In addition, anticipating that any national Settlement will not have a fee fund sufficient to pay the entirety of the amounts owed to counsel by Participating Local Governments under their contingency fee contracts, the Parties agree that the Participating Local Governments will create a supplemental attorney’s fees and costs fund (the “Local Government Fee and Expense Fund”).
4. The Local Government Fee and Expense Fund is to be used to compensate counsel for Participating Local Governments that filed opioid lawsuits by September 1, 2020 (“Litigating Participating Local Governments”). Allocation of payments out of the Local Government Fee and Expense Fund shall be determined by a committee consisting

² This paragraph shall not apply to any Settlement with distributors McKesson, Amerisource Bergen, and Cardinal Health or manufacturer Johnson & Johnson

of one representative from each of the Litigating Participating Local Governments (the "Opioid Fee and Expense Committee"). The

Opioid Fee and Expense Committee shall, on its own or through the appointment of a third-party neutral, build a mathematical model to calculate allocation of payments to counsel from the Local Government Fee and Expense Fund, which shall be based on each Litigating Participating Local Government's share under the Negotiation Class Metrics and the rate set forth in their contingency contracts (the contracts must be provided by counsel for a Litigating Participating Local Government in order for counsel to be eligible to receive payments from the Local Government Fee and Expense Fund).

5. The Local Government Fee and Expense Fund shall be funded as follows: From any national Settlement, the funds to be deposited in the Local Government Fee and Expense Fund shall be 15.96% of the LG Share of each payment (annual or otherwise) to the State of Kentucky for that Settlement. No portion of the State Share shall be used for the Local Government Fee and Expense Fund or in any other way to fund any Participating Local Government's attorney's fees and costs.
6. The maximum percentage of any contingency fee agreement permitted for compensation shall be 25% of the portion of the LG Share attributable to the Litigating Participating Local Government that is a party to the contingency fee agreement, plus expenses attributable to that Litigating Participating Local Government. Under no circumstances may counsel collect more for its work on behalf of a Litigating Participating Local Government than it would under its contingency agreement with that Litigating Participating Local Government.
7. Any funds remaining in the Local Government Fee and Expense Fund in excess of the amounts needed to cover private counsels' representation agreements shall revert to the Participating Local Governments according to the percentages set forth in Exhibits B and

C, to be used for Approved Purposes as set forth herein and in Exhibit A.

E. Compliance Reporting and Accountability

1. The Trustee shall provide an up-to-date accounting of payments into or out of the trust and/or its subaccounts upon written request of the State or a Participating Local Government.
2. The State, Regions, and Participating Local Governments may object to an allocation or expenditure of Opioid Funds solely on the basis that the allocation or expenditure at issue (1) is inconsistent with provision C(1) hereof with respect to the amount of the State Share or LG Share; (2) is inconsistent with an agreed-upon allocation, or the default allocations in Exhibits B and C, as contemplated by Section C(3); or (3) violates the limitations set forth in F(3) with respect to compensation of the Trustee. The objector shall have the right to bring that objection within two years of the date of its discovery to a superior court in Franklin County, Kentucky.
3. Out of the Opioid Funds, reasonable expenses up to 0.005% shall be paid to the Trustee.
4. The Parties shall maintain, for a period of at least five years, records of abatement expenditures and documents underlying those expenditures, so that it can be verified that funds are being or have been utilized in a manner consistent with the Approved Purposes definition.
5. Annually on or before January 31, each Participating Local Government shall provide to the Trustee a report detailing for the preceding calendar year (1) the amount of the LG Share received by the Participating Local Government. (2) the allocation of any awards approved (listing the recipient, the amount awarded, the program to be funded, and disbursement terms), and (3) the amounts disbursed on approved allocations. In order to facilitate this reporting, each Participating Local Government shall provide the information to the Trustee in a form prescribed by the Trustee.

6. At least annually, the State shall publish on its website a report detailing for the preceding time period (1) the amount of the State Share received, (2) the allocation of any awards approved (listing the recipient, the amount awarded, the program to be funded, and disbursement terms), and (3) the amounts disbursed on approved allocations. In addition, the State shall publish on its website the reports described in F(5) above.
7. If it appears to the Attorney General, a Participating Local Government has used Settlement funds for non-Approved Purposes, the Attorney General may on written request seek and obtain the documentation underlying the report(s) described in F(5), as applicable, including documentation described in F(4). The Participating Local Government receiving such request shall have 20 days to provide the requested information.
8. Following a request made pursuant to F(6) and when it appears that LG Share funds are being or have been spent on non-Approved Purposes, the Attorney General may seek and obtain in an action in a court of competent jurisdiction in Franklin County, Kentucky an injunction prohibiting the Participating Local Government from spending LG Share funds on non-Approved Purposes and requiring the return of the monies that it spent on non-Approved Purposes after notice as is required by the rules of civil procedure. So long as the action is pending, distribution of LG Share funds to the offending Participating Local Government temporarily will be suspended. Once the action is resolved, the suspended payments will resume, less any amounts that were ordered returned but have not been returned by the time the action is resolved.

F. Amendments

1. The parties agree to make such amendments as necessary to implement the intent of this agreement.

Participating Local Government: Madison County Fiscal Court

Authorized Representative Name: Reagan Taylor

Date: 7-5-2021 Signature: R--TD-

ACCEPTED by the undersigned and executed this ____ day of _____,
2021.

KENTUCKY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Daniel Cameron

ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
EXHIBIT A

The Local Governments shall utilize moneys from the opioid settlement funds for reimbursement, or to provide funding, for any of the approved uses set forth below:

1. Any portion of the cost related to outpatient and residential treatment services, including:
 - a. Services provided to incarcerated individuals;
 - b. Medication assisted treatment;
 - c. Abstinence-based treatment; and
 - d. Treatment, recovery, or other services provided by community health centers or not-for-profit providers;
2. Emergency response services provided by law enforcement or first responders;
3. Any portion of the cost of administering Naloxone;
4. Any programs that:
 - a. Supports intervention, treatment, and recovery services provided to persons:
 - i. With *opioid use disorder* (OUD) or co-occurring *substance use disorder or mental health* (SUD/MH) issues; or
 - ii. Who have experienced an opioid overdose;
 - b. Supports detoxification services, including:
 - i. Medical detoxification;
 - ii. Referral to treatment; or
 - iii. Connections to other services;
 - c. Provides access to opioid-abatement-related housing, including:
 - i. Supportive housing; or
 - ii. Recovery housing;
5. Provides or supports transportation to treatment or recovery programs or services;
6. Provides employment training or educational services for persons in treatment or recovery;
7. Creates or supports centralized call centers that provide information and connections to appropriate services;
8. Supports crisis stabilization centers that serve as an alternative to hospital emergency departments for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues or persons that have experienced an opioid overdose;
9. Improves oversight of opioid treatment programs to ensure evidence-based and evidence-informed practices;

ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
EXHIBIT A

10. Provides scholarships and support for certified addiction counselors and other mental and behavioral health providers, including:
 - a. Training scholarships;
 - b. Fellowships;
 - c. Loan repayment programs; or
 - d. Incentives for providers to work in rural or underserved areas of the Commonwealth;
 11. Provides training on medication-assisted treatment for health care providers, students, or other supporting professionals;
 12. Supports efforts to prevent over-prescribing and ensures appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids;
 13. Supports enhancements or improvements consistent with state law for prescription drug monitoring programs;
 14. Supports the education of law enforcement or other first responders regarding appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with opioids or individuals with OUD or co-occurring SUD/MH issues;
 15. Supports opioid-related emergency response services provided by law enforcement or first responders;
 16. Treats mental health trauma issues resulting from the traumatic experiences of opioid users or their family members;
 17. Engages nonprofits, the faith community, and community coalitions to support prevention and treatment, and to support family members in their efforts to care for opioid users in their family;
 18. Provides recovery services, support, and prevention services for women who are pregnant, may become pregnant, or who are parenting with OUD or co-occurring SUD/MH issues;
 19. Trains healthcare providers that work with pregnant or parenting women on best practices for compliances with federal requirements that children born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome get referred to appropriate services and receive a plan of care;
 20. Addresses Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, including prevention, education, and treatment of OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues;
 21. Offers home-based wrap-around services to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including parent-skills training;
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ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
EXHIBIT A

22. Supports positions and services, including supportive housing and other residential services relating to children being removed from the home or placed in foster care due to custodial opioid use;
 23. Provides public education about opioids or opioid disposal;
 24. Provides drug take-back disposal or destruction programs;
 25. Covers the cost of administering naloxone ;
 26. Supports pre-trial services that connect individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues to evidence-informed treatment and related services;
 27. Supports treatment and recovery courts for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, but only if they provide referrals to evidence-informed treatment;
 28. Provides evidence-informed treatment, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues who are incarcerated, leaving jail or prison, have recently left jail or prison, are on probation or parole, are under community corrections supervision, or are in re-entry programs or facilities.
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**ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Exhibit B**

County Name	Percentage of Local Government Allocation for Each Participating County and its Constituent Participating Cities and Towns
Adair County	0.301%
Allen County	0.365%
Anderson County	0.443%
Ballard County	0.128%
Barren County	0.792%
Bath County	0.272%
Bell County	1.678%
Boone County	2.981%
Bourbon County	0.391%
Boyd County	2.003%
Boyle County	0.659%
Bracken County	0.128%
Breathitt County	0.539%
Breckinridge County	0.324%
Bullitt County	1.235%
Butler County	0.269%
Caldwell County	0.249%
Calloway County	0.604%
Campbell County	2.897%
Carlisle County	0.060%
Carroll County	0.343%
Carter County	0.742%
Casey County	0.267%
Christian County	1.005%
Clark County	1.076%
Clay County	0.963%
Clinton County	0.518%
Crittenden County	0.201%
Cumberland County	0.186%
Daviess County	1.638%
Edmonson County	0.188%
Elliott County	0.146%

**ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Exhibit B

Estill County	0.482%
Fayette County	6.260%
Fleming County	0.280%
Floyd County	2.632%
Franklin County	0.869%
Fulton County	0.104%
Gallatin County	0.235%
Garrard County	0.313%
Grant County	0.898%
Graves County	0.538%
Grayson County	0.551%
Green County	0.136%
Greenup County	0.914%
Hancock County	0.100%
Hardin County	1.668%
Harlan County	0.924%
Harrison County	0.451%
Hart County	0.233%
Henderson County	0.944%
Henry County	0.226%
Hickman County	0.053%
Hopkins County	0.942%
Jackson County	0.193%
Jefferson County	14.984%
Jessamine County	1.013%
Johnson County	1.004%
Kenton County	5.215%
Knott County	0.491%
Knox County	0.879%
Larue County	0.192%
Laurel County	1.118%
Lawrence County	0.534%
Lee County	0.368%
Leslie County	0.553%
Letcher County	0.702%
Lewis County	0.249%
Lincoln County	0.485%
Livingston County	0.206%
Logan County	0.404%
Lyon County	0.137%

**ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Exhibit B

Madison County	1.782%
Magoffin County	0.308%
Marion County	0.314%
Marshall County	0.611%
Martin County	0.469%
Mason County	0.354%
Mccracken County	1.442%
Mccreary County	0.301%
McLean County	0.143%
Meade County	0.376%
Menifee County	0.115%
Mercer County	0.428%
Metcalfe County	0.117%
Monroe County	0.289%
Montgomery County	0.710%
Morgan County	0.220%
Muhlenberg County	0.618%
Nelson County	0.717%
Nicholas County	0.132%
Ohio County	0.447%
Oldham County	0.806%
Owen County	0.220%
Owsley County	0.129%
Pendleton County	0.309%
Perry County	1.770%
Pike County	2.853%
Powell County	0.579%
Pulaski County	1.183%
Robertson County	0.035%
Rockcastle County	0.558%
Rowan County	0.542%
Russell County	0.560%
Scott County	0.846%
Shelby County	0.626%
Simpson County	0.311%
Spencer County	0.245%
Taylor County	0.468%
Todd County	0.179%
Trigg County	0.205%
Trimble County	0.117%

**ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Exhibit B

Union County	0.361%
Warren County	1.660%
Washington County	0.155%
Wayne County	0.348%
Webster County	0.237%
Whitley County	2.034%
Wolfe County	0.260%
Woodford County	0.438%

**ONE KENTUCKY OPIOID SETTLEMENT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Exhibit C**

- A. The Negotiation Class Metrics are publicly available at: <https://allocationmap.iclaimsonline.com/>
- B. For more information on the calculation of the Negotiation Class Metrics, see: *CLASS COUNSEL MEMORANDUM: HOW THE ALLOCATION MODEL WORKS*, which is publicly available at: <https://www.opioidsnegotiationclass.info/Content/Documents/Negotiation%20Class%20Allocation%20Model%20Explanatory%20Memo.pdf>
- C. To summarize, the allocation model equally weights three factors to determine the share of a settlement that each county will receive.
 - 1. The number of persons suffering from opioid use disorder (“OUD”) in the county.
 - 2. The number of overdose deaths (“OD Deaths”) that occurred in the county.
 - 3. The amount of opioids distributed within the county by Morphine Milligram Equivalent (“MME”)
- D. The data used for each of these factors were collected by different agencies of the federal government of United States.
- E. The data was collected for purposes independent of the National Prescription Opiates Litigation.
- F. Statistics on OUD are collected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) and reported in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). NSDUH data are accessible publicly at <https://bit.ly/2HqF554>.
- G. The Multiple Causes of Death (MCOd) data are county-level, national mortality data reported by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and DHHS. The CDC makes summarized MCOd data, including counts of deaths caused by opioid drug poisonings, accessible online through a reporting system known as WONDER (Wide-ranging ONline Data for Epidemiologic Research). Because it is well established that deaths caused by opioid overdose are underreported, and that underreporting varies geographically in predictable ways, the model applies a standard, accepted method (the “Ruhm adjustment”) to un-summarized MCOd data to estimate opioid overdose deaths in each county.
- H. The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) collects statistics on the amount of opioids shipped to a given location, and reports them in a database known as “ARCOS” (Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System). The model uses ARCOS data to measure opioid amounts by counting “morphine milligram equivalents,” or MMEs.
- I. For City/Towns, the formula draws on US Census Bureau data on local government spending by function. The Census of Governments Survey of State and Local Government Finances polls all state, county, township, city, and special district governments every five years, with 2012 being the data used in the formula. This data covers cities and counties for 98% of the U.S. population. Data for some additional jurisdictions was backfilled from a survey of a sample of jurisdictions performed in 2016. Finally, state-specific regression analyses were employed to create estimates for the very small number of remaining jurisdictions. The functions or expenditure categories examined for each jurisdiction were: elementary and secondary education net of capital outlay, public welfare (including child protective services), hospitals net of capital outlay, health, police protection, fire protection, corrections net of capital outlay, housing and community development, and judicial and legal.