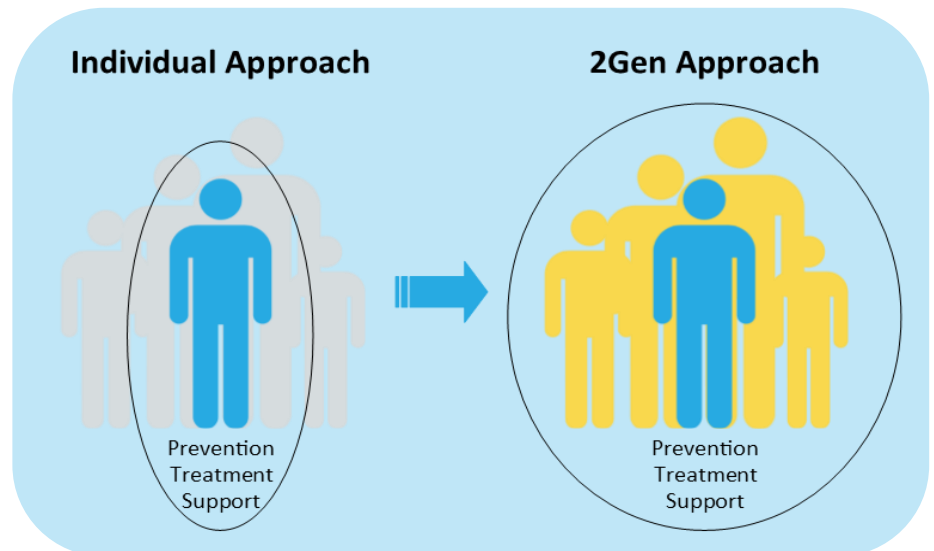


A Two-Generation Approach to the Opioid Epidemic: State Policy Perspectives

By Sharon Glick, Julia Greenberg and Elizabeth Day, Cornell University

Much of the work tackling the opioid epidemic has focused on individuals with substance use disorders. While important, these policies and programs don't take into account entire family units affected by the opioid crisis. Two-generation initiatives take a whole-family approach, supporting individuals with opioid use disorders along with their family members.

This brief highlights a variety of ways states are tackling the opioid epidemic using a whole-family approach.



Working Groups and Collaboratives

Governors and legislatures across the U.S. have formed opioid and heroin working groups to assess and address the opioid crisis in their states. For example, in **New York**, state legislators formed a [Heroin and Opioid Task Force](#) in 2014, as did [Governor Cuomo](#) in 2016, to bring together experts from across the state to give feedback and insights on ways to address the opioid epidemic.

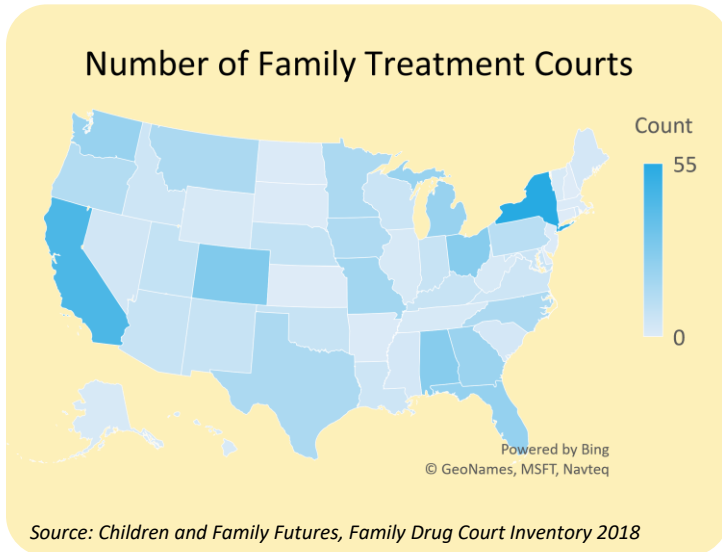
In **Massachusetts**, the governor has an [Opioid Addiction Working Group](#), a panel of experts chaired by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The working group focuses on some 2Gen initiatives, including a training program for Department of Children and Families' staff on neonatal abstinence syndrome and opioid use prevention education for both parents and students. Similar types of government-led working groups now exist in most states.

The Children and Recovering Mothers (CHARM) collaborative in Burlington, **Vermont** is a group of eleven organizations, including the Vermont Department of Corrections and Department for Children and Families that provide women with opioid use disorders comprehensive care from child welfare, medical and substance abuse treatment professionals across Vermont.

Family Drug Treatment Courts

[Family drug treatment courts](#) (FTCs) are special programs implemented in some jurisdictions to help parents and their children reunite after a parent has had a neglect case filed against them with alcohol or other substance abuse allegations. The mission of FTC is to "...provide for the health, safety, and permanency of children of substance abusing parents in neglect proceedings". The court uses a strengths-based approach to reach the goals of their mission, including providing intensive judicial oversight and

comprehensive services for families. There are currently 493 FTCs across the U.S.



Other Initiatives

A wide range of other initiatives are being implemented across the U.S. to support families in the midst of the opioid epidemic. For example, in **West Virginia**, [The Martinsburg Initiative](#) partners police and schools, taking a school-centered, family-based approach to supporting at-risk children and families. School personnel identify at-risk families who then volunteer to participate. Participating families receive a wide range of resources based on their needs, as identified through an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) assessment. Services include academic support for children, drug-free

zones surrounding schools, at-home early childhood programming, family treatment programs and vocational and job skills training.

Connecticut's [Family Stability Pay for Success Project](#)--a collaboration of the governor, Department of Children and Families, Family-Based Recovery and Social Finance-- mobilizes \$11.2 million to support new "treatment teams" delivering family-based recovery assistance. These teams promote positive parent-child interactions, increase parental awareness and understanding of child development and help parents on their path to substance use recovery. The project launched in 2016 and is funded for 4.5 years.

In **Ohio**, the [Maternal Opiate Medical Support \(MOMS\) Project](#) aims to improve maternal and fetal health outcomes and improve family stability. The project also aims to reduce costs of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) to Ohio's Medicaid program by providing treatment to pregnant mothers with opiate issues during and after pregnancy through a Maternity Care Home (MCH) model of care. The MCH model is a team-based healthcare delivery model that emphasizes care coordination and wrap-around services engaging expecting mothers in a combination of counseling, medication assisted treatment and case management.

Spotlight: Tompkins County Family Treatment Court

Founded in 2001, the Tompkins County, New York FTC takes a whole-family approach to providing support for individuals struggling with opioid abuse. The FTC team provides rapid assessment and referral services for both children and parents and provides ongoing monitoring of the family. Services include a weekly sober support group chaired by a mental health specialist, parenting education programs that include parents and children and continued judicial oversight. Parents with children aged 6-11 participate in the Strengthening Families Program, an evidence-based, 14-week program that involves programming for parents and children separately, along with whole-family support. Strengthening Families offers the unique opportunity for FTC-involved families to come together and establish healthier, more positive relationships that are beneficial for parents and children long-term.