



Senator Heinrich's Actions to Tackle Fentanyl Crisis in New Mexico

Senator Heinrich is leading comprehensive efforts to tackle the opioid epidemic and protect New Mexico communities from fentanyl.

In March 2024, Heinrich [successfully secured substantial federal funding to combat the fentanyl crisis in New Mexico](#). As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Heinrich led this effort.

This funding will develop a comprehensive fentanyl tracking system. This system will track and document where fentanyl is seized, the chemical composition of seized substances, the probable or known manufacturing location, and the probable or known point of entry into the United States. This will be critical to better understanding the movement of illicit drugs into and within the United States and more effectively combatting the fentanyl drug epidemic.

In the same package, Heinrich also secured the following projects to tackle fentanyl in New Mexico:

- \$364,000 for the Albuquerque Police Department to purchase equipment to safely identify fentanyl and other illicit substances to increase apprehensions and improve prosecutions.
- \$360,000 for the Las Cumbres Community Services Survivors of Torture program to increase access to supportive services, temporary housing, and community integration initiatives.
- \$300,000 for the City of Santa Fe's Mobile Integrated Health Office to provide a team of trauma-informed responders and providers to administer care and navigation services to those experiencing a crisis or behavioral health emergency.
- \$295,000 for Hidalgo, Catron, and Grant Counties to purchase equipment for use by local law enforcement to safely detect fentanyl and other illicit drugs and improve officer and community safety.
- \$194,000 for the Las Cruces Police Department to Purchase equipment to safely analyze fentanyl and other illicit narcotics and create a community engagement effort to educate youth on the dangers of illicit drugs.
- \$172,000 for the Silver City Police Department to purchase equipment to safely identify fentanyl and other illicit substances and fund associated training for officers.

In addition, Heinrich has historically urged government agencies to make opioid treatments more available to New Mexicans.

In February 2024, Heinrich [led a bipartisan letter to the Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) urging the agency to include Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), specifically buprenorphine and methadone, in its List of Essential Medicines. This action would significantly help health care providers address the ongoing opioid epidemic by making these drugs more readily available in medical facilities.

In May 2024, [Heinrich led a bipartisan group of senators in calling on the DEA](#) to take further action to remove barriers to accessing buprenorphine, a lifesaving drug used to treat opioid use disorder.

In March 2022, Heinrich helped to pass the FY2022 Omnibus Appropriations Agreement, which included historic funding to combat the opioid addiction epidemic, including:

- \$4.2 billion, a 9 percent increase, across the Department of Health and Human Services to address opioid abuse.
- \$1.525 billion for the State Opioid Response Grant.
- \$50 million increase for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.
- \$101 million, a nearly 11 percent increase, for medication assisted treatment.
- \$490 million for opioid overdose surveillance and prevention at CDC.
- \$80 million to address the needs of children affected by the opioid crisis.
- \$135 million targeted to help affected rural communities.

In August 2021, Heinrich collaborated with U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) to [announce that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) had awarded \\$4,714,005 to the New Mexico Department of Health](#) to combat the opioid overdose epidemic.

In September 2020, Heinrich joined then-U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and then-U.S. Representatives Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) and Xochitl Torres Small (D-N.M.) announcing that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), [awarded over \\$9.4 million in grants to combat the opioid epidemic and substance abuse across New Mexico](#).

In 2019, Heinrich hosted an opioid grants workshop in Española aimed at combating substance use disorders.

In 2018, Heinrich released a [Resource Guide on Federal Funding Opportunities to Address the Opioid Crisis](#) offering helpful information and guidance to local governments, Tribes, and service providers.

Heinrich's legislative record also shows how committed he has been to finding solutions to the fentanyl crisis our communities face.

Heinrich is a cosponsor of the [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](#), bipartisan legislation that targets the fentanyl crisis by wielding our country's economic tools against transnational criminal organizations. He led the push in the Senate to make sure this legislation was included in the [National Security Supplemental](#), which ultimately failed in the Senate after Republicans voted against it.

Heinrich is also a cosponsor of [the Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act](#), legislation that would enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to hire more Officers and Border Patrol Agents to increase capacity to stop illicit smuggling over the border.

Heinrich joined over 100 Democratic Senate and House members to [reintroduce the bicameral Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency \(CARE\) Act](#), to fight the substance use disorder crisis. The CARE Act would provide state and local governments with \$125 billion in federal funding over ten years, including nearly \$1 billion per year directly to Tribal governments and organizations.