



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 illicit fentanyl.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Heinrich has leveraged his position to secure millions of dollars for New Mexico's law enforcement agencies to identify, seize, and prevent the flow of deadly fentanyl into our communities.

Funding secured:

Most recently, Heinrich, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, [announced Committee support](#) for \$1.4 billion for the State Department's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau to combat the fentanyl crisis.

In June, Heinrich, along with the N.M. Congressional Delegation, announced [\\$9.5 million to combat the fentanyl crisis](#) across the state. This funding came from the White House's [High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\) Program](#), which provides New Mexico's law enforcement agencies with tools to keep communities safe from illicit fentanyl and reduce violent crime associated with drug trafficking.

In March, [Heinrich welcomed \\$400 million he fought to pass for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol \(CBP\)](#) to detect and seize fentanyl at our ports of entry. Heinrich also announced he had [successfully secured substantial federal funding to combat the fentanyl crisis in New Mexico](#), including:

- \$364,000 for the Albuquerque Police Department to purchase equipment to safely identify fentanyl and other illicit substances to increase apprehensions and improve prosecutions.
- \$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.

Legislative solutions:

Heinrich has authored, cosponsored, and successfully passed into law a number of bills to crack down on fentanyl trafficking, provide law enforcement with tools to keep communities safe, and prevent the flow of illicit fentanyl before it ever crosses our borders.

Most notably, Heinrich helped pass into law the [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](#), one of the most significant actions Congress has taken to effectively address the fentanyl epidemic that's killing New Mexicans and tearing families apart. The law works to target the fentanyl crisis by wielding our country's economic tools against transnational criminal organizations.

In July, [Heinrich announced he had secured language to require the Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\) to implement a comprehensive fentanyl tracking system](#). That tracking system must include documentation of seizure location, chemical composition, probable or known manufacturing location, and probable or known point of entry into the United States. Currently, fentanyl interdiction is compiled at land ports of entry by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), but the DEA does not have readily accessible tracking data on the movement of illicit drugs within the U.S. or their point of origin. Requiring the compilation and organization of that data will complement DHS's work and improve our country's work to effectively combat the fentanyl crisis.

In June, Heinrich cosponsored [two bills that would strengthen border security](#) at ports of entry, stopping the flow of illicit fentanyl and deadly drugs into our communities, boosting trade, and investing in New Mexico border communities.

- The [Securing America's Ports of Entry Act](#) would fully staff America's airports, seaports, and land ports of entry by requiring CBP hire at least 600 additional officers a year within the Office of Field Operations (OFO) until the agency's staffing needs are met.
- The [Non-Intrusive Inspection Improvement Act](#) would improve screening of vehicles and cargo entering the United States by increasing the use of non-intrusive inspection systems, which have enabled frontline OFO officers to more quickly and effectively screen vehicles and large amounts of cargo to ensure secure travel and trade at ports of entry.

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

Heinrich has continuously worked to make opioid use disorder treatments more readily available.

In June, Heinrich welcomed the [U.S. Department Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) selection of New Mexico into the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic \(CCBHC\) Medicaid Demonstration Program](#). The program provides states with funding to expand access to mental health care and substance use services.

In May, [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 February, 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 August 2023, Heinrich announced [24 local projects in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill](#) that would improve access to quality health care and help medical providers treat mental health and substance use disorders in New Mexico.

In August 2023, Heinrich [led a letter to the FDA urging the agency to conduct Tribal consultations](#) and discussions with rural communities to incorporate their feedback prior to finalizing its policy on at-home disposal of prescription opioids.

In August 2023, Heinrich announced [federal funding for the Santa Fe Recovery Center, Inc. from HHS](#) to combat the opioid epidemic and substance abuse in communities across New Mexico. The funding went towards recovery addiction treatment, recovery services, and overdose prevention. It will also expand the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Access program.

In addition to these actions, Heinrich recently [secured Committee support for substantial federal funding to improve and expand opioid use disorder treatments](#) and facilities:

- 375,000 for the San Juan County Partnership to implement a Strategic Prevention Framework to focus on substance use prevention among youth ages 9-20
- \$200,000 for Capacity Builders to provide programming in San Juan and McKinley Counties to encourage substance use prevention among Native youth.
- \$100,000 for the Unified Prevention Coalition to provide substance use prevention services in Doña Ana County.
- \$300,000 for National Alliance Mental Illness Albuquerque for mental health and substance use treatment services.
- \$1,484,000 for the New Mexico Poison Control Center, in partnership with the University of New Mexico, to expand its overdose and substance use disorder services and increase outreach to rural communities.