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Voices Applauds Progress on Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 28, 2026) — Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (“Voices”) applauds the new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) analysis highlighting a decade of progress on opioid safety. Provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show opioid-involved overdose deaths falling from 55,296 in 2024 to 44,564 in 2025.¹ Prescription opioid exposure has also declined substantially, with prescriptions dispensed at about 45 percent of their 2015 level and total dosage at about 35 percent.¹

"We are especially pleased to see that policies aimed at reducing unnecessary exposure to prescription opioids, such as those included in the *NOPAIN Act*, align with this encouraging progress" said Chris Fox, Executive Director of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices. "CDC's guidelines also called for greater use of non-opioid treatments, and the *NOPAIN Act* builds on that foundation by making these options more accessible. As implementation of the *SUPPORT Act reauthorization* and the Great American Recovery Initiative moves forward, we encourage HHS to sustain this momentum by prioritizing expanded access to non-opioid treatments, including through the enactment of the *Alternatives to PAIN Act* (S. 475/H.R. 1227) and *NOPAIN for Veterans Act* (S. 3209/H.R. 4509)."

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About Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices is a nonpartisan coalition committed to preventing opioid addiction by promoting access to non-opioid therapies for managing acute pain. The coalition works tirelessly to ensure that all Americans can benefit from effective, non-addictive pain management options, regardless of their healthcare coverage or setting. For more information, visit www.nonopioidchoices.org.

¹ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2026, October 27). *The U.S. age-adjusted death rate reached a record low in 2025: What drove the decline?* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/death-rate-record-low>