In 2018, the CDC listed Academic Detailing as an evidence-based strategy for preventing opioid overdose (1).

A 2013 overdose prevention intervention carried out on Staten Island used targeted educational sessions with medical providers to reduce rates of inappropriate opioid prescribing and overdose death. The intervention resulted in a 29% decrease in prescription opioid overdoses on Staten Island, even as overdose rates remained unchanged in New York City’s other boroughs (2).

A study in San Francisco found an eleven-fold increase in the rate of naloxone prescription among physicians who received a half-hour-long academic detailing session (3).

The Opioid Academic Detailing Project offers evidence-based information to support therapeutic decisions specific to pain management and substance use disorder. Academic detailers are trained public health professionals who offer brief visits with practitioners to discuss their needs in prescribing controlled dangerous substances, supporting patients with pain management needs, and referring or offering substance use disorder treatment. Academic detailers connect practitioners with evidence-based, clinically relevant and actionable resources offered by their local, state, and federal health agencies.

