

## Kansas SOR Initiatives

### Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse & Use Disorders: The Impact of State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the SOR grant program. SOR addresses the opioid overdose crisis by providing resources to states and territories to increase access to Federal Drug Administration-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and to reduce unmet treatment needs and opioid-related overdose deaths with prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery supports. In 2020, SOR expanded to support evidence-based services for stimulant misuse and use disorders (StUD), including cocaine and methamphetamine.

This brief was developed by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in collaboration with the Opioid Response Network (ORN) as part of a series of state reports intended to showcase initiatives across the continuum of care that states have implemented with SOR funds. The ORN is a SAMHSA-funded technical assistance and training center that works with states, health professionals, community organizations, the justice system, and individuals in all 50 states and nine territories to support efforts to address the opioid and stimulant crisis.



### Single State Agency (SSA): Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services (KDADS) Behavioral Health Services Commission

From FY18 through FY23, KDADS Behavioral Health Services Commission received about \$35,000,000 in SOR funding. For FY23–FY24, it received \$8,662,933.

KDADS seeks to help people living in Kansas overcome their opioid use disorder (OUD) or StUD through disease treatment. Specifically, the state's first overarching goal aims to:

- Offer 2,500+ clients treatment opportunities for OUD or StUD and any co-occurring medical and/or mental health conditions, including tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations
- Provide 2,500+ clients OUD or StUD treatment services regardless of their ability to pay, including uninsured and under-insured clients
- Track treatment progress for 2,000 clients through the SPARS/GPRA system at intake, six months, and discharge, aiming for the recommended 80% threshold
- Prioritize evidence-based MOUD and other proven clinical therapies to provide a full spectrum of care for 500 clients with OUD





- Participate in SAMHSA-funded SOR and Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) technical assistance activities for help with provider training and/or client services during the grant term

The state's second overarching goal is to transition people at risk of or with a history of OUD or StUD into recovery from their disease. To meet this goal, the state plans to:

- Provide 250 clients with opportunities to develop and sustain treatment recovery
- Support 250 at-risk clients with a history of OUD or StUD as they re-enter communities from criminal justice settings or inpatient rehabilitation programs
- Provide 250 clients with support through sober living houses, peer coaching, vocational training, employment assistance, transportation, dental kits, and other recovery needs

Kansas's third goal is to educate Kansans about the opioid and stimulant crisis, share the consequences of using these substances, and train the workforce in current issues related to the crisis. To achieve this goal, the state plans to:

- Promote statewide media messaging to achieve 1 million impressions on awareness and education about the opioid and stimulant crisis by using five recognized coach spokespersons from the two major state universities in Kansas: Kansas State University and the University of Kansas
- Present 100 safety messages to 1,000 senior adults about storing prescription medications and disposing of outdated/unused medications to discourage access by others, including children who might seek to steal, sell, and otherwise misuse them
- Create a school-based prevention program to deliver to at least 10 elementary, 20 middle, and 30 high schools in Kansas on the misuse of opioid or stimulant drugs and related consequences
- Provide two opportunities for training the workforce on current and trending issues surrounding public concern for the misuse of opioids and stimulants, as well as proven prevention efforts to save lives

Lastly, Kansas seeks to save people from overdose deaths by supporting evidence-based harm reduction efforts. Activities include:

- Provide trainings to peers, first responders, and other key community sectors on the recognition of opioid overdose and how to correctly use naloxone
- Purchase and distribute 13,000 naloxone kits based on the Kansas distribution and saturation plan
- Implement harm reduction services in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and other requirements related to such programs or services in 50% of Kansas counties

## Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

KDADS has implemented prevention programs, including education, training, and media campaigns, described further below.

### State Opioid and Stimulant Conference

KDADS partnered with a service provider, DCCCA, to host the [2023 Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Convention](#) in Wichita, Kansas. The event was held on November 28, 2023, with over 600 participants. The conference hosted speakers from around the country and state and covered topics like prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and services for underserved populations.



### Learfield Communications

KDADS provided \$612,000 for Learfield Communications to create and broadcast awareness and educational messaging during televised University of Kansas and Kansas State University intercollegiate sporting events and on related websites. These efforts have entailed statewide media messages on both OUD and StUD, primarily from recognized coaching spokespersons at the University of Kansas (UK) and Kansas State University (KSU), the state’s two largest universities. These include KSU Hall of Fame Coach Bill Snyder, KSU Football Head Coach Chris Klieman, UK’s National Champion Basketball Coach Bill Self, KSU’s Coach Tang, and UK’s Football Head Coach Lance Leipold. Media messages have aired during the football, women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s basketball seasons, including public service announcement endorsements, games, and coaches shows.

Methods of airing include the statewide radio and television networks, digital signage at each venue that can be seen on televised games, video recordings, gameday interviews, website banners, social media, email blasts, fan pages, and sports souvenir program advertising. This partnership between KDADS and Learfield Communications has been fruitful. Learfield produces and broadcasts the “One Pill Can Kill” campaign which focuses on counterfeit pills, fentanyl awareness, safe medication storage, and facts about OUD treatment options.

These media efforts have reached 14,457,635 viewers.

## Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

KDADS has used SOR to distribute naloxone across the state.

### Naloxone Saturation Program

KDADS provided \$1,000,000 in SOR funds to a community grantee to distribute naloxone. From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the Naloxone Distribution Project counted 15,534 naloxone kits distributed across the state.

## Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

Kansas has begun using SOR for harm reduction strategies like fentanyl test strips.

### Fentanyl Test Strips

KDADS personnel provided information to their Legislative Liaison regarding the decriminalization of fentanyl test strips. As a result, [SB174](#) was signed into law on May 11, 2023. KDADS has budgeted SOR funding and is seeking a grantee to distribute fentanyl test strips.

## Increasing Access to Treatment

Kansas has used SOR to support the ability of its substance use disorder (SUD) provider network to offer StUD and OUD treatment services, including MOUD.

### SUD Provider Network

Kansas's SUD provider network includes more than 40 service sites that have access to SOR funding support for OUD and StUD clients who meet SOR eligibility requirements. So far, 3,771 unduplicated clients have received OUD treatment services, which is well above the state's treatment goal of providing services for 2,500+ unduplicated individuals throughout the term of the grant. Of those who received OUD treatment, 616 received methadone, 495 received buprenorphine, and 130 received injectable naltrexone.

### StUD Treatment

All current SOR grantees are required to adhere to SAMHSA guidelines regarding services for individuals with StUD. Currently, there are around 40 grantees across the state providing treatment services for Kansans in over 100 locations, including rural and frontier areas, as well as urban areas. Treatment service providers are diverse and range from a university medical center to SUD treatment providers, regional alcohol and drug assessment centers, and community mental health centers.



## Supporting Long-Term Recovery



KDADS has provided SOR funding for community providers to implement recovery support services for people with OUD or StUD.

### Community Recovery Programs

Two Regional Alcohol and Drug Assessment Center subgrantees have used SOR to provide community recovery for OUD and StUD clients statewide. At the time of this report, they have served 6,632 clients, with 351 living in recovery housing, 2,565 receiving recovery coaching or peer support services, and 382 receiving employment support.

## Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

KDADS works with its subgrantees and providers to ensure they can provide services for populations of focus. They have provided training and technical assistance about OUD to people over the age of 55. Their prevention programs are developed with both youth and senior focus groups. SOR recovery services support people transitioning from correctional and other rehabilitative programs back into the community with access to sober living group homes, MOUD, peer support, employment support, and other services that can move them towards a successful recovery.



**About the Opioid Response Network (ORN):** ORN is a group of diverse individuals and organizations working collaboratively to address the opioid and stimulant crisis. Funded by SAMHSA’s SOR/Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) Technical Assistance (TA) grant, ORN works with states, health professionals, community organizations, the justice system, and individuals in all 50 states and nine territories to provide education and training. **Visit the ORN website [here](#) or request training or TA [here](#).**

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