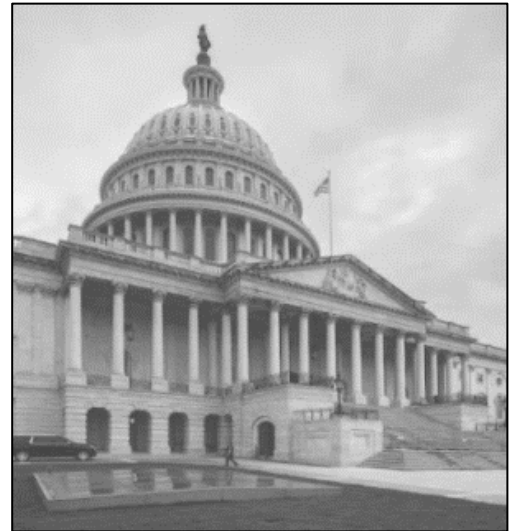


## South Dakota SOR Initiatives

### 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.

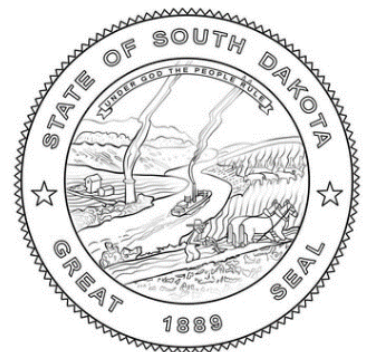
This brief was developed by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in collaboration with the Opioid Response Network (ORN) as part of a series of state reports intended to showcase initiatives across the continuum of care that states have implemented with SOR funds. 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): South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS), Division of Behavioral Health

South Dakota DSS has received \$29,339,263 in SOR funding from FY18 through FY23. For FY23–FY24, it received \$4,000,000. South Dakota’s Opioid Abuse Strategic Plan, which is shared between DSS and the Department of Health, guides and leverages multiple federal opioid funding resources to address opioid overdoses and opioid use disorder (OUD). SOR has supported the strategic plan since FY18. The SSA’s current initiatives are to:

- Raise awareness of available resources and information through community-based prevention and media strategies that address risks associated with opioid misuse or OUD
- Support awareness of and access to MOUD and recovery supports through training and education, enhanced referral systems, care linkages, resource connections, and treatment cost assistance
- Improve treatment engagement and retention through care coordination and follow-up services, peer and family support services, recovery housing, case management, and other recovery support services



- Increase access to safe medication storage and disposal through drug take-back programs and at-home medication storage and disposal
- Enhance overdose education and naloxone distribution across South Dakota through expanded training and continued coordinated distribution

## Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

South Dakota has used SOR to support community-based educational training events and media campaigns and to increase PharmaDrop Program participation, including pharmacies and hospitals. PharmaDrop is a program designed for Drug Enforcement Agency-registered collectors, including retail pharmacies, law enforcement agencies, and authorized long-term care facilities under the management of a retail pharmacy.

### Safe Medication Storage and Disposal

The South Dakota Board of Pharmacy has placed 88 permanent drug take-back receptacles in retail pharmacies and hospitals across the state and enrolled an additional five locations that already had their own receptacles into the South Dakota PharmaDrop Program, for a total of 93 locations.

The PharmaDrop Program has returned a total of 45,629 pounds of drugs for destruction.

The state expanded access to safe medication storage and disposal by adding the option to order free DisposeRx packets for at-home disposal and free medication lock boxes through [Avoid Opioid SD](#). Marketing and promotion, in partnership with the Avoid Opioid SD campaign, significantly increased public awareness of these resources. Since the launch of the DisposeRx service in January 2020, more than 3,400 packets have been mailed upon request or distributed to individuals at no cost for safe medication disposal. More than half of those (2,037) were distributed in the most recent year (FY23) through requests to the Treatment Resource Hotline or by Prevention Resource Center staff. Since launching the lock box service in July 2020, more than 4,400 boxes have been mailed at no cost for individuals to safely secure their medications.

### Prevention Resource Centers (PRCs)

Through established key partnerships with community-based coalitions and PRCs, DSS supports prevention awareness and education across South Dakota. PRCs provide technical assistance and training to promote wellness within the communities of their region. Trained prevention professionals from local community-based coalitions have worked across the state to promote evidence-based opioid prevention programs and deliver educational materials to middle- and high-school youth. In FFY22 and FFY23, PRCs continued to educate, train, and increase public awareness on the dangers and risks associated with opioid misuse. Increased attention was placed on increasing pharmacy participation in and community utilization and awareness related to the statewide standing order for naloxone as an opioid overdose reversal agent. During the last academic year (August 2022 to May 2023), more than 2,600 individuals, including both youth and adults, engaged a PRC through opioid and stimulant universal prevention strategies for the entire population.

As of September 30, 2023, more than 10,800 youth have received evidence-based prevention programming in schools or after-school settings. Additionally, over 5,100 individuals across dozens of towns in South Dakota participated in locally delivered training or town hall meetings regarding opioid education and awareness.

### Public Awareness Campaign

The Avoid Opioid Campaign shares relevant and educational information focused on saving lives by raising awareness of the risks and signs of overdose, safe ways to respond, best practices for prescribing, treatment, and recovery to people most impacted, such as family members and friends, prescribers, pharmacists, SUD and mental health professionals, and other professionals. A strategic media mix has been instrumental in driving traffic to the website and increasing calls to the Resource Hotline. Statewide media broadcast overlaps with targeted social media campaigns aimed at specific at-risk populations with emphasis in and around vulnerable counties. One example of successful public awareness efforts was in FY22, as a new campaign was launched to warn of the dangers of counterfeit pills. Corresponding website content was developed to help South Dakotans learn that counterfeit pills are widely available and increasingly deadly, as well as how to keep their family safe and help raise awareness. Over the next six months, website visits reached an all-time high of over 187,000.

### Media and Research

In addition to ongoing mass media efforts to raise public awareness on overdose prevention, safe medication handling practices, treatment and referral services, and support, research efforts are underway to:

- Understand the opioid crisis from industry experts and individuals with lived experience
- Test awareness and perceptions of the Avoid Opioid brand
- Examine the effectiveness of opioid prevention messaging and creative executions
- Identify key factors to leverage in future marketing and message development

### Targeted Training for Prevention Professionals

In FY22, DSS coordinated trainings for prevention professionals statewide to facilitate early intervention programs. The training focused on screening and brief interventions for substance use problems identified at an early stage.

## Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

South Dakota uses various mechanisms to distribute overdose reversal agents and provide education. The state's efforts, funded through SOR and other sources, have led to expansion of the Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) program, resulting in the **reversal of opioid overdoses for 1,200 individuals**. OEND programs are initiatives designed to educate individuals on how to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses and to distribute naloxone.

### Emergency Management Services (EMS)

Overdose reversal is assessed through data provided by the Department of Health's electronic medical record system used by licensed EMS units across South Dakota. Data is entered by the responding service unit, often in partnership with other first-responding agencies who may have administered naloxone prior to EMS arrival.

### OEND Program

South Dakota expanded its OEND program, providing free Narcan to organizations in the state serving clients at risk of opioid-related overdose. Additionally, the state extended its standing order through September 2024, enabling all pharmacies to dispense naloxone to individuals at risk of opioid-related overdose or those in a position to assist them. Naloxone is accessible at participating pharmacies statewide, with funding assistance available. Eighty pharmacies are enrolled to participate in the statewide standing order.

### Naloxone Saturation Plan

The state developed a preliminary naloxone saturation plan in FY23, using surveillance and prevalence data associated with opioid overdose, in alignment with national best practices, to determine ideal saturation levels for communities statewide. That dataset was expanded to include distribution by county of pharmacy-based naloxone paid for through SOR. Additionally, the state is reviewing OEND saturation statewide to identify untrained first responders that require training and education. Based on national best practice models referenced by SAMHSA, South Dakota has exceeded naloxone saturation levels with its current distribution approach.

## Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

South Dakota has also used SOR to support allowable harm reduction strategies.

### Harm Reduction Supplies

Each contracted provider has been given funding to purchase and distribute harm reduction supplies, including fentanyl test strips, for patient care. This provision is done at the providers' discretion in alignment with best practices and harm reduction approaches.

## Increasing Access to Treatment

South Dakota has used SOR to expand access to OUD treatment, including provider-prescriber growth, expansion of the "hub-and-spoke" model, and 24/7 access to a Resource Hotline and texting service.

### Hub-and-Spoke Model

Access to MOUD in South Dakota is aided by expansion of the hub-and-spoke model, which provides clients seeking OUD care with an individualized assessment and initiation of treatment at a "hub" location specializing in SUD treatment. Referrals are then made to community-based "spokes" for ongoing treatment to meet patient-specific needs, including evaluation and treatment of mental conditions and other general medical concerns. SOR funds provide treatment cost assistance to individuals served among three hubs and more than a dozen spoke sites spanning the state's 77,116 square miles.

### Financial Assistance for Treatment

Care is available via telemedicine as well as traditional office visits. SOR funds primarily support temporary financial assistance for the cost of treatment and MOUD using a fee-for-service reimbursement model that aligns with established Medicaid and Division of Behavioral Health rate structures. Most individuals receiving treatment cost assistance through SOR are being treated with buprenorphine. More than 1,250 unduplicated individuals received treatment cost assistance over the past two federal fiscal years (October 2021 to September 2023).



### Treatment Resource Hotline

The Treatment Resource Hotline and texting service is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and offers free, confidential support. The Treatment Resource Hotline continues to receive phone calls since it was launched in October 2018, with more than 1,900 contacts through September 2023.

### Assessing and Treating OUD and StUD

Since the inclusion of StUD as an allowable use of SOR funds, South Dakota has encouraged its network of contracted providers to assess for and appropriately treat stimulant use in addition to any opioid-related concerns. Treatment cost assistance has continued to primarily support OUD and co-occurring StUD, but providers can be reimbursed for appropriate, evidence-based StUD treatment.

## Supporting Long-Term Recovery

South Dakota has used SOR to assist individuals in recovery by expanding housing and increasing access to peer support services.

### MOUD-Friendly Recovery Housing

Just three years ago, there were few recovery homes available that accepted individuals being treated with MOUD. As of September 2023, there are 19 homes in five different South Dakota communities, each providing safe, supported housing for more than 750 individuals as they navigate their personal recovery.

### Peer Recovery Support Services

Statewide recovery support services enhance the health and well-being of individuals by promoting treatment engagement and retention in care. Peer recovery support services offer effective, science-based peer coaching for people living with SUD and their loved ones. South Dakota's peer support model aligns with SAMHSA, using individuals who have successfully navigated the recovery process as peer support workers. These services are available through both office-based and virtual coaching sessions. In February 2020, Project Recovery, one of the contracted MOUD providers, integrated peer recovery support services within their clinic. On average, 95% of this provider's clients receive at least 15 minutes of peer coaching as part of their treatment plan in a typical month.



## Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

South Dakota funds specialized services for pregnant and postpartum women with OUD. This program is described further below.



### **Bethany's Recovering Mothers With Newborns (ReNew) Program**

Beginning December 2020, the state contracted with Bethany Christian Services to support expectant and new mothers impacted by substance use through evidence-based specialized case management services. Bethany's ReNew Program is a signature prevention program that supports mothers through integration of evidence-based specialized case management and practices. It is available in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and surrounding areas. Bethany accepts referrals from maternal and prenatal programs, SUD treatment agencies, MOUD providers, Child Protection Services, probation/parole agents, and others. The ReNew Program engages with a pregnant woman as soon as possible in her pregnancy and supports her and her child through one year postpartum. On average, program graduates receive services for between 14 and 15 months.



**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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