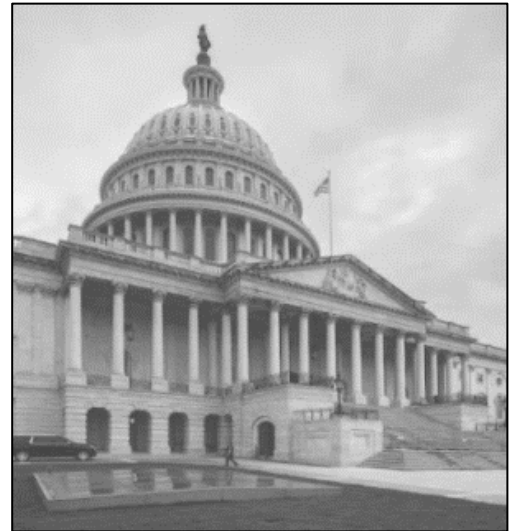


Wisconsin SOR Initiatives

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.

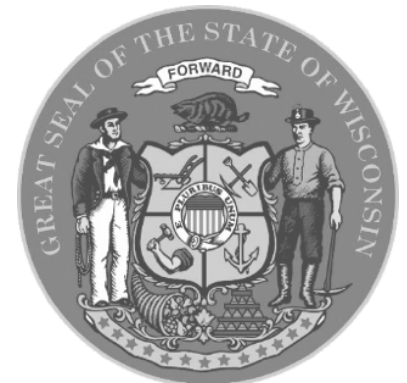


Single State Agency (SSA): Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

From FY18 through FY23, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Care and Treatment Services, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery received \$80.6 million in SOR funds. For FY23–FY24, it received \$17.5 million.

Wisconsin uses SOR across the continuum of care to target prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery efforts. SOR helps implement prevention strategies that actively target diverse populations, such as racial/ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+, youth, older adults, and rural populations. These include revamping media campaigns and ensuring statewide distribution of naloxone to reduce overdose fatalities. SOR also helps increase access to MOUD by implementing low-threshold MOUD treatment programs.

Wisconsin plans to expand recovery coaching and peer support services, as well as provide professional training on evidence-based practices to the state's substance use disorder (SUD) workforce. Lastly, SOR is used to address behavioral health equity and improve identification and delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to people in Wisconsin.



Preventing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse Before It Starts

Wisconsin has used SOR to implement substance use prevention programs, including evidence-based programs for youth, statewide media campaigns, and prescriber education programs.

Media Campaigns

The media programs “Dose of Reality” and “Real Talks” increase awareness of opioid use and misuse and reduce stigma. They serve the general population, Tribal communities, and other underserved communities. They empower people in recovery to champion prevention through having conversations about opioid use and misuse. In FY23, 37 coalitions used “Dose of Reality” materials in print, social media, tv, and radio messaging.

Alliance for Wisconsin Youth

The Alliance for Wisconsin Youth supports local prevention providers in implementing a range of prevention services. The program collaborates with the regional prevention centers to provide safe medication disposal initiatives (e.g., drug deactivation units, lockboxes, and lock bags) to reduce access to prescription drugs. These programs serve youth and target elderly populations. In FY23, coalitions distributed 15,302 safe medication disposal materials. The program collaborates with regional prevention centers on strategies to provide community education about drug take-back events, naloxone, and fentanyl to communities across Wisconsin. In FY23, 35 coalitions collected 7,685.6 pounds of prescription medications across Wisconsin through drug take-back events.

The program also collaborates with regional prevention centers to deliver school-based curriculums to prevent initiation of opioid use and misuse and build refusal skills among youth. Lastly, the program supports local coalitions through regional prevention centers to conduct outreach activities with underserved and diverse populations to strengthen relationships and trust. Outreach builds rapport to deliver culturally relevant and comprehensive prevention of opioid use and misuse. In FY23, 31 coalitions hosted 12 virtual community education events with 16,547 attendees.

Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine (WISAM)

WISAM works to strengthen medical providers, skills, and knowledge related to SUD treatment, MOUD, and therapy by increasing awareness and knowledge in medical communities across Wisconsin. Grant funds are used for American Society of Addiction Medicine training fees, including registration, space rental, audiovisual equipment, speaker fees, and any printed materials. During FY22, WISAM provided five virtual trainings to increase the number of providers eligible to prescribe MOUD. At the end of SOR II, Wisconsin had 2,101 office-based prescribers, a 52% increase from 2020.

Overdose Reversal Efforts: Saving Lives

Wisconsin has used SOR to support its overdose reversal medication distribution and education initiatives.

Narcan Direct

Narcan Direct provides free Narcan for community distribution. Narcan is given to agencies that serve people who are using opioids and people who may witness an opioid overdose. This program currently serves 142 distribution sites, and 14,277 individuals were trained in FY23 on how to recognize the signs of an overdose and administer naloxone. One grantee (ED2 Recovery) installed 112 NaloxBoxes in FY23. These boxes improve the capacity of bystander rescuers to respond to opioid overdose tools, including naloxone.

Naloxone Administration Training of the Trainers

Narcan Direct agencies must have at least one staff member attend a naloxone train-the-trainer course and use the curriculum to train others on administering naloxone. The course, virtually presented via Zoom, is designed for people employed by a Narcan Direct agency who want to learn how to train others to administer naloxone. In FY23, 646 individuals participated in the train-the-trainer program.

Grantees reported 1,451 overdose reversals during this time period.

Implementing Harm Reduction Strategies

Wisconsin has expanded access to allowable harm reduction services through SOR-funded initiatives.

Fentanyl Test Strip Direct

Fentanyl Test Strip Direct provides free fentanyl test strips for community distribution. Fentanyl test strips are given to agencies that serve people using drugs. Those receiving free fentanyl test strips must attend a training from a trainer associated with the Fentanyl Test Strip Direct agency on proper use.

In FY23, 427,511 fentanyl test strips were distributed.

Mobile Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

Mobile OTPs distribute fentanyl test strips through their mobile units. The populations served are people who use drugs or people who are around others who use drugs. These units also distribute naloxone.

Increasing Access to Treatment

Wisconsin used SOR to increase access to treatment services, including MOUD and treatment for StUD.

Mobile MOUD Units

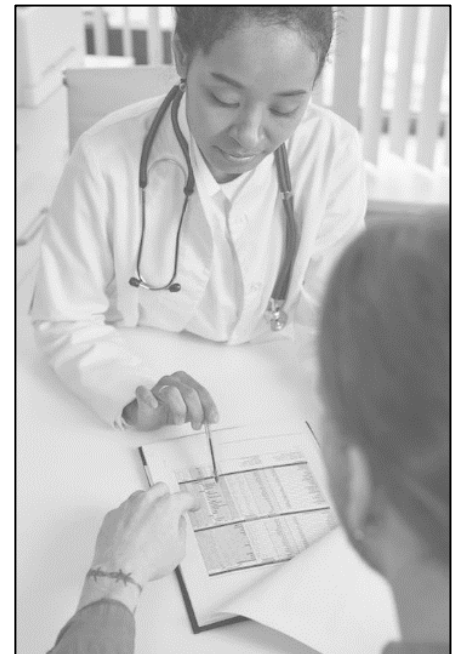
Mobile MOUD units were built to initiate service provision of all types of MOUD in underserved areas. Three SOR-funded units provide medication treatment, counseling, and referral services.

Treatment Services

Three SOR grantees have eliminated waitlists for treatment services, and two have added additional recovery groups focused on daily living skills and trauma. This has increased treatment engagement and retention. One grantee implemented contingency management into their treatment array, reporting successful outcomes and completion of services for individuals.

Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline

Funding supports a recovery helpline accessible 24/7 via phone, text, or web chat for individuals across the state who are seeking treatment, peer, or other recovery services. This helpline provides follow-up calls and warm handoffs to treatment and recovery support services. In FY23, the helpline received 6,746 calls and added 193 new SUD treatment recovery resources to its database.



StUD Treatment Services

Wisconsin DHS partners with Center for Urban Population Health to provide workforce development for people working within the continuum of care. Two training options offered under this program are matrix model and contingency management.

Contingency management is designed to assist individuals with StUD address their desire to engage in treatment. Contingency management involves reinforcing abstinence from substances, as well as other recovery-related behaviors, by providing an incentive for achieving goals in programming. At least one grantee implemented contingency management into their treatment array, reporting successful outcomes and completion of services for individuals.

The matrix model is a 16-week intensive outpatient program, consisting of relapse prevention groups, education groups, and social support groups, as well as individual counseling to assist individuals with StUD. The grant has allowed for organizations to fund the training of the matrix model in FY23.

Supporting Long-Term Recovery

To help individuals reach and maintain long-term recovery, Wisconsin has implemented recovery support services.

ED2+ Recovery

This program provides peer support for individuals who have experienced an overdose. Peer support specialists respond to the emergency department and continue services in the community as desired. In FY23, peer support specialists initiated contact with 906 individuals, and 963 recoverees received ongoing recovery support services.

Recovery Housing

Several SOR grantees are using funding to pay for individuals to stay in recovery housing. The length of stay can range from 1 to 12 months. Recovery housing provides individuals with a living space that is substance-free, safe, and supportive of recovery efforts. They may also provide peer support or other recovery-related services. One county provided recovery housing for the first time and was able to provide services for 15 individuals who otherwise would not have had access to the service in FY23.



Certified Peer Specialists & Recovery Coaches

Several grantees use funding to train and employ certified peer specialists and recovery coaches as part of the continuum of care. Peer specialists are individuals with lived experience in SUD and/or mental health conditions who meet directly with people to form connections and model long-term recovery. In FY23, 893 individuals received peer coaching or recovery coaching.

Employment Support

Several grantees provide employment support for individuals in their programming. Employment support consists of job training, resume building, development of interview and other skills, and similar activities. In FY23, grantees provided 137 individuals with employment support.

Reaching & Serving Populations of Focus

Wisconsin has implemented programs targeted at serving populations of focus, including Tribal communities, individuals in correctional settings, and people of color.

Tribal Nations

Seven Tribal Nations provide a continuum of care from funding residential treatment programs to providing culturally sensitive recovery services designed to address the unique needs of their participants.

One grantee offers recovery services through its local county jails, providing educational groups designed with Tribal Nations members in mind. It also provides peer support services once the individuals are released from jail to assist with their transition into the community.

Many programs also provide assessments, peer services, and case management to assist in the transition into the community.

Media Campaigns

Based off focus groups held under other funding sources, the media campaigns “Dose of Reality” and “Real Talks,” funded by SOR, were redesigned to reach Black, Indigenous, and people of color in a more relatable manner. Media campaigns also are designed to reach older adults.



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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