

Addressing Opioid Misuse and Use Disorders: The Impact of State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

Background on State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response Grants

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) administers the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs. The STR program was designed to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to treatment, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose–related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery support activities for opioid use disorder (OUD). Following STR, the SOR program similarly aims to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) using the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved medications for treatment of OUD and through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for OUD. In addition, the SAMHSA SOR program supports evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services to address stimulant misuse and use disorders, including for cocaine and methamphetamine.

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, grantees received a total of \$1 billion through STR. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, states, territories, and jurisdictions received a total of \$4 billion in SOR grants.

Single State Agency (SSA): Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH) received a total of \$7 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$26.4 million in SOR funding.

Overview of Mississippi's efforts to address opioid misuse and use disorders

DMH's goals for the STR and SOR grants are to expand access to treatment and recovery support services for the uninsured and underinsured, raise awareness about the opioid crisis in Mississippi, and improve the provider workforce through training and development. Under STR, the majority of funding went to treatment and recovery support as well as a campaign called Stand Up, Mississippi, spreading knowledge about the risks and consequences of opioid addiction along with increasing access to naloxone. Under SOR, the effort continues to bring treatment services to underserved communities, including those in rural settings as well as vulnerable populations like pregnant and parenting women, both in face-to-face settings and through telehealth. Stand Up, Mississippi focuses on prevention of opioid misuse in higher-risk occupations such as construction, manufacturing, and food service industries and calls for educating the general public and OUD providers. SOR also supports treatment workforce development training.

Innovative service delivery models

- Tele-MAT expansion
- Collegiate recovery programming
- Opioid Workplace Awareness Initiative

Building workforce capacity

Workforce development training opportunities surrounding treatment modalities are available through the Mississippi Public Health Institute. These trainings are free to DMH-certified providers and include topics such as MAT; Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT); and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Collaborating with public and private entities

Through the Stand Up, Mississippi campaign and other outreach efforts, from August 2017 through December 2019, more than 31,000 people attended more than 200 opioid-related events, including town hall meetings, conferences, and civic organization events.

Preventing opioid misuse before it starts

Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative

DMH serves as a member of the Mississippi Opioid and Heroin Data Collaborative, which meets regularly throughout the year to gather and discuss data surrounding the opioid epidemic. Reports are released quarterly, and members include the Board of Pharmacy, Bureau of Narcotics, Department of Health, and the University of Southern Mississippi. These data are critical for targeting prevention efforts.

Education and public awareness

In Mississippi the primary prevention focus has been reaching the state's youth through the existing prevention infrastructure, which consists of 14 Community Health Centers (CMHCs) and 11 freestanding community-level service providers (CLSPs). The CMHCs provides primary substance use prevention as a core service. The sole function of most of the 11 CLSPs is substance use prevention. Through these 25 providers, all 82 counties in Mississippi are served. The SOR's prevention and education efforts are supported through a workforce development contractor that provides topic-specific trainings and educational opportunities year-round, free-of-charge-to-DMH certified programs. Additionally, 8–15 DMH-sponsored conferences feature opioid prevention and education-oriented sessions throughout the year.

SOR Planned Programs

- Primary prevention education campaign geared towards third and fourth graders.
- Ongoing training to case management staff tasked with caring for high-risk pregnant and parenting women and their babies.
- Expanding knowledge concerning naloxone and related perceptions and stigma.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

DMH implemented a naloxone training program and distributed naloxone kits to law enforcement officers and first responders. Since August 2017, over 7,200 individuals have been trained and over 27,900 doses distributed. This has resulted in at least 106 lives saved. The Stand Up, Mississippi website also provides information on naloxone distribution locations.

Increasing access to treatment

- The various forms of MAT are reimbursed through SOR, including methadone, buprenorphine (tablets, film, injectable, and implantable), and naltrexone (injectable and oral).
- The Stand Up, Mississippi website includes a list of DMH-certified treatment providers.
- Through the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), the state is expanding access to MAT with the use of telehealth technology. This pilot is being funded through SOR and extends services to individuals in rural parts of the state that may not have access to service otherwise. Tele-MAT allows patients in areas without adequate MAT prescribers to obtain these services.

Supporting long-term recovery

- The state increased the hourly reimbursement rate for peer support services and reimburses travel time to and from UMMC in Jackson for initial treatments under the Tele-MAT program.
- The program formerly referred to as Substance Abuse Recovery Support Services was integrated into the Certified Peer Support Specialist Program to promote sustainability.
- SOR funding continues to support collegiate recovery programming through Mississippi State University's Department of Health Promotion and Wellness.
- The Opioid Workplace Awareness Initiative (through Stand Up, Mississippi) was initiated under SOR for treatment and recovery support services for employees with OUD and other substance use disorders.

Serving special populations

- As part of their notice of award for STR/SOR funds, and in accordance with DMH standards, providers are required to prioritize pregnant women seeking treatment for OUD.

Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

- Patients utilizing MAT under STR:
 - Methadone: 563
 - Buprenorphine: 1,406
 - Naltrexone: 72
- Patients utilizing MAT under SOR:
 - Methadone: 1,094
 - Buprenorphine: 2,194
 - Naltrexone: 162
 - Unspecified: 830

- Through funded treatment providers, 881 unique clients have received peer support services under STR, and 1,108 under SOR.
- Under SOR, thus far at least 106 pregnant patients have been treated.

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