

# Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Misuse and 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 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.

## South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS)

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) received a total of \$4 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received \$10,136,791 in SOR funding.

## Overview of South Dakota’s efforts to address opioid and stimulant misuse and disorders

DSS is leveraging the SOR grant to continue efforts launched with STR funding to:

1. Increase access to treatment, reduce unmet treatment need, and reduce opioid overdose–related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities.
2. Supplement current opioid activities being implemented.
3. Support a comprehensive response to the opioid crisis using a strategic planning process inclusive of needs and capacity assessments.

## Innovative service delivery models

- Expanding access to MAT across South Dakota through enhanced referral systems and linkages to office-based and telemedicine-based care.
- Through the Indigent Medication Program, providing treatment cost assistance to patients receiving treatment for OUD or stimulant use disorder and supporting services.
- Increasing access to services, including referral assistance and case management, via connection to resources through the Resource Hotline, which is available 24/7/365.
- Making peer recovery support services available statewide to provide effective, science-based peer coaching for people living with addiction, including their loved ones.
- Providing intensive case management supports to improve retention in care for pregnant and postpartum women impacted by opioid or stimulant use.
- Using the ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model to enhance comprehensive case management and professional development supports statewide.
- Establishing new MAT-friendly recovery homes using the Oxford House model across the state and supporting already established houses through the formation of an Oxford House State Chapter.

## Building workforce capacity

- DSS has offered Listen and Learn sessions regarding MAT for treatment providers, continued with a custom webinar series and capstone training in partnership with the South Dakota Association of Addiction and Prevention Professionals.
- DSS has awarded sponsorships to organizations for training and educational events for professionals who serve populations affected by opioid misuse, as well as other drugs. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis for training and education sponsorship opportunities across the state.
- Through both in-person and virtual connections, DSS works with two partners to provide Project ECHO to professionals seeking continuing education and/or complex case review with a team of clinical experts.
- DSS hosted a state conference in partnership with the Opioid Response Network (ORN) in October 2019; 78 professionals attended.
- DSS supported the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas in targeted training and technical assistance to South Dakota-based MAT providers and their clinical teams, ultimately impacting more than 90 clinicians across several partnering Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- Education on Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols and opioid sparing/eliminating techniques used during a patient's perioperative period was provided to 89 nurse anesthetists and nurse practitioners and students in 2020.
- DSS facilitated community town hall meetings to increase awareness and knowledge about risks of prescription opioids, leveraging strategies from SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit.

## Collaborating with public and private entities

There have been continuous collaborative planning and quality improvement efforts through the Prescription Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee, as well as interagency cooperation to optimally leverage the various funding streams targeted to opioid misuse in South Dakota.

## Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

The current prevention system in South Dakota is assessed through alignment with the National Governors Association's Road Map steps. Health care strategies for prevention and early identification in South Dakota include:

### Developing and updating prescribing guidelines

- SDSMA developed new guidelines for opioid prescribers related to the treatment of chronic and acute pain.
- Through a special Committee on Pain Management and Prescription Drug Abuse, the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) developed evidence-based guidelines for prescribing opioid analgesics to effectively treat pain and minimize patient risk.
- The SDSMA resource library and provider's toolkit will be further promoted to South Dakota providers along with additional training opportunities.

### Maximizing the use and effectiveness of the State Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

- The state's existing PDMP has been integrated with electronic health records in the three major health systems in South Dakota.
- The PDMP has been enhanced to include clinical reports and custom alerts to prescribers and pharmacists when selected thresholds are met or exceeded within a time period.
- Training and resources have been provided for PDMP users to help them better analyze trends in opioid prescribing, identify and assess potential risk factors, and support patient needs.
- The PDMP Clinical Alerts and quarterly prescriber reports have been expanded and enhanced.
- In July 2019, the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy launched additional analytics and clinical resource capability. The program, called NARxCare, is a comprehensive substance use disorder platform with tools for providers related to risk assessment and patient support.
- Since 2016, there has been a decrease in total opioid prescription quantity, total days' supply of opioid prescriptions, and the total opioid prescription count for South Dakota patients.

## Education and public awareness

### Raising public awareness about the dangers of prescription opioids and services available

- DSS and the South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) developed Avoid Opioid SD, a statewide public awareness campaign regarding the dangers of opioid misuse. Implementation of the campaign was done through an aggressive media strategy, coupled with utilization of both Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) campaign spots and locally produced testimonials featuring South Dakotans with lived experience. In addition, the AvoidOpioidSD.com website was established as a centralized hub of resources for South Dakotans and will continue to be leveraged as the primary connecting point for the public. The website includes a

searchable list of all prescription drug take-back locations; a data dashboard that provides credible and regularly updated data; a list of services, including MAT providers; and a searchable database with additional resources.

- The South Dakota Resource Hotline was established to connect concerned individuals or loved ones with resources in their communities. The Resource Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for free, confidential support.
- DSS developed broadcast testimonials from South Dakotans with lived experience to destigmatize opioid addiction and encourage hope for those seeking help. These television testimonial TV spots have been broadcast over 23,900 times, reaching over 94.5% of the targeted audience (adults ages 18–64).
- DSS marketed and promoted treatment services for OUD, including MAT and Care Coordination.
- DSS and DOH expanded the Avoid Opioid SD website content in FY 2020 to include additional services for Care Coordination, MAT, Peer & Group Support, Pain Management, How to Reverse Overdose (Naloxone), DisposeRx, and Medication Lock Boxes.
- Over 834,000 South Dakotans have been reached by AvoidOpioidSD messages.
- Over 408,000 South Dakotans have been reached with messaging on safe at-home medication disposal options via social media during FY 2020.

#### **Education to communities, youth, and special populations**

- An evidence-based program on the dangers of opioid use was delivered to middle- and high school youth through regional Prevention Resource Centers, community coalitions, and youth-serving organizations.
- Through established key partnerships with local community-based coalitions and the Prevention Resource Centers, DSS supports prevention awareness and education across South Dakota. Per federal funding requirements, activities are in line with SAMHSA’s Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit.
- Culturally appropriate American Indian–focused video segments have been developed and aired in Tribal schools and clinics using the GoodHealthTV closed network. During FY 2020, video segments were played 64,905 times throughout the target clinics and 27,735 times in participating schools. Additionally, a social media campaign ran on Facebook and Instagram from November 11, 2019 through May 31, 2020, reaching 36,032 individuals.

#### **Statewide Access to Permanent Take-Back Receptacles**

- The South Dakota Board of Pharmacy established a drug take-back program, placing Trilogy MedWaste’s MedDrop receptacles in South Dakota hospitals and retail pharmacies; 83 permanent drug take-back receptacles have been placed. Of the 52 counties that have a retail pharmacy, 83% (43) now have a permanent drug takeback receptacle.
- These efforts are ongoing, and priority placement is in counties that do not already have access to a permanent take-back receptacle in their community.

## Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

- Coordinated program in partnership with DOH to train first responders in Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND).
- Enhanced emergency medical service (EMS) records to support real-time tracking of naloxone administration and patient outcomes.
- Establishment of regional trainers across the state in OEND.
- Coordinated distribution and responsible ordering/storage of naloxone at DOH State offices.
- Development and launch of an online, interactive training for OEND that can be accessed on demand.
- Issuance of a statewide standing order allowing all pharmacies to dispense naloxone to anyone at risk of an opioid-related overdose or those in a position to assist someone at risk (family members, friends, or close third party). Individuals can access naloxone at participating pharmacies statewide, with funding assistance available.

## Increasing access to treatment

### Care Coordination

- DSS has continued support for the South Dakota Resource Hotline as well as texting support program and searchable online database, housed on [www.AvoidOpioidSD.com](http://www.AvoidOpioidSD.com). Individuals struggling with opioid misuse and other substances, or those affected by someone else's suspected misuse, are encouraged to connect with the Care Coordination program for support.
- The Resource Hotline has continued to receive phone calls since it was launched in October 2018, and as of October 2020 had received 668 phone calls.
- The Helpline Center in partnership with DSS created *Resource Guide: Supporting Your Loved One With a Substance Use Disorder*, targeted to family members or close contacts to those impacted by addiction.
- DSS expanded services to manage requests for DisposeRx packets and lock boxes to increase access to safe medication disposal at home and proper medication storage.

### Access to MAT

- DSS supports technical assistance to providers seeking to enhance referral systems and linkages to MAT.
- DSS is currently contracted with four MAT providers that expand access to MAT statewide through office-based and telemedicine-based care.
- Through partnerships with current and future partners, MAT will continue to be available across South Dakota.
- The Indigent Medication Program provides temporary financial support for psychotropic medication, medication for the treatment of substance use disorder and/or maintenance treatment, and related lab costs to eligible individuals while other funding options are identified. This financial support can be used to cover the costs associated with MAT for individuals with no other funding source.

- Enhanced awareness of treatment options and cost assistance available.

## Supporting long-term recovery

### Improve treatment retention and recovery through peer and family support services

- Expansion of an extensive peer recovery support model supported by in-person offices and a virtual network, modeled after a hub-and-spoke system to support access to peer recovery services statewide.
- Continued integration of peer recovery support services within MAT clinics and other appropriate settings.
- Provision of intensive case management for pregnant and postpartum women impacted by OUD or stimulant use disorder.
- Establishment of several new MAT-friendly recovery homes using the Oxford House model across South Dakota, and support for already established houses in the state through the formation of an Oxford House State Chapter.

## Serving special populations

Services targeted toward special populations include, but are not limited to, pregnant and postpartum women, middle school and high school youth, and American Indian youth and community members. These efforts are addressed in more detail throughout this brief.

## Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

As of October 2020:

- More than 8,400 middle school and high school youth participated in awareness and educational programming.
- The total number of registered users in the PDMP has reached 8,200.
- Since launching the DisposeRx service in January 2020 (through October 2020), 555 packets were shipped out at no cost for individuals to safely dispose of medication.
- More than 1,500 emergency responders (e.g., EMS professionals, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Highway Patrol, local law enforcement) have been trained in OEND.
- Over 4,500 Narcan (naloxone) kits have been distributed across South Dakota to individuals trained in OEND.
- More than 500 individuals at risk of an opioid overdose–related death had an improved response in their condition following administration of Narcan by EMS personnel.
- More than 1,800 individuals have participated in locally delivered training or town hall meetings on the opioid crisis across South Dakota.
- More than 950 individuals have been engaged in a MAT program at one of the State’s contracted STR- or SOR-funded partners.
- More than 550 individuals have been engaged in peer recovery coaching services.
- The South Dakota MedDrop Program has returned a total of 10,937 pounds of medication for destruction.
- 450 physicians and prescribers have been trained on appropriate prescribing.

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