

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.

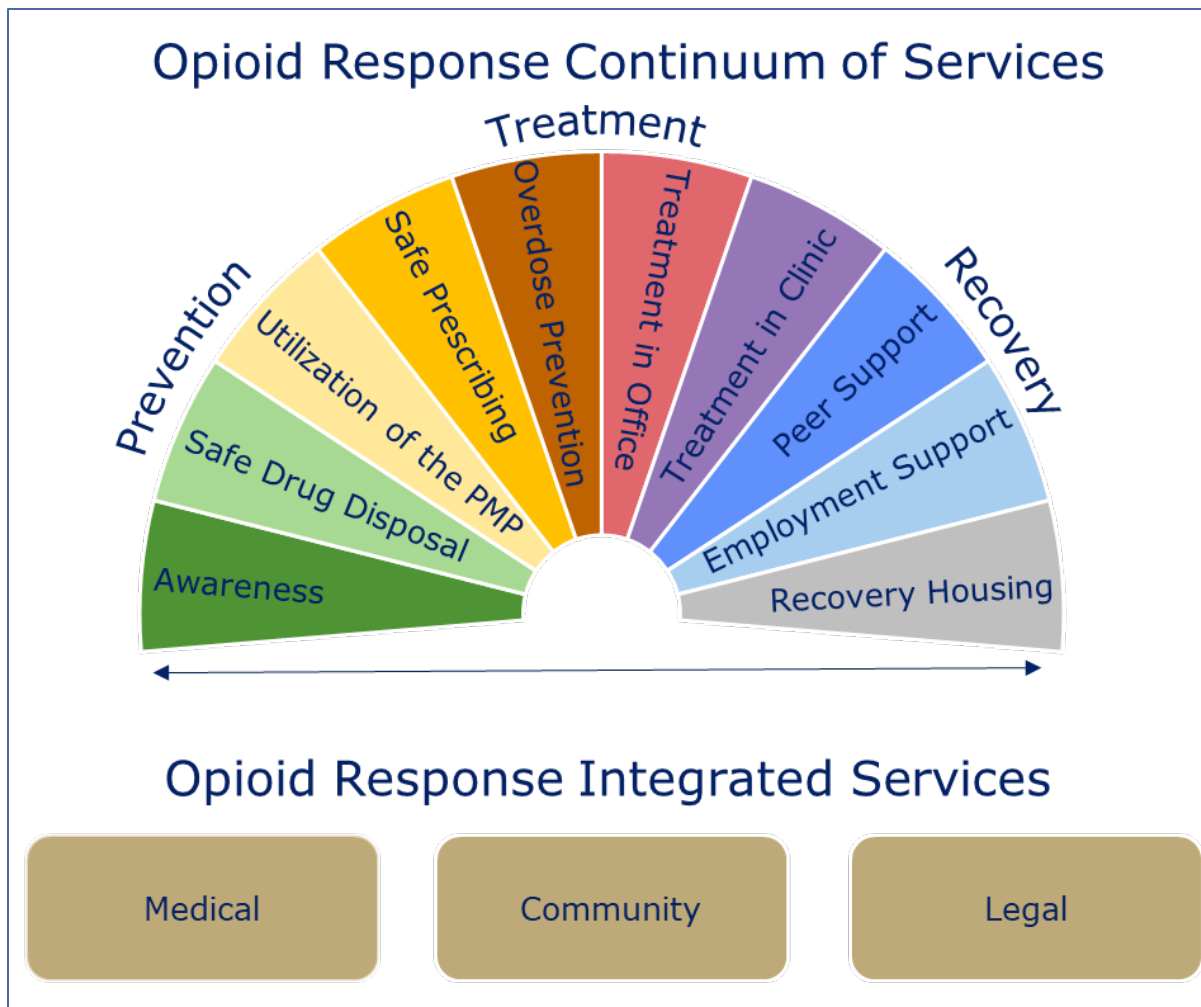
In FY 2017 and FY 2018, grantees received a total of \$1 billion through STR. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, states, territories, and jurisdictions received a total of \$4 billion in SOR grants.

Single State Agency (SSA): Texas Health and Human Services Commission

In FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received a total of \$54.6 million in STR funding. From FY 2018 through FY 2020, the state received a total of \$168.6 million in SOR funding.

Overview of Texas’s efforts to address opioid and stimulant misuse and disorders

The Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) strategies span the continuum of care, funding prevention, treatment, and recovery services as well as integrated projects. As of March 2021, more than 800,000 people have received prevention, treatment and/or recovery support services, including overdose prevention education and naloxone, prescription drug disposal services, workforce training, MAT, peer recovery coaching, and overdose-related emergency response services.



Innovative service delivery models

- Medication disposal evaluation
- Single-point overdose prevention training and naloxone distribution
- Office-based opioid treatment (OBOT)
- Project ECHO (Extensions for Community Healthcare Outcomes) for OBOT and recovery support
- Hub-and-spoke treatment and recovery support services
- Recovery housing with increased MAT acceptance and evaluation
- MAT for persons experiencing incarceration
- Reentry recovery support
- Inpatient hospital and family planning clinic Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), including bridge induction
- Emergency response mobile outreach, including bridge induction
- Pre-arrest diversion and community drop-in centers

Building workforce capacity

Safe Prescribing supports prescriber education and online training aimed at reducing opioid misuse through safe prescribing practices.

Recovery Workforce Training supports trainings to establish Medication-Assisted Recovery Support (MARS) peer recovery communities among recovery providers.

Collaborating with public and private entities

To meet federal grantee requirements, streamline deployment of funds, and maintain quality services, HHSC leverages existing contracts and partners with governmental entities such as academic institutions and local mental health authorities that provide Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) functions.

TTOR continues to support the state opioid coordinator to ensure the coordination and strategy alignment of state agencies and federal grantees within Texas without duplication.

Preventing opioid and stimulant misuse before it starts

Safe Drug Disposal distributes and evaluates single-use drug disposal pouches to reduce the availability of unused medications that can lead to opioid misuse.

Opioid Surveillance Dashboard is a collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to expand and enhance the DSHS Texas Health Data interactive website and query system on the prevalence and impact of opioids and other substances at the local level as well as availability of services to improve the effectiveness of prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts.

Education and public awareness

Utilization of the Prescription Monitoring Program increases prescriber and pharmacist enrollment and meaningful use of the Prescription Monitoring Program to ensure not only patient screening but identification of problematic opioid use and appropriate referral to treatment.

Opioid Awareness Public Education Campaign provides services to Texans across the lifespan to prevent opioid misuse before it occurs and help Texans know how to access care.

Overdose reversal efforts: saving lives

Overdose Prevention provides single-point overdose prevention education and access to overdose reversal medication (naloxone).

Project Connect is conducting formative research to identify gaps and opportunities in existing overdose reporting mechanisms among traditional and nontraditional first responders and health care professionals to develop and test a beta-version of a new reporting platform. The goal is to provide timely community response and reduce overdose deaths.

Increasing access to treatment

Office-Based Treatment increases access to MAT in a variety of settings by increasing the number of physicians providing both buprenorphine and extended-release naltrexone, creating a professional peer mentoring network and expanding the network of state-funded treatment providers.

Clinic-Based Treatment increases access to all three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of OUD (methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone) by expanding capacity at new and existing clinics. This service also enables clinics to treat primary OUD along with comorbid conditions such as hepatitis C, psychiatric conditions, and wound care at a single clinic site.

SHOUT Texas screens hospital inpatients for OUD and provides access to treatment induction, recovery support, and linkage to long-term care.

Pre-Arrest Diversion and Community Drop-In Centers support 24/7 access to treatment, recovery support, overdose prevention, and linkage to care.

Priority Admissions Counselors at OSAR sites connect persons seeking services to local treatment and recovery organizations.

Treatment of Stimulants – Motivational Reinforcement provides Contingency Management through an accountability and recovery application for co-occurring stimulant and opioid use disorders.

Supporting long-term recovery

Peer Support expands peer recovery support services throughout the state in a variety of settings and provides opportunities for enhanced training in medication-assisted recovery for the peer support workforce.

Employment Services provides job developer and supported employment services for individuals in medication-assisted recovery from OUD as well as support to the emergency services personnel referral program.

Recovery Housing increases safe housing and seeks to eliminate discriminatory barriers for individuals in medication-assisted recovery from OUD. This project also includes an evaluation to enhance these services in the future.

Reentry Services provide peer-to-peer “reach-in” support during incarceration to increase access to MAT and warm handoff when persons are transitioning from an institutionalized setting into clinically appropriate, community-based care.

Serving special populations

PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG) collaborates with Education Service Center Region 13 to implement, manage, and report on the PAX GBG program in Texas schools. GBG is an evidence-based instructional and behavioral health strategy used daily by teachers and students in the classroom to improve self-regulation and co-regulation with peers.

The Texas Health and Human Services Aging Services Coordination office partners with Area Agencies on Aging to serve older adults with the Age Well Live Well campaign. This approach utilizes innovative and evidence-based resources to increase awareness about prescription opioid misuse, offer alternative pain management techniques, prevent or reduce intentional and unintentional drug consumption, and connect existing system infrastructures to compound service benefits to older adult consumers.

Health, Developmental, and Independence Services is a collaboration with physicians who work in HHSC-supported family planning programs to integrate overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery support services for the patient when and where they need it, thereby increasing access to evidence-based treatment, recovery support, and overdose prevention, and community support.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Project prepares individuals for release from incarceration back into their identified communities by providing pre-release MAT, linkage to ongoing treatment, peer recovery support, and overdose prevention services.

Emergency Medical Services Peer Referral Program provides first responders with access to referral services for MAT and recovery support programs, creating a pathway to recovery for first responders. In partnership with DSHS, staff in recovery are provided the opportunity to reinstate their professional license and return to work.

Demonstrating outcomes for a healthier future

Outputs

May 2017 through September 2020

Prevention

- 318,263 naloxone kits (two 4 mg doses) distributed
- 6,251 individuals received overdose prevention training
- 270,345 people participated in opioid misuse prevention activities

Treatment

- 7,265 individuals received MAT services
- 33,302 health screenings, testing, and treatment services for comorbid conditions were made available to individuals receiving MAT

Recovery

- 12,547 individuals with OUD were offered peer recovery coaching services
- 784 individuals were enrolled in long-term peer recovery coaching
- 107 individuals with a history of opioid use received recovery support services prior to and upon release from jail

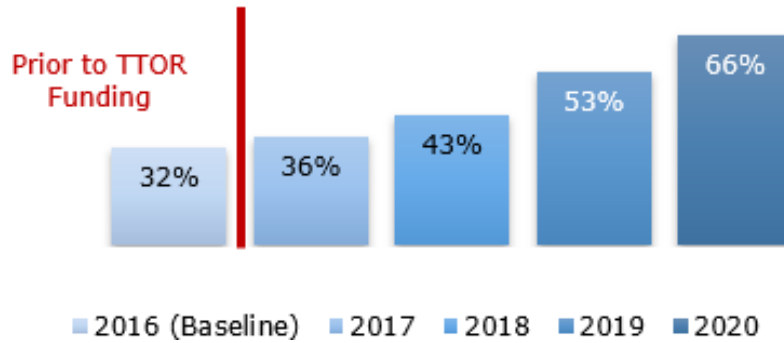
Integrated

- 1,257 individuals received overdose-related emergency response services
539 individuals with OUD received overdose-related services through Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT)

Evidence-Based Strategy Implementation Outcomes

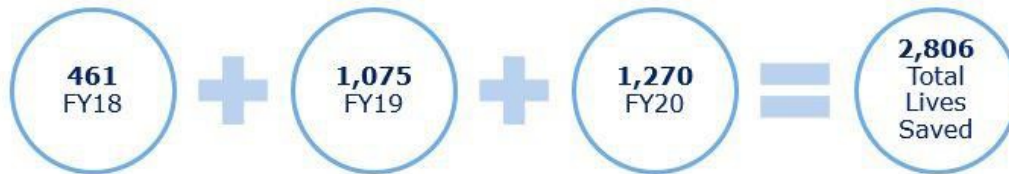
HHSC has seen an increase in the percentage of people served in evidence-based treatment for OUD, from 32% in FY 2016 to 66% in FY 2020. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, 685 admissions to MAT were attributed, in whole or in part, to a recovery coach.

Percent OUD Admissions to MAT



As of August 2020, a total of 2,806 overdose reversals have been reported using naloxone purchased with TTOR funds.

Opioid-Related Overdose Reversals



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