



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Tony Evers, Governor
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers:

I am pleased to submit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) 2021 Annual Report to the Governor on Activities relating to Substance Use Prevention and Treatment in Wisconsin. The report was prepared in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 51.45(4)(p), which requires DHS to submit an annual report on substance use treatment and prevention services. The report highlights substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery programs administered by the DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services.

Substance use disorders remain a significant challenge for individuals, families, and communities across Wisconsin. Successful implementation of evidence-based programs and new initiatives as described in this report supports our goal of Wisconsin becoming the nation's healthiest state, and a place where our young people can grow up safe, healthy, and ready to pursue opportunities for success.

Sincerely,

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary-designee

Enclosure

2021 Annual Report to the Governor on Activities Relating to Substance Use Prevention and Treatment



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Division of Care and Treatment Services

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This report is published annually in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 51.45(4)(p).

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) administered \$27,916,217 in federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG) funds, more than \$12 million in SAPTBG Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act (CAA) funding, and more than \$24 million in substance use funds from other federal and state sources. The Division of Care and Treatment Services (DCTS) oversees most DHS substance use programs in partnership with county and community agencies. DCTS also provides staff services to the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, a body appointed by the governor that is responsible for promoting effective substance use disorder prevention and treatment policies.

Need for Activities Relating to Substance Use

National. In 2020, the most recent data available at the time this report was compiled, approximately 58.7 percent of people in the United States age 12 and older used a substance in the past month (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMSHA], 2021). The costs related to the loss of productivity, health, and crime related to substance use total more than \$740 billion annually (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2017). It is estimated that for people age 12 and older, about 41.1 million people are in need of substance use treatment. Only about 4 million people, less than 10 percent, receive substance use treatment (SAMSHA, 2021).

Wisconsin drug overdose deaths increased from **10.9** (2010) to **29.4** (2021) per 100,000 population.

Wisconsin. In 2019, the most recent data available at the time this report was compiled, approximately 7.66 percent of people in Wisconsin had a substance use disorder, which is higher than the national average of 7.32 percent (SAMHSA, 2021).

Table 1 presents the prevalence of Wisconsin youth and adults who used various mood-altering, habit-forming substances and compares Wisconsin against the U.S. for different measures from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Wisconsin consistently reports higher percentages of both alcohol use and binge drinking. Furthermore, 38.5 percent of people age 12 and older in Wisconsin report a lower perception of great risk from having five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week compared to 44.8 percent of people in the United States (SAMHSA, 2020). More specifically, youth ages 12-17 report a much lower perception of risk (36.2 percent) from five or more alcoholic drinks than what national youth report (43.4 percent) (SAMHSA, 2020).

Table 1. Wisconsin Substance Use Percentage Estimates Age 12 and Over

Substance Use Measure	2017-2018 Survey		2018-2019 Survey	
	Wisconsin	U.S.	Wisconsin	U.S.
Past month alcohol use	59.6%	51.4%	59.9%	50.9%
Past year marijuana use	13.6%	15.5%	14.6%	16.7%
Past year cocaine use	2.3%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%
Past year heroin use	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Past year pain reliever misuse	4.2%	3.9%	3.4%	2.8%

Source: SAMSHA, 2017; SAMHSA, 2021 (National Survey on Drug Use and Health).

Table 2 shows the most recently available alcohol and drug use data among Wisconsin youth ages 12-17.

Table 2. Wisconsin Substance Use Percentage Estimates Ages 12-17

Substance Use Measure	2017-2018		2018-2019	
	Wisconsin	U.S.	Wisconsin	U.S.
Any alcohol use in the past month	10.5%	9.4%	11.1%	9.4%
Past year marijuana use	11.7%	12.5%	12.0%	12.8%
Past year cocaine use	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%
Past year heroin use	0.1%	0.1%	0.03%	0.02%
Past year pain reliever misuse	3.2%	2.9%	2.6%	2.5%

Source: SAMSHA, 2017; SAMHSA, 2021 (National Survey on Drug Use and Health).

Deaths in Wisconsin relating to drugs have been increasing over the last decade. The age-adjusted rate for mortality related to drugs increased from 10.9 deaths in 2010 to 29.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2021 (Data Direct, Opioid Summary Module, DHS 2022).

Table 3. Wisconsin Drug Overdose Death Rate

Drug Involvement	2010	2014	2018	2020	2021
Total drug overdose deaths	10.9	14.9	19.3	25.9	29.4
Drug overdose deaths involving any opioid	7.2	11.0	15.3	21.1	24.6
Drug overdose deaths involving prescription opioids	4.9	5.8	12.4	5.8	6.1
Drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids	1.1	1.6	9.4	18.1	22.3
Drug overdose deaths involving heroin	1.7	4.9	6.0	4.5	2.8
Drug overdose deaths involving cocaine	1.3	1.7	5.0	6.8	9.5
Drug overdose deaths involving psychostimulants	0.2	0.8	2.2	4.6	6.4

Source: Data Direct, Opioid Summary Module, DHS 2022.

The impacts of drug use, specifically opioids, are demonstrated in hospital data, as well as death records. The age-adjusted rate of emergency room hospitalizations for opioid overdoses has more than tripled from 17.1 per 100,000 population in 2010 to 53.7 per 100,000 population in 2021 (Data Direct, Opioid Hospitalization Module, DHS 2022).

To fully understand the prevalence of substance use disorder, it is important to understand the factors that shape it. These include individual aspects, such as perception of risk, physical and mental health, and trauma. The factors also include community aspects, such as access to service providers, availability of peer networks, stigma, and policies that promote racial and health equity. These individual and community factors help tell the story behind prevalence rates.

In response to the 2020 publication of the “Wisconsin Behavioral Health System Gaps Report,” a report commissioned by DHS and compiled by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Population Health Institute, DHS has continued to improve and enhance substance use services. Specifically, DHS has sought to enhance services for “marginalized social groups [who] experience disproportionate risk of behavioral health challenges as a result of coping with historical and ongoing systemic reduction of community resources, incarceration, displacement, social alienation, and state violence” (Vigna & Connor, 2020). In 2021, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery in the Division of Care and Treatment Services developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan. This plan mainly focuses on internal efforts, including the hiring, retention, and advancement of diverse staff. The plan also focuses on funding and contracting practices and the application of the National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG)

The SAPTBG is a federal program that provides funds to all 50 states to help plan, implement, and evaluate activities to prevent and treat substance use and promote public health. Based on a formula approved by the state Legislature, DHS annually distributes \$9.7 million in community aids from this block grant directly to Wisconsin's 72 counties. At least 20 percent of these funds must be spent on primary prevention activities. The remaining funds are expended for treatment and recovery support services, including a minimum of 10 percent allocated for treatment services for people who identify as female.

PREVENTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Prevention services funded under the SAPTBG must be evidence-based to ensure the greatest impact and highest quality services. In 2021, the following priority areas were targeted by primary prevention service providers:

- Underage drinking (ages 12-20).
- Adult binge drinking (ages 18-34).
- Drinking among pregnant people.
- Drinking and driving (especially among people ages 16-34).
- Opioid use for nonmedical purposes (especially among people ages 20-54).

DHS collects information from counties and other local prevention providers funded by the SAPTBG through the Substance Abuse Prevention-Services Information System (SAP-SIS).

Table 4 shows the number of people reached with prevention program services in 2021 compared to their distribution in the general population.

Table 4. Race/Ethnicity Distribution: General Population vs. People Reached, 2021

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of General Population	Percent of People Reached Through Prevention Programs
Native American	1.02%	1.4%
Asian	2.9%	2.77%
African American	6.38%	6.82%
Hispanic/Latino	7.58%	7.63%
Caucasian	80.38%	80.13%

Source: SAP-SIS, DHS 2021; 2021 U.S. census

Table 5 provides a snapshot of the types of county and other local prevention services provided across the state in 2021.

Table 5. Types of Prevention Programs, 2021

Prevention Program Type	Percent of Prevention Programs (n=246)
Universal Indirect (population-based programs and environmental strategies, such as policies or media campaigns)	31%
Universal Direct (interventions that directly serve an identifiable group of participants with unknown risk, such as afterschool programming or parenting classes)	51%
Selective (interventions that serve at-risk populations, such as mentorship programs)	7%
Indicated (activities that serve people in high-risk settings, such as student and employee assistance programs)	8%
Most Common Types of Activities	
Multiagency coordination and collaboration; coalitions	29%
Ongoing classroom and/or small group sessions	16%
Other activity	13%
Education programs for youth groups	9%
Parenting and family management	2%
Media campaigns	8%

Source: SAP-SIS, DHS 2021.

Alliance for Wisconsin Youth

Wisconsin Stat. §§ 51.45(7)(b)7 and 250.04(4)(a) require DHS to establish a program of prevention and intervention services. One of these programs is delivered through the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth (AWY), which brings together community members to positively impact youth by preventing substance use and other behavioral health concerns. AWY supported 110 community coalitions across the state in 2021.

AWY also supports regional prevention centers serving five regions. Through these regional prevention centers, which have contracts with DHS, AWY provides a statewide infrastructure for prevention activities by assisting community coalitions to accomplish DHS and AWY priorities and projects. In 2021, the regional prevention centers:

- Awarded grants to community coalitions to work on the state's prevention priorities and implement the Strategic Prevention Framework.
- Awarded scholarships to community coalitions to attend training events.
- Published the Substance Use Prevention Skills Training.
- Hosted a virtual statewide conference with networking sessions for AWY members.
- Hosted quarterly meetings with community coalitions.
- Provided training, technical assistance, and support on:
 - How to become culturally competent in programming.
 - How to identify impaired people and types of substances through the Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals presentations for teachers, health care providers, law enforcement, youth serving agencies, and parents.

- How to implement community alcohol policy changes.
- How to influence a county agency's use of the 20 percent block grant set-aside for prevention activities.
- How to use the Strategic Prevention Framework through Substance Use Prevention Skills Training events.
- Rebuilding coalitions and reengaging the community.
- How to address health disparities through prevention.

Program Name	Tribal Nations/Counties with Member Coalitions	Annual Funding Amount	Organizations Served in 2021
Alliance for Wisconsin Youth	7 tribal nations and 65 counties	\$604,595	110 coalitions

Department of Justice SAPTBG Youth Prevention and Intervention Program

DHS, in partnership with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Social Development Commission (SDC) in Milwaukee, funds substance use education and treatment services for participants in the SDC's youth diversion program, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §165.987. In 2021, SDC continued to reach out to Milwaukee County communities, providing presentations on substance use disorder prevention, interventions, and treatment. Zoom and telehealth services were the primary modalities to reach youth and their families. Some in-person presentations were delivered at schools, community organizations, and at SDC offices. Even with the challenges created by COVID-19, 432 youth and their families were provided with services. Additionally, SDC staff participated in online trainings to enhance their knowledge and skills. SDC also partnered with other community organizations to promote greater community visibility, including some faith-based programs.

Activities in 2021 included:

- Educating youth and caregivers on the consequences of substance use and risk behaviors.
- Helping youth and caregivers implement coping skills, engage in school, communicate better, manage anger, resist gang activities, grow their vocational skills, and find drug-free recreation activities.
- Sharing information about the predatory practices of alcohol and tobacco companies.
- Screening for substance use.
- Providing substance use counseling services.

Program Name	Service Area	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
DOJ SAPTBG Youth Prevention and Intervention Program	Milwaukee County	\$281,600	432

Community Improvement and Job Training Program

Wisconsin Community Services in Milwaukee through a contract with DHS under Wis. Stat. §46.48(26) works with vulnerable, underserved youth and young adults in Milwaukee County. In 2021, the Community Improvement and Job Training Program provided mentoring, job readiness workshops, career fairs, driver education support, job skill education, substance use disorder prevention education, violence prevention workshops, community building activities, and internship placements.

Program Name	Service Area	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Community Improvement and Job Training	Milwaukee County	\$250,000	120

Wisconsin Wins

Federal law requires states to conduct an annual survey to determine retailer violation rates for underage tobacco sales. Implemented in 2001, *Wisconsin Wins* is a statewide initiative designed to decrease youth access to tobacco products through retail compliance checks and retailer education. The program provides free training to retailers at www.WITobaccoCheck.org. In 2021, Wisconsin's noncompliance rate was 14.1 percent. In December 2019, the Tobacco 21 federal law raised the minimum age of purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21. Currently, Wisconsin state law does not align with the Tobacco 21 federal law, which has generated significant confusion and resulted in increased noncompliance rates. Activities in 2021 to address the confusion and reduce the noncompliance rate included compliance investigations using a positive reinforcement protocol, law enforcement involvement, promotion of www.WITobaccoCheck.org, community outreach activities, and a statewide media campaign on the federal Tobacco 21 law.

Retail Tobacco Sales to Minors: Noncompliance Rates	
Year	Rate
2010	4.7%
2011	5.0%
2012	5.4%
2013	7.3%
2014	6.4%
2015	6.8%
2016	7.2%
2017	7.7%
2018	5.8%
2019	5.5%
2020	NA
2021	14.1%

Problem Gambling Awareness Campaign

According to published national studies, there are an estimated 232,525 people in Wisconsin who have a problem with gambling. Their average debt in 2021 was \$58,094. The societal costs of problem gambling to Wisconsin are estimated at \$10,000 per gambler in productivity, crime, and health care costs. DHS contracts with the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG) to carry out a statewide problem gambling awareness campaign and staff a free, 24-hour helpline (1-800-GAMBLE-5). The helpline received 22,201 calls in 2021. Helpline callers are referred to counseling services and Gamblers Anonymous meetings in their communities. Additionally, the WCPG hosts an annual conference for professional counselors with workshops on how to serve people with problem gambling issues. The WCPG also provides a 60-hour training program for therapists who want to treat people with a gambling disorder. The WCPG presents at schools, colleges, prisons, and other organizations as requested. The WCPG also hosted a webinar series in 2021. Educational presentations were given to 1,500 students and 13 teachers across 43 classrooms.

Program Name	Service Area	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Problem Gambling Awareness Campaign, Wis. Stat. § 46.03(43)	Statewide	\$396,000	22,201 (helpline calls)

Tribal Initiatives

In 2021, under the Tribal Family Services Program authorized by Wis. Stat. § 46.71(1), DHS provided more than \$1 million in SAPTBG funds to Wisconsin's 11 federally recognized tribal nations to address substance use disorder prevention. DHS staff worked with the tribal nations to identify the extent of local substance use disorders and determine appropriate interventions, including scheduling speakers and ongoing treatment discussions for systems change meetings.

Program Name	Service Area	Annual Funding Amount	Number of People or Families Served in 2021
Tribal Family Services	All 11 federally recognized tribes	\$1,138,900	1,389**

**Number of people served in 2020, the most recent available data.

Small Talks: How Wisconsin Prevents Underage Drinking

Caregivers are the most powerful influence on a young person's choices about underage drinking. Research shows that children are 50 percent less likely to drink when caregivers start talking about the risks as early as age 8. DHS developed the Small Talks campaign in 2020 to encourage these conversations. Small Talks focuses on helping caregivers get the facts about underage drinking, start talking, and feel confident tackling the tough questions from children. In 2021, the Small Talks campaign included:

- A paid media buy of online ads, social media ads, and billboards
- Partnerships with well-known caregivers and role models who endorsed the campaign on social media, including former Green Bay Packers player Donald Driver.
- Production and distribution of over 60,000 campaign materials delivered to 150 organizations throughout the state for distribution in their communities.
- The development of a guide for partners on how to host their own community presentations on the key messages of the campaign.
- A research project that showed overall awareness of the initiative was around 10 percent among adults statewide, with a quarter of the survey respondents who stated they were aware of the resources stating they used information provided online to talk with the children in their lives.

Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs

In 2016, DHS received a \$1,858,080 five-year federal grant (\$371,616 per year) to implement the Wisconsin Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) project. This project ended August 31, 2021. SPF Rx aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications; promote safe opioid prescribing practices; reduce prescription drug misuse and related consequences; strengthen prevention capacity and infrastructure at the state and community levels; and leverage, redirect, and align statewide funding streams and resources for prevention. Through a data-driven needs assessment, Dodge and Sauk counties were identified as the target partners for this grant.

In 2021, the AWY member coalitions in Dodge and Sauk counties continued to struggle to connect with their communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, both coalitions leveraged the SPF Rx funding to establish and build capacity to work on projects related to opioids and other issues such as underage drinking and vape products.

The UW Population Health Institute (UWPHI) collected and analyzed data in Sauk and Dodge counties on the effectiveness of the grant funding to address the nonmedical use of prescription drugs and opioid overdoses. A randomized community survey was conducted before, during, and after the campaign to assess community behaviors regarding the safe handling, storage, and disposal of prescription drugs and opioids. Positive behavioral change was noted.

Program Name	Service Area	2021 Funding Amount
Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs	Dodge and Sauk counties	\$284,344

TREATMENT AND RECOVERY-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, approximately 75 percent of the SAPTBG is expended for treatment and recovery support services. In 2021, more than \$60 million in block grant, county tax levy, county revenue, and other federal and state funds were expended by county agencies to provide substance use treatment and support services for 21,836 people. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a reduced provider workforce, reduced capacity of treatment facilities, and a lower use of substance use treatment and recovery support services than in previous years.

In 2021, county agencies reported the following treatment service outcomes for people having substance use diagnoses:

Table 6. Wisconsin Addiction Treatment Outcomes

Outcome Measure	2021 Outcome
Completed treatment	58.7%
At discharge, no drug use in the past 30 days*	80.4%
Employed at discharge*	65.8%
Not rearrested at discharge*	77.5%

*Includes data on people completing treatment only.

Source: DHS Program Participation System.

Intoxicated Driver Program

DHS oversees tribal nation and county screening, referral, treatment, and case management services for drivers convicted for operating under the influence per Wis. Stat. § 346.63. The goal of the Intoxicated Driver Program is to engage those who drive under the influence in an assessment for education and treatment services. This screening provides a critical intervention to reduce future occurrences of operating while intoxicated offenses. The program is self-supporting through the fees paid for assessments. Additionally, each county retains approximately half of the driver improvement surcharge (Wis. Stat. § 346.655) paid by offenders to support the treatment of impaired drivers, specifically those who may be underinsured or uninsured. Each year, DHS offers supplemental funding to tribal nations and counties to cover excess costs for the treatment of impaired drivers.

Impaired driving increased by nearly 15% from 2020 to 2021. In 2019, an evaluation revealed compliance with Intoxicated Driver Program driver safety plans was 87 percent, leading to longer periods in which the person is actively engaged in treatment. Recent research from the University of Wisconsin also found that rearrest rates within five years among those convicted of operating while intoxicated who participated in the Intoxicated Driver Program and complied with their driver safety plan was significantly lower (19%) compared to participants who did not comply with their driver safety plan (32%) and to those who bypassed the entire Intoxicated Driver Program process by failing to comply with the court order to obtain an assessment (34%). Participation in the Intoxicated Driver Program is associated with reduced recidivism at all ages. (UW Population Health Institute, 2021).

Program Name	Service Area	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Intoxicated Driver Program	Statewide	Self-supporting	25,988
Supplemental/emergency funds	14 counties	\$921,167 awarded	Not tracked

2021 Fact Sheet

County Authorized People Served:

21,836 in CY 2021

Substance Use:

Alcohol	51.1%
Marijuana	20.5%
Opioids	14.7%
Cocaine	12.0%
Amphetamine	10.1%

Gender:

Male	66.9%
Female	33.1%

Age:

Under 18	2.1%
18-24	13.2%
25-44	57.8%
45-64	24.7%
65+	2.4%

Race/ethnicity:

White	78.4%
Black	9.5%
Amer. Indian	<1%
Nat. Hawaiian/Pacific Isl.	<1%
Asian	2.8%
Multiracial	3.9%
Hispanic or Latino	7.2%
Not Hispanic/Latino	86.9%

Treatment modality*:

Outpatient	86.6%
Detox	9.8%
Day Treatment	1.5%
Residential-Short	1.2%
Inpatient	0.6%

*Not including crisis services, daily living skills, case management

Criminal and Youth Justice Programs

Many people enter into treatment and recovery through the justice system. DHS administers or serves as partner on five programs that address substance use treatment among justice-involved populations. Screening, assessment, treatment, and monitoring services are provided.

Program Name	Grantees	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Community Partnership Diversion Youth Justice	Brown, Dane, Door, Portage, Trempealeau, Washburn, Wood counties; Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$1,636,129	263
Treatment Alternative Program, Wis. Stat. § 46.65	Dodge, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, and Rock counties	\$900,962 \$726,300 block grant; \$174,662 state funds	219*
Youth and Adult Institution, Halfway House, and Community Treatment	Department of Corrections	\$1,347,417	327*
Prisoner Reintegration (housing, employment, education, and treatment), Wis. Stat. § 46.48(8)(b)	Wisconsin Community Services	\$125,000	11*
Nonnarcotic, Nonaddictive Injectable Medication-Assisted Treatment Services within Jail and Community Settings	Bayfield, Brown, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Racine, Rock, Shawano, Sheboygan, Washington counties and Unified Services (Grant/Iowa counties); Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$750,000	976*

*Number of people served in 2020, the most recent available data.

Treatment Alternative Program

DHS offers grants to agencies to provide substance use services as a treatment alternative in lieu of incarceration. Treatment Alternative Program funds are used to provide treatment, case management, and recovery services to eligible people who are referred from criminal justice system partners. Eligibility is determined using evidence-based risk and needs assessments. These programs enroll a variety of justice-involved individuals based on the county's needs and program design. Treatment alternative programs are funded with SAPTBG funds and state general purpose revenue funds. Treatment alternative programs may work in cooperation with Treatment Alternatives and Diversion programs to enhance services or can be operated independently as diversion programs. Each year, more than 3,500 days of incarceration are averted through participation in these programs.

Department of Corrections

DHS offers grants to the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide substance use services to justice-involved individuals both within state prisons as well as in the community. Four separate grants are offered to serve community corrections. The funds are used to provide substance use services to people who identify as female prior to release into the community; residential treatment beds for those on probation, parole, or extended supervision; and youth services both within the facility and in the community. In collaboration with DOC, a certified peer specialist program provides support for Division of Community Corrections clients from the beginning of the recovery process.

Medication-Assisted Treatment in a Jail Setting

Under Wis. Stat. § 46.47, state funds (\$750,000/year) are awarded to tribal nations and counties to provide nonnarcotic, nonaddictive, injectable medication to jail residents who volunteer for the program within the five days preceding their release into the community. Currently, 14 county jails throughout the state are participating in the program. The tribal nation or county must have an established drug court, provide care coordination for residents exiting tribal nation and county jails, and enroll participants in Medicaid for the continuation of care after release.

Prisoner Reentry Program

Under Wis. Stat. § 46.48 (8), the Prisoner Reentry Program provides state funds (\$125,000/year) to assist justice-involved people in Milwaukee County transition from incarceration to community living by engaging participants with prerelease planning and improving continuity between prerelease and post-release services. The program fills the gap of needs not covered by the reentry initiatives managed by DOC. Through the use of liaisons, mentors, and case managers, participants receive case coordination prior to their release. This coordination assists in planning for and obtaining the housing, employment, education, and treatment needs that offenders will have upon release.

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion

Treatment Alternatives and Diversion is a program administered through DOJ in collaboration with DHS, DOC, Office of the Director of State Courts, the State Public Defender's Office, and county agencies. DHS works in collaboration with DOJ to train treatment court professionals in evidenced-based practices in order to address offender treatment needs and ultimately reduce recidivism rates. Projects deliver treatment and diversion alternatives to jails and prisons for nonviolent adult offenders with assessed substance use problems.

Outreach and Treatment Program for People Who Inject Drugs

In 2021, Vivent Health, Public Health Madison and Dane County, and Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services implemented a variety of injection drug use prevention and harm reduction services throughout Wisconsin, including in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Racine, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vilas, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties. Injection drug use prevention services focus on outreach and education, pre-treatment services, and naloxone training and distribution. Vivent Health reported 1,688 overdose reversals in 2021, a 248% increase from 2020. Screening, assessing, and implementing evidence-based treatment practices for people who inject drugs were conducted by the following agencies: Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services, Vivent Health, Unity Point Meriter, and United Community Center. The grantees also worked to identify and prioritize people who inject drugs who were uninsured or underinsured.

Program Name	Grantees	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Injection Drug Use Prevention/Intervention	Public Health Madison Dane County, Vivent Health, Waukesha	\$749,961	27,771
Injection Drug Use Treatment	Milwaukee, Waukesha, United Community Center, Unity Point Meriter, and Vivent Health	\$1,268,659	979

Opioid and Methamphetamine Treatment Programs in Underserved, High-Need Areas

In 2021, the opioid treatment programs created under 2013 Wisconsin Act 195 and 2017 Wisconsin Act 27. served 643 people in rural areas of the state. See the [Opioid and Methamphetamine Treatment Centers: 2022 Report to the Legislature](#) for more information.

Program Name	Grantees	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Opioid and Methamphetamine Treatment Programs in Underserved, High-Need Areas, Wis. Stat. § 51.422	HOPE Consortium, Family Health Center-Ladysmith Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center, Lake Superior Community Health Center, Northeast Wisconsin Heroin Opioid Prevention Education, NorthLakes Community Clinic	\$2,262,667	643

Gender-Specific Outreach and Treatment

In 2021, DHS managed seven community programs in partnership with tribal nations, counties, and community providers to provide services to people who identify as female, parents, and families. These services included substance use prevention efforts, substance use treatment, parent education, support services for parents and their children, vocational assistance, and housing assistance.

Program Name	Grantees	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Outreach and treatment for low income and multisystem involved people, Wis. Stat. § 46.55, and urban/rural treatment for people who identify as female, Wis. Stat. § 46.86(6)	ARC Community Services, Ho-Chunk Nation, Meta House, United Community Center, Waukesha County	\$2,484,631	272
Milwaukee family-centered treatment, Wis. Stat. §§ 46.86(1), (2m), and (3m)	Community Advocates, Meta House, United Community Center	\$1,105,000	123
Healthy beginnings, Wis. Stat. § 46.48(29)	ARC Community Services	\$175,000	21*
Division of Milwaukee Child Protection Services substance use services, Wis. Stat. § 48.561(3)(a)(2)	Department of Children and Families, Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services	\$1,583,000	380
Women and dependent children services, Wis. Stat. § 46.86(5)	ARC Community Services	\$235,000	42*
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – substance use services, Wis. Stat. § 46.48(30)	Milwaukee	\$4,394,595	847
Perinatal substance use screening, early intervention, and referral	Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation	\$186,500	120

*Number served calculated from state fiscal year 2022 reports covering activities from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Underserved Populations

Substance use services providers across the state aim to reach and meet the needs of underserved populations. In 2021, approximately 21 percent of people served through the public substance use services system were members of a racial/ethnic underserved group. In 2021, DHS supported four initiatives addressing substance use treatment and support for underserved populations, including the Urban Black and Hispanic Program, bilingual residential treatment, and urban youth prevention services. Also, three tribal nations received SAPTBG funds to provide culturally specific substance use services.

Program Name	Grantees	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Urban Black and Hispanic Program, Wis. Stat. § 46.975(2)(a)	Community Advocates, Waukesha County	\$200,000	47
Bilingual residential treatment, Wis. Stat. § 46.48(5)	United Community Center	\$220,842	61
Urban youth prevention	Brown, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Rock, and Waukesha counties	\$200,000	1,830*
Tribal nation substance use treatment	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Sokaogon Chippewa Community	\$21,800	15*

*Number of people served in 2020, the most recent available data.

Addressing Methamphetamine Use

In 2021, methamphetamine treatment grant funds were used to support individuals, families, and communities.

Program Name	Grantees	Annual Funding Amount	People Served in 2021
Methamphetamine Treatment	Barron, Burnett, Polk, and St. Croix counties	\$200,000	158

Comprehensive Community Services

Comprehensive Community Services is a program for people of all ages who need ongoing services for mental health or substance use concerns beyond occasional outpatient care, but less than the intensive care provided in an inpatient setting. It is administered by DHS and operated by tribal nation and county agencies. The cumulative number of consumers served by the three tribal agencies and 70 county agencies offering the program grew throughout 2021, from 10,378 people enrolled at the beginning of the first quarter to 10,745 at the end of the fourth quarter. In addition, 19 percent of Comprehensive Community Services participants served in 2021 had a known substance use concern (excluding tobacco).

Peer Specialists

The Wisconsin Peer Specialist Employment Initiative trains and certifies peer specialists and parent peer specialist to work in a variety of mental health and substance use settings. Certification is awarded after successful completion of a DHS-approved training and passage of a DHS-approved exam. A certified peer specialist is an individual with experience with mental health and/or substance use issues. A certified parent peer specialist is an individual with experience raising a child with behavioral health challenges. Approximately \$156,710 in SAPTBG funds were used to support peer specialist training and certification activities. In 2021, 331 people earned the peer specialist certification with 1,244 people certified in total. Additionally, 14 parents became earned the peer specialist certification with 55 parents certified in total.

Consumer-Directed Activities

DHS supports activities that encourage people with lived experience in recovery from a substance use disorder to share their stories and support others seeking recovery. The lead partner for this work is Wisconsin Voices for Recovery (WVFR). In 2021, Wisconsin Voices for Recovery managed:

- A virtual Rally for Recovery celebrating September Recovery Month, which provided an opportunity to highlight the gains of people in recovery and the service providers who make recovery possible.
- The ED2Recovery+ Program that connects recovery coaches or peer supporters to people who have experienced an opioid overdose.
- The installation and maintenance of dozens of boxes placed in public locations filled with free naloxone, the opioid overdose reversal drug.
- A program that connected people with an opioid use disorder in jail with a medication-assisted treatment provider prior to their release.
- A series of interviews posted online with people in recovery to reduce the stigma around substance use disorders.

SAPTBG Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act Supplemental Funding

In 2021, DHS was awarded \$25,492,891 in SAPTBG funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act (CAA). The funding period began March 15, 2021. It will end March 14, 2023. In 2021, SAPTBG CAA funding supported:

- Services provided by 72 counties based on identified local needs.
- Services provided by two tribal nations.
- Primary prevention programming for K-12 students.
- A tobacco use prevention campaign.
- The development and operation of drop-in centers where people experiencing a substance use challenge can get support from people with similar life experiences.
- Greater access to NARCAN® through boxes filled with the opioid overdose medication placed in public places and doses given to people leaving county jails who are at risk for an opioid overdose.
- Treatment services for people who identify as female.
- Training for clinical supervisors to provide greater opportunities for qualified treatment trainees to gain the necessary experience for their professional license.
- A program that supported the development of professionals who identify as a member of a diverse community to ensure the workforce reflects the diversity of people seeking help.

State Opioid Response Grant

In 2020, Wisconsin received a new round of State Opioid Response (SOR) funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. A total of \$16,728,087 was available from October 2020 through September 2021 to address the opioid epidemic and the misuse of stimulants.

DHS used this funding to support unmet treatment needs, the expansion of medication-assisted treatment options, opioid treatment centers, and recovery support services. In 2021, 602 people received treatment services for an opioid use disorder and 634 people received treatment services for a stimulant use disorder. A total of 1,943 people received recovery support services, including coaching, housing, and assistance in finding and keeping a job.

Other projects funded by State Opioid Response funds in 2021 included:

- The NARCAN® Direct Program. This program provides NARCAN®, the opioid overdose reversal medication, at no cost to selected community agencies that engage in community training and distribution activities. In 2021, 881 kits were distributed through this program. Participating agencies reported 1,966 opioid overdoses that were reversed as a result of NARCAN® distributed through this program.
- The Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Line. This treatment referral service received 7,159 calls, chats, and texts
- The ED2Recovery Project. This program connected 827 people who experienced an opioid overdose to a recovery coach.
- Hosting the virtual Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit, attended by nearly 600 people.
- Provider trainings, with 83 sessions attended by 355 people from 21 different agencies.

DHS received permission from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to continue spending the previous round of State Opioid Response funds. A total of \$8,250,000 was available to support prevention, treatment, and recovery services. This funding supported:

- Projects to reduce the misuse of opioids and stimulants organized by 61 community coalitions.
- Treatment for 165 people.
- Recovery services for 1,122 people.

STATE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE

DHS provides staff services to the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA), a group established under Wis. Stat. §§ 13.098 and 14.24 to coordinate substance use disorder planning and funding efforts in Wisconsin. SCAODA also advises the governor, legislature, and state agencies on prevention, treatment, and recovery matters. Meetings are held in March, June, September, and December.

In 2021, SCAODA and its four standing committees—Prevention, Cultural Diversity, Intervention and Treatment, and Planning and Funding—continued providing statewide leadership on a wide variety of current substance use disorder issues. This work included:

- The provision of guidance and resources on efforts to increase diversity in the substance use disorder workforce.
- The provision of guidance on providing culturally appropriate services that meet the specific needs of different underserved population groups, including integration of the National CLAS standards into strategic planning, policy development, and program implementation.
- Sharing information with providers and policymakers on the trends and needs regarding substance use disorder and best practices for service delivery.
- Partnerships with DHS, the Department of Safety and Professional Services, counties, and providers to clarify certification requirements for the substance use disorder workforce, promote alignment with Medicaid and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 75 requirements, and promote continued education and training for people seeking to enter the substance use treatment workforce.
- Sharing ongoing feedback and input to DHS regarding the newly launched Medicaid benefit for residential substance use disorder treatment.
- Development of a report and recommendations related to excessive alcohol use in Wisconsin, “[Moving Forward: Policies and Strategies to Prevent and Reduce Excessive Alcohol Use in Wisconsin.](#)”

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention-Quality Improvement Program

The Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention-Quality Improvement Program promotes implementation of projects using the “Plan-Do-Study-Act” model. In 2021, DHS continued its partnership with UW-Madison’s Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and 36 treatment centers. In 2021, this program received \$134,000 in SAPTBG funds.

Motivational Interviewing Training

Motivational interviewing is a proven approach to address a range of behavioral health concerns. In 2021, DHS provided 11 virtual workshops involving 217 professionals representing dozens of agencies. DHS facilitated 64 implementation team meetings, provided 95 consultation sessions, and completed eight improvement cycles using the “Plan-Do-Study-Act” model. DHS also published an evaluation [report](#) of motivational interviewing implementation activities in the community forensic services system.

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral Treatment Professional Training

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is a proven approach to engage people in health care and school settings who are misusing drugs. In 2021, over 600 providers completed an online training to become eligible for Medicaid reimbursement when delivering SBIRT in health care settings. Additionally, DHS provided technical assistance on the statewide school SBIRT implementation project to the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Center, with 133 student services staff representing 24 school districts participating.

Trauma-Informed Care Training and Presentations

Trauma-informed care is an approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role that trauma has played in their lives. In 2021, DHS held 47 training/consultation events on trauma-informed care attended by a total of 2,763 people. The organizations that received trauma-informed care training in 2021 included: Solutions Center Homeless Shelter, NewCap, Group Health Cooperative, City of Madison, Menomonie Tribe, Madison East High School.

Conferences that included trauma-informed care workshops included the Statewide Prosecutor’s Conference; Opioids, Stimulants, and Trauma Summit; ED2Recovery Peer Provider Conference; Wisconsin Child Support Conference; and the Wisconsin Alliance to Information and Referral Systems Conference.

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