



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Grand Forks Public Health

(701) 787-8100

Fax (701) 787-8145

151 South 4th Street, Suite N301

Grand Forks, ND 58201-4735

www.grandforksgov.com/publichealth

October 19, 2023

Ms. Pam Sagness
Executive Director, Behavioral Health
North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services
600 East Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0250

Dear Ms. Sagness,

I am writing on behalf of Grand Forks Public Health, which serves the political subdivisions of the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County. As part of our commitment to addressing the opioid crisis in our community, we have developed a comprehensive plan for the utilization of the opioid settlement funds allocated to both the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County.

I am pleased to inform you that our plan has received unanimous approval from the respective City Council and County Commission, and we are now eager to share it with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with the requirements set forth in North Dakota law.

City of Grand Forks

1. Allocate funds to support a transformation of the community mental health coordinator to a hybrid mental health coordinator and prevention educator.
 - a. This role would seek to provide a behavioral health primary prevention focused curriculum to school aged children in the City of Grand Forks, starting with pilot schools first
 - b. This role would be up to 0.5 FTE
2. Support the Opioid Response Coordinator position
 - a. This would further empower this role to manage a complex opioid funding environment and support additional advocacy
3. Support Grand Forks Withdrawal Management Center
 - a. This would help enhance the opioid specific services and education for the center which is the only 24 hour availability of safe withdrawal services for people who use opioids

Grand Forks County

1. Establish a Medications for Addiction Treatment Program at Grand Forks County Correctional Center

- a. Service would continue existing medications for addiction treatment care plans
 - b. Funds would be used to support the rapid intrafacility transport of inmates for clients receiving MAT and those receiving addiction counseling services at the facility
2. Support the establishment of a Medications for Addiction Treatment Program at Grand Forks County Correctional Center by establishing a 340b medication discount program
 - a. Accessing 340b medication discounts would significantly decrease the cost of providing medications for addiction treatment, ensuring long term viability of a program.
3. Support Community Medical Services to ensure continued availability of methadone as a treatment for opioid use disorder in Grand Forks County and at Grand Forks County Correctional Center
4. Support Inspire Pharmacy's program to fill client affordability gaps for medications for addiction treatment
 - a. This program was approved and funds expended prior to the establishment of the requirement in North Dakota law for reporting of opioid settlement expenditure plans.
5. Support Grand Forks Public Health's APC Project Syringe Service Program to purchase supplies for program participants
 - a. This program was approved and funds expended prior to the establishment of the requirement in North Dakota law for reporting of opioid settlement expenditure plans.

We are committed to transparency and accountability in the use of these funds, and we believe that our plan is aligned with the broader objectives of addressing the opioid crisis in North Dakota.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continued collaboration with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division to make a positive impact on the opioid crisis in our community.

Sincerely,



Tess Wall

Director, Grand Forks Public Health

Enclosures: Opioid Settlement Plan Presentation – City of Grand Forks, Opioid Settlement Staff Report – City of Grand Forks, Opioid Settlement Plan Presentation – Grand Forks County



**City of Grand Forks
Staff Report**

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
Maureen Storstad
09/18/2023
Maureen Storstad
City Auditor

**Committee of the Whole – September 11, 2023
City Council – September 18, 2023**

Agenda Item: Opioid Settlement Plan

**Submitted by: Tess Moeller, Public Health Director
 Michael Dulitz, Opioid Response Coordinator**

Staff Recommended Action: Approve spending plan and necessary budget amendments for City and County Opioid Settlement Funds

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Vein, seconded by Lunski to move to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action: Motion by Osowski, seconded by Weigel to approve consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

BACKGROUND: In early 2019, the City of Grand Forks entered litigation against several pharmaceutical, distribution, and retail companies believed to have contributed to the opioid epidemic as part of a multi-district litigation case. This resulted seven completed settlements and three pending settlements. The first settlement payments started to arrive in 2022. The settlements are split between states and political subdivisions and include requirements on how the settlement funds are spent, with most of those funds required to be spent on mitigation of the opioid epidemic. Additionally, the SB2014 was signed into law during the past legislative session. This articulates public health units involvement in the planning and spending of opioid settlement funds with additional reporting requirements to the state.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT: Settlements have been reached with seven of the 10 entities engaged in settlement discussions, with settlements pending with Mallinckrodt, Endo, and Purdue Pharmaceuticals. Based on analysis of the completed settlements, Grand Forks is set to receive approximately \$850,000 over the next 18 years. Pending settlements could increase that amount by approximately \$125,000 to \$200,000. Initial estimates of the completed settlements include yearly settlement payments of \$50,000 – 75,000 through 2030, with payments decreasing in later years.

Grand Forks Public Health (GFPH) seeks to utilize the city’s opioid settlement funds to engage in enhanced behavioral health prevention activities, targeting youth prevention through Mental

Health Matters. Funds will also be allocated to ensure local administration of settlement funds and latitude to engage with policy makers. In addition, approval is sought for necessary budget amendments for GFPH to accept and manage the county's opioid settlement funds based on a spending plan approved by the County Commission. Finally, GFPH has engaged with the State's opioid settlement committee to advocate for continued funding to local public health units to support our growing prevention, treatment, and recovery infrastructure.

SUPPORT MATERIALS

Presentation



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

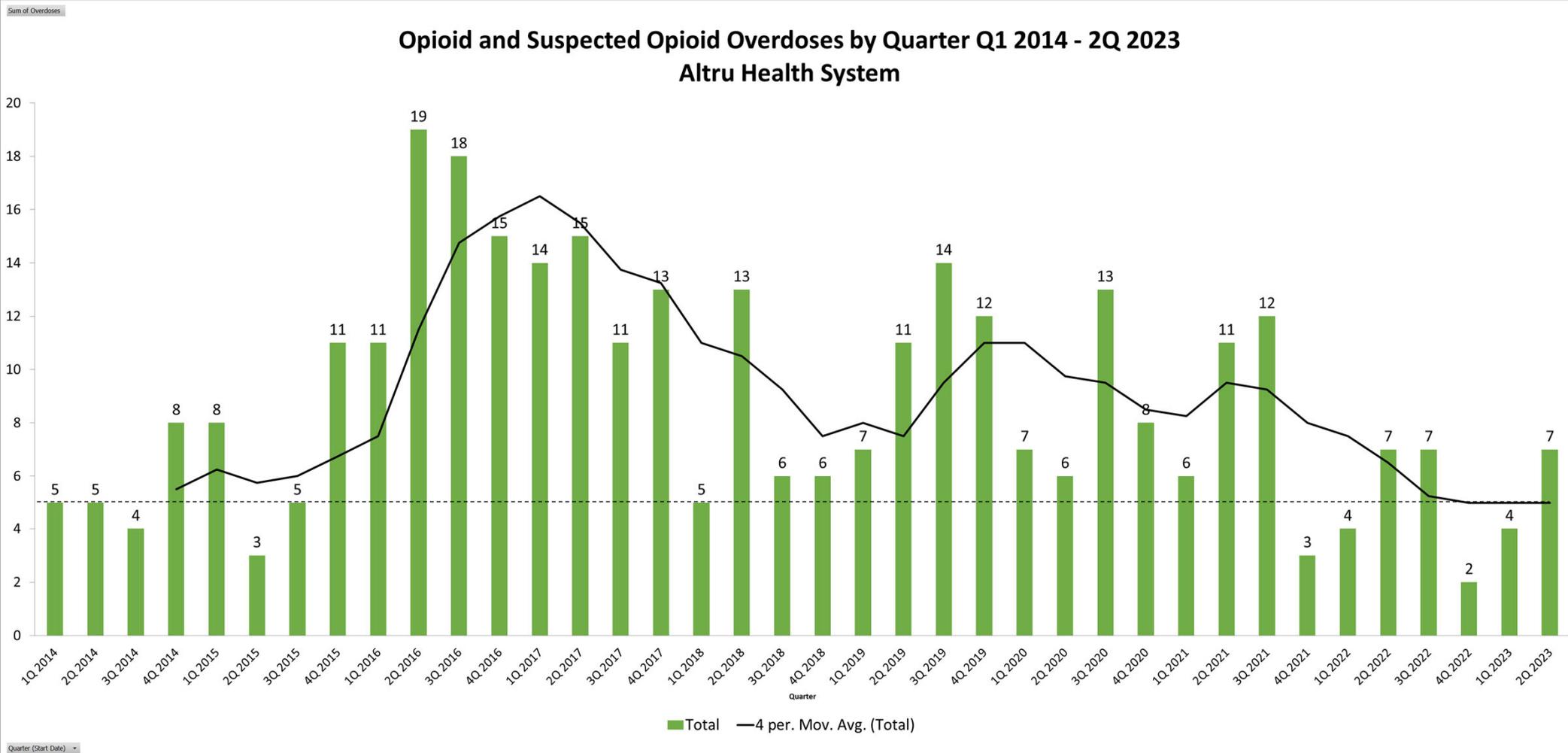
Grand Forks Public Health

Opioid Settlement Strategy

Michael Dulitz, MPH, NRP
Opioid Response Coordinator
Grand Forks Public Health

Current Situation

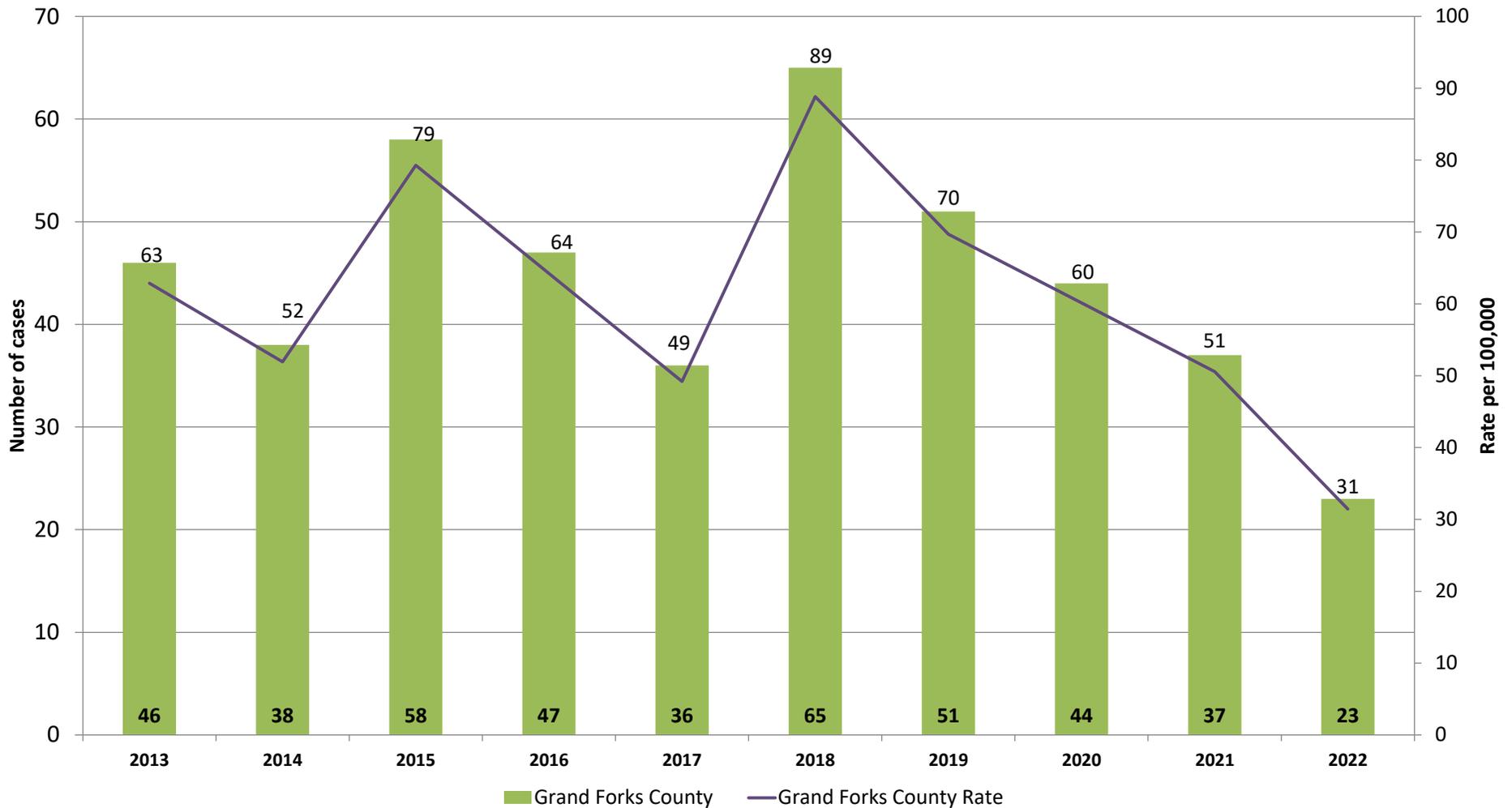
Opioid and Suspected Opioid Overdoses by Quarter Q1 2014 - 2Q 2023
Altru Health System





Current Situation

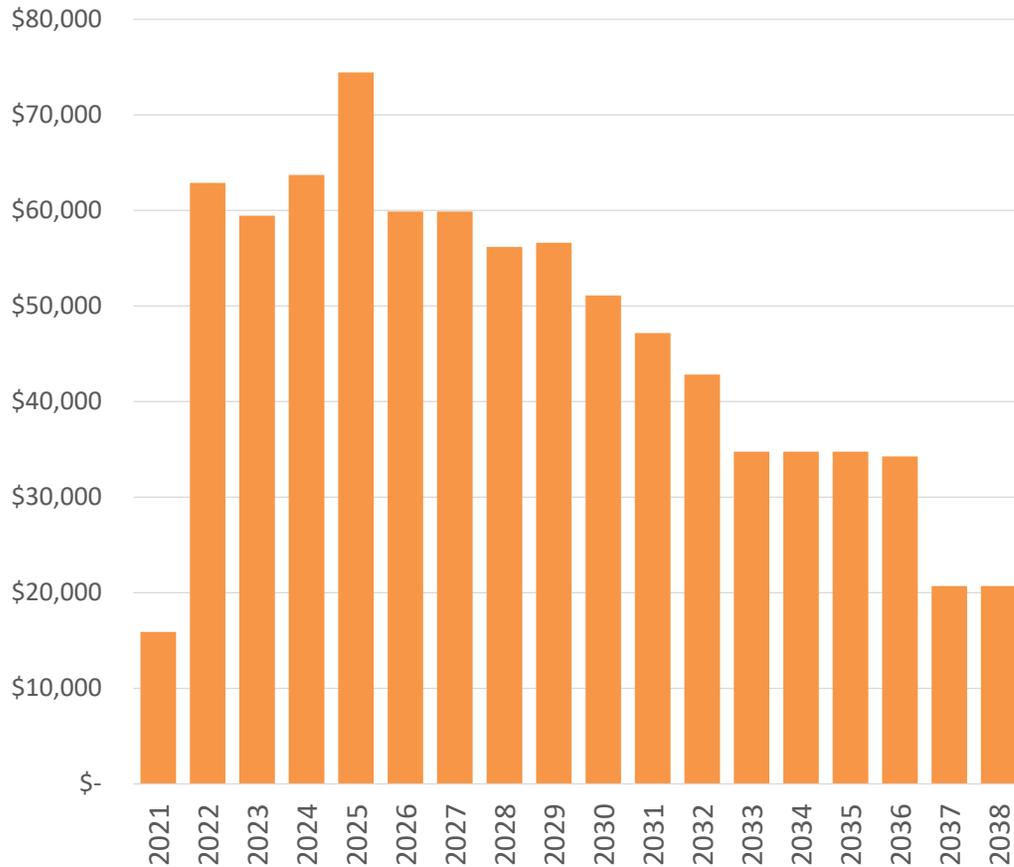
Hepatitis C Cases and Rates, 2013 - 2022





Estimated Settlement

Estimated Opioid Settlement Payments by Year
City of Grand Forks



City of Grand Forks Opioid Settlement Estimated Settlement Amounts		
Company	Settlement	Distributed over (Years)
Opioid Distributors	\$355,000	17
Janssen	\$105,000	11
CVS	\$87,000	10
Walgreens	\$94,000	14
Walmart	\$56,000	6
Teva	\$95,000	13
Allergan	\$51,000	7
Mallinckrodt	Pending	
Endo	Pending	
Purdue	Pending	
Total	\$845,000	17

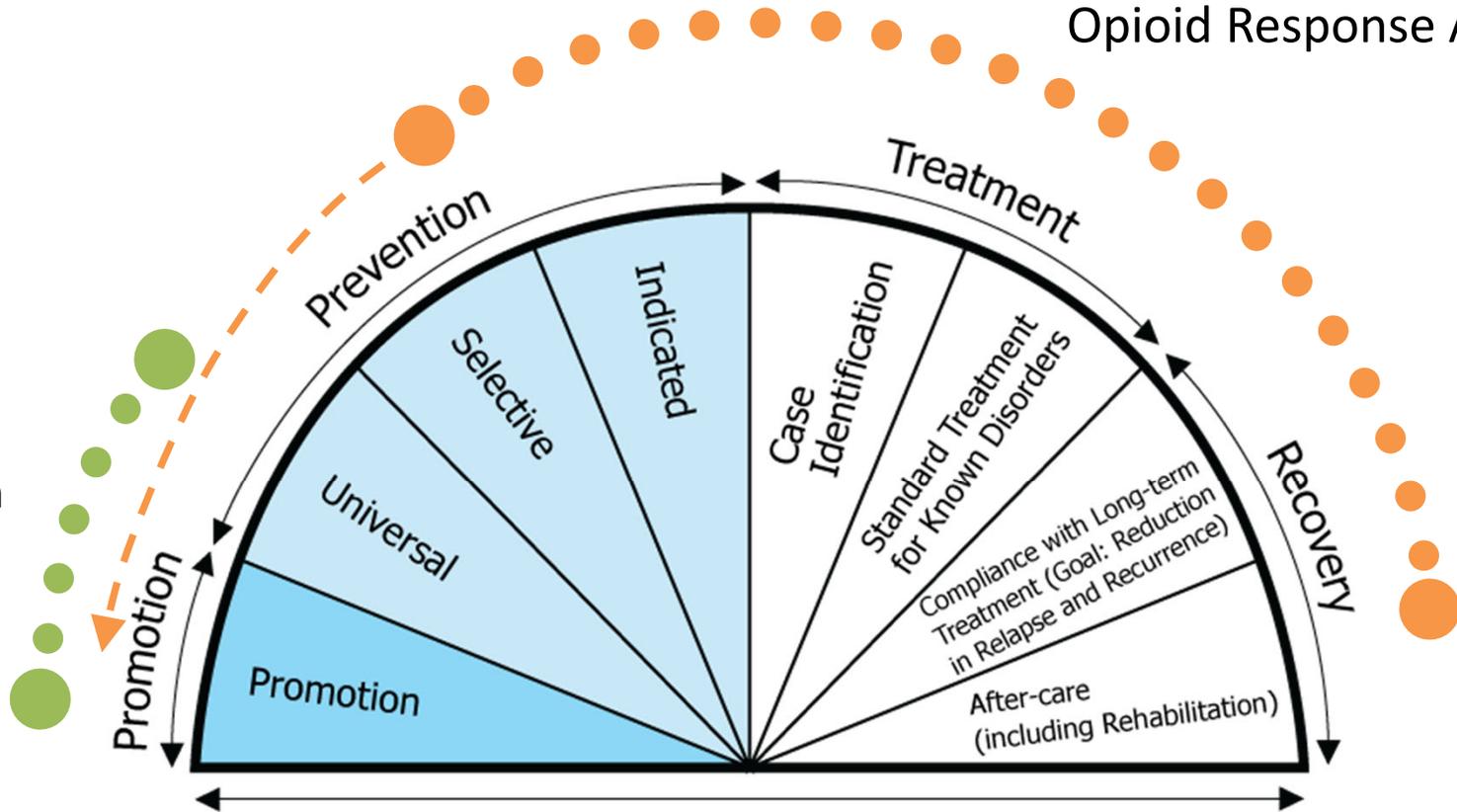
Numbers may not add up due to rounding



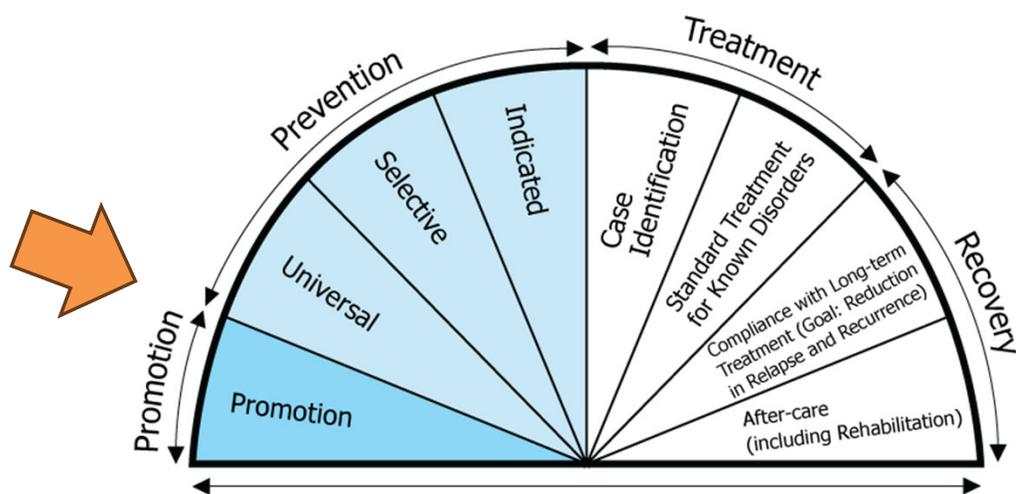
Community Efforts

Grand Forks Public Health
Opioid Response Activities

Grand Forks
Substance
Abuse
Prevention
Coalition,
Mental Health
Matters, and
others



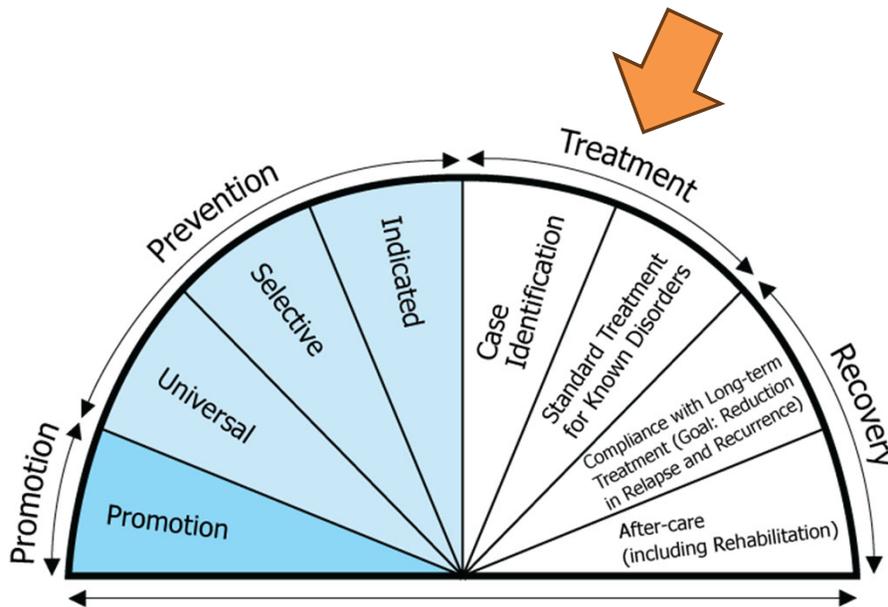
Behavioral Health Prevention



- Universal Prevention and Promotion
- Align prevention frameworks
 - School based prevention programming
 - Blue Zones
- Mental Health Matters
 - Up to 1.0 FTE in 2024
 - 0.5 FTE 2025-2030

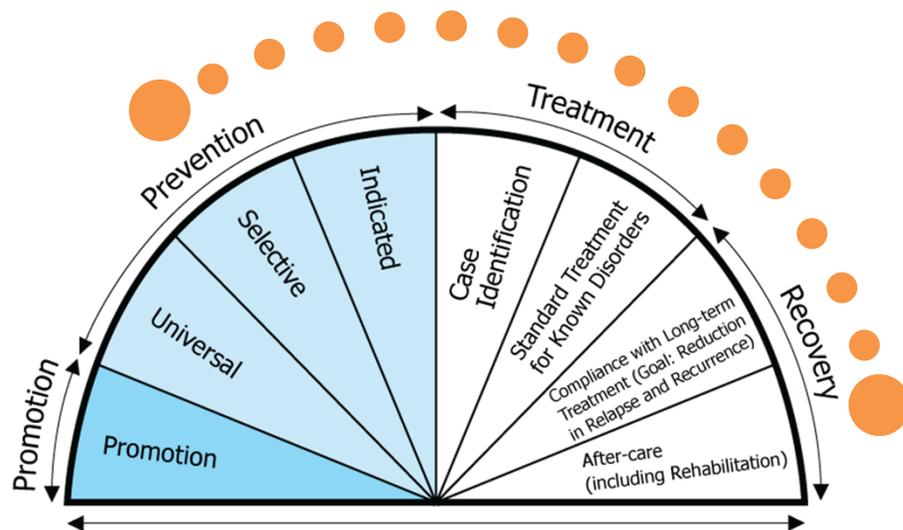


Withdrawal Management



- Support withdrawal management center
 - 24/7 availability
 - Provides stability
- Enhance education, services, and viability
- Short term funding
 - \$50,000 in 2024
 - \$10,000 in 2025

Opioid Response Program



- Administration of Opioid Settlement
- Allows for legislative advocacy
 - Improve behavioral health integration
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
 - State settlement funds
- Up to 0.5 FTE in 2024
 - SOR to Settlement Transition
- 0.1 FTE through 2025-2030
 - Remainder of FTE
 - SOR Grant
 - Opioid Settlement
 - Based on need

Bringing it together

Proposed Expenditures – 2023 – 2030 City of Grand Forks Opioid Settlement			
	Estimated Expenditures	City Total	Ending Balance
2023	\$ 9,787	\$ 129,329	\$ 119,542
2024	\$ 152,001	\$ 59,501	\$ 27,041
2025	\$ 67,205	\$ 74,420	\$ 34,256
2026	\$ 59,017	\$ 59,890	\$ 35,129
2027	\$ 60,887	\$ 59,890	\$ 34,132
2028	\$ 62,819	\$ 52,503	\$ 23,817
2029	\$ 64,813	\$ 56,619	\$ 15,623
2030	\$ 66,874	\$ 51,098	\$ (153)
2031		\$ 51,098	\$ 52,389
2032		\$ 42,825	\$ 95,215
2033		\$ 34,767	\$ 129,982
2034		\$ 34,767	\$ 164,749
2035		\$ 34,767	\$ 199,516
2036		\$ 34,260	\$ 233,775
2037		\$ 20,692	\$ 254,467
2038		\$ 20,692	\$ 275,159
2039		\$ 20,692	\$ 295,851

- Proposed City Strategy
 - Support prevention through broad programming with Mental Health Matters
 - Withdrawal Management
 - Settlement Administration
- County Strategy
 - Support MAT at GFCCC
 - 340b and Community Medical Services Support
- State Strategy
 - Support existing opioid response work and capacity building

Questions?



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Grand Forks Public Health



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

ASSUMPTIONS:

- *If addiction is seen as a moral failing, it will be condemned.*
- *If seen as a deficit in knowledge, it will be educated.*
- *If the addiction is viewed as an acceptable aberration, it will be tolerated.*
- *If the addiction is considered illegal, it will be prosecuted.*
- *If viewed as an illness, it will be treated.*
- *Social policies mirror these different views with strategies ranging from prohibition and criminalization to hospitalization and mandated treatment.*

– DiClemente, 2006, p. vii



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

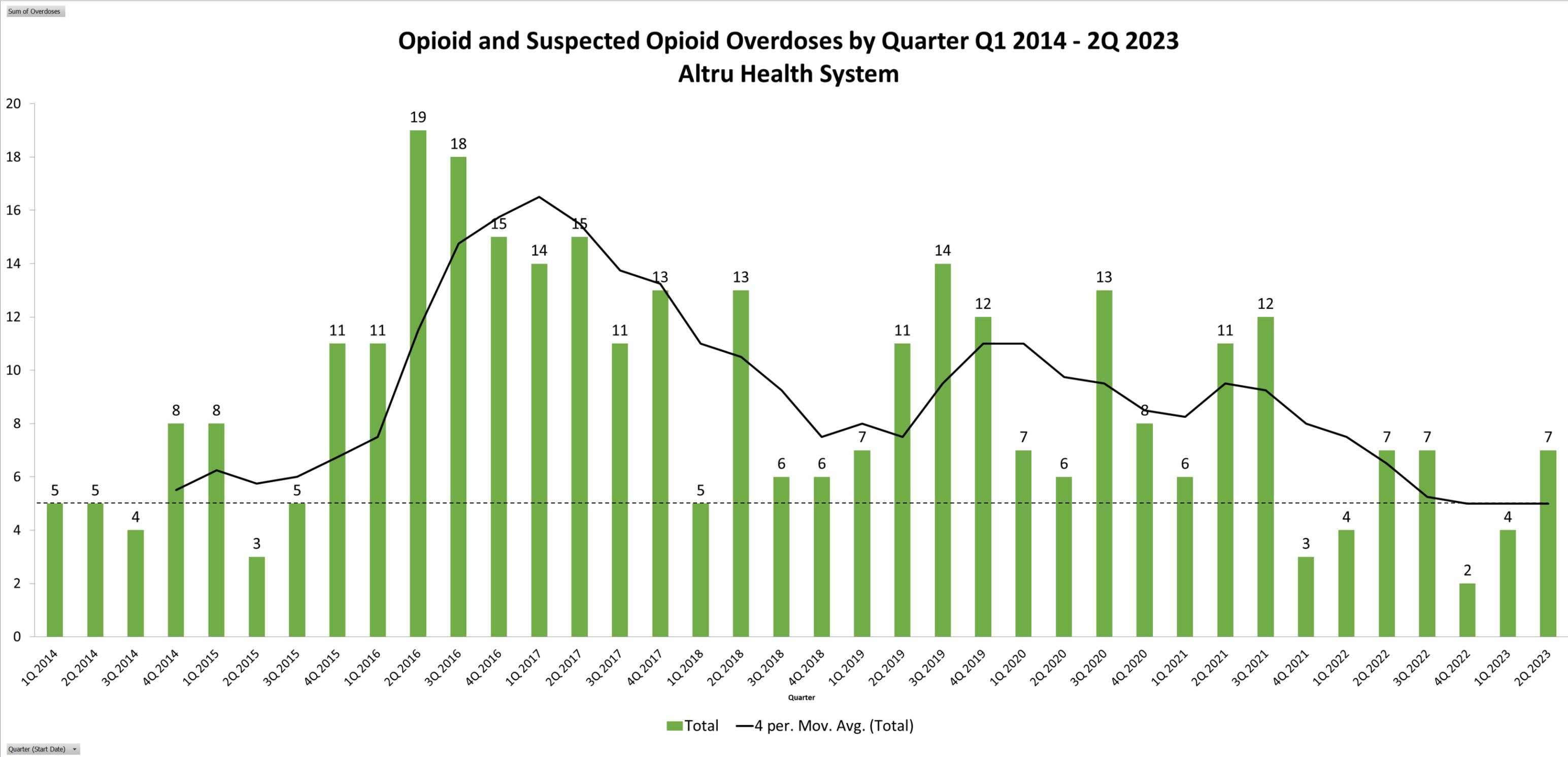
Grand Forks Public Health

Opioid Settlement Strategy

Michael Dulitz, MPH, NRP
Opioid Response Coordinator
Grand Forks Public Health



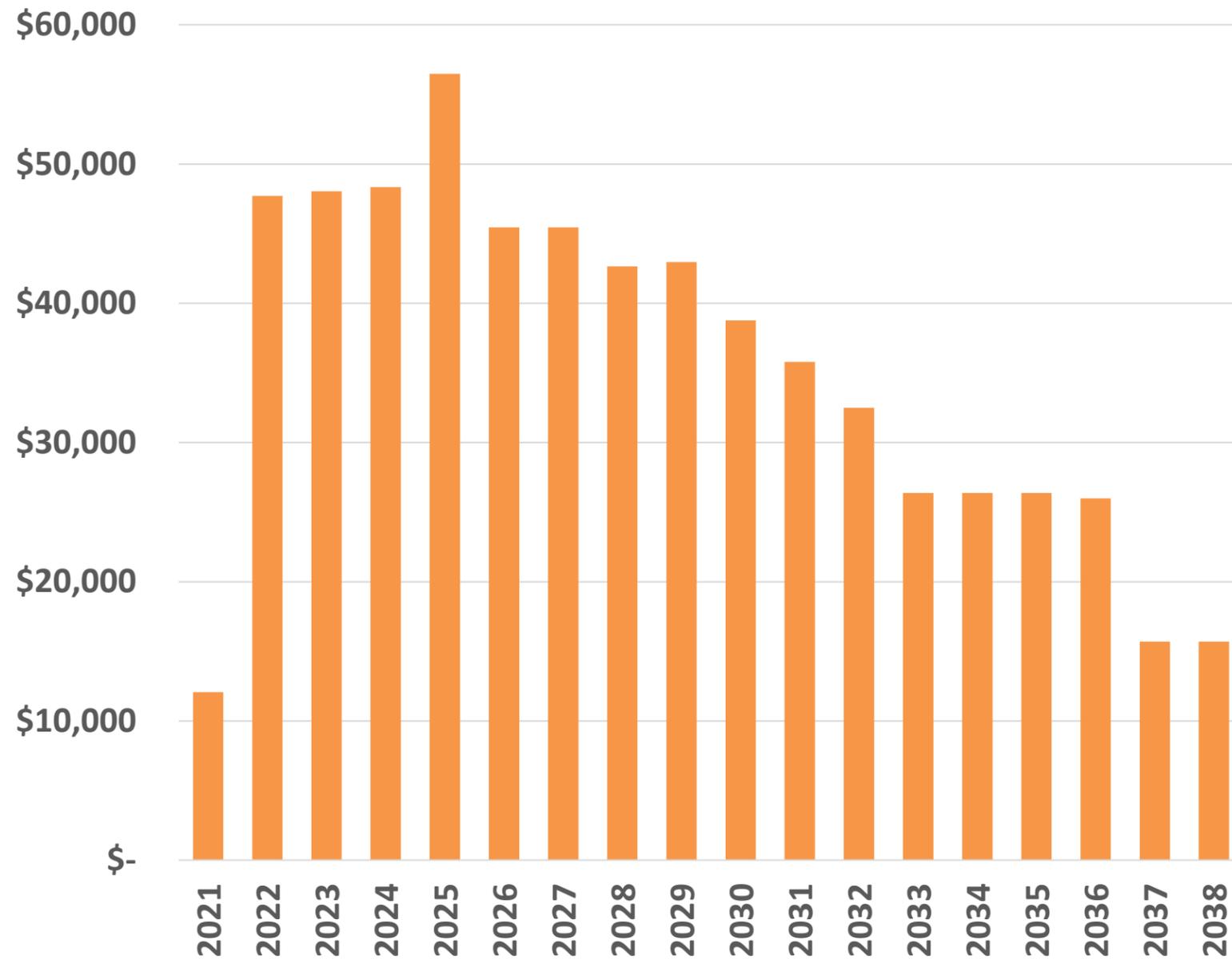
Current Situation





Estimated Settlement

Estimated Opioid Settlement Payments by Year
Grand Forks County



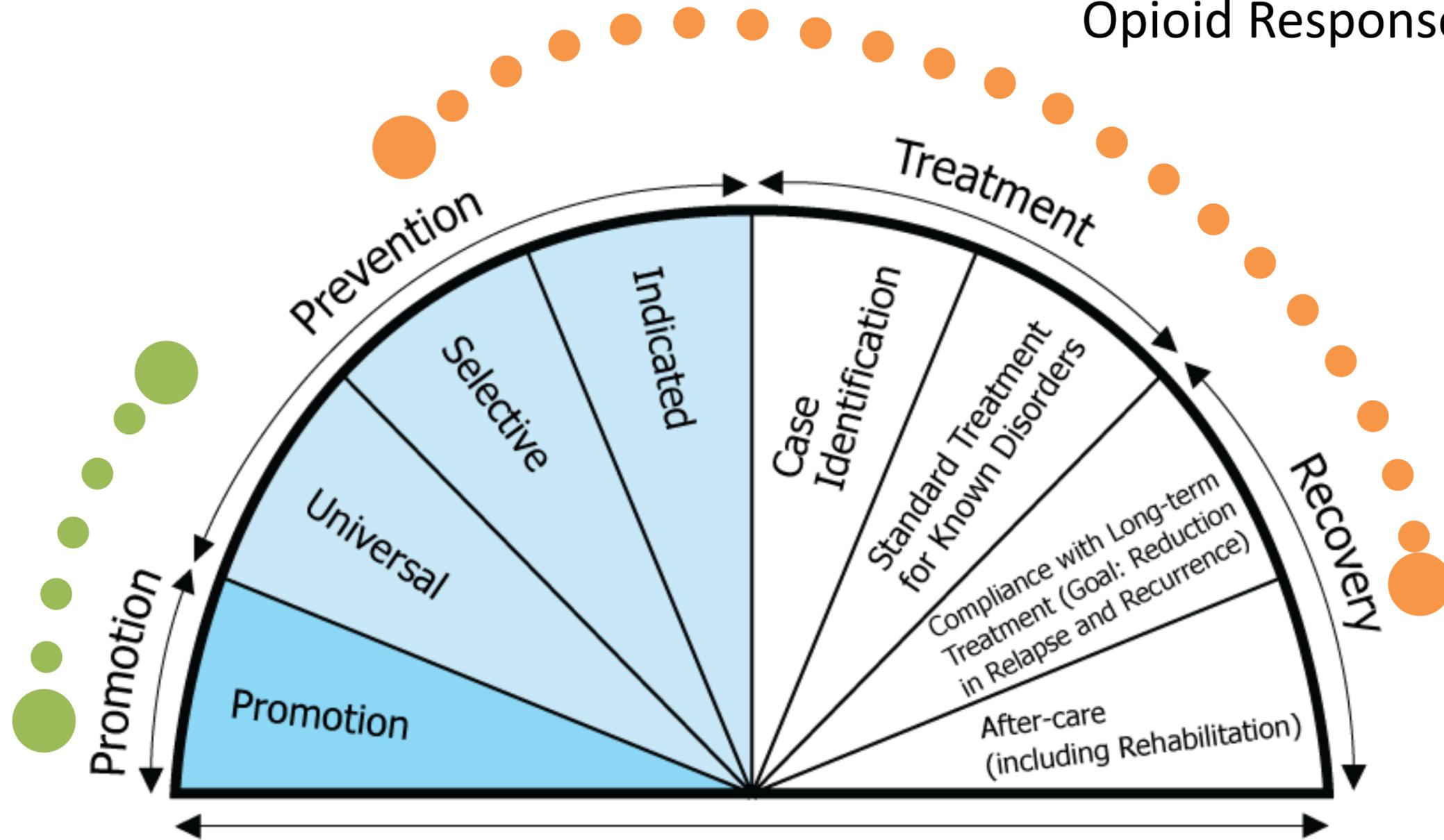
Grand Forks County Opioid Settlement Settlement Amounts		
Company	Settlement	Distributed over (Years)
Opioid Distributors	\$273,000	17
Janssen	\$80,000	11
CVS	\$66,000	10
Walgreens	\$72,000	14
Walmart	\$43,000	6
Teva	\$103,000	13
Allergan	\$53,000	7
Mallinckrodt	Pending	
Endo	Pending	
Purdue	Pending	
Total	\$689,000	17



Community Efforts

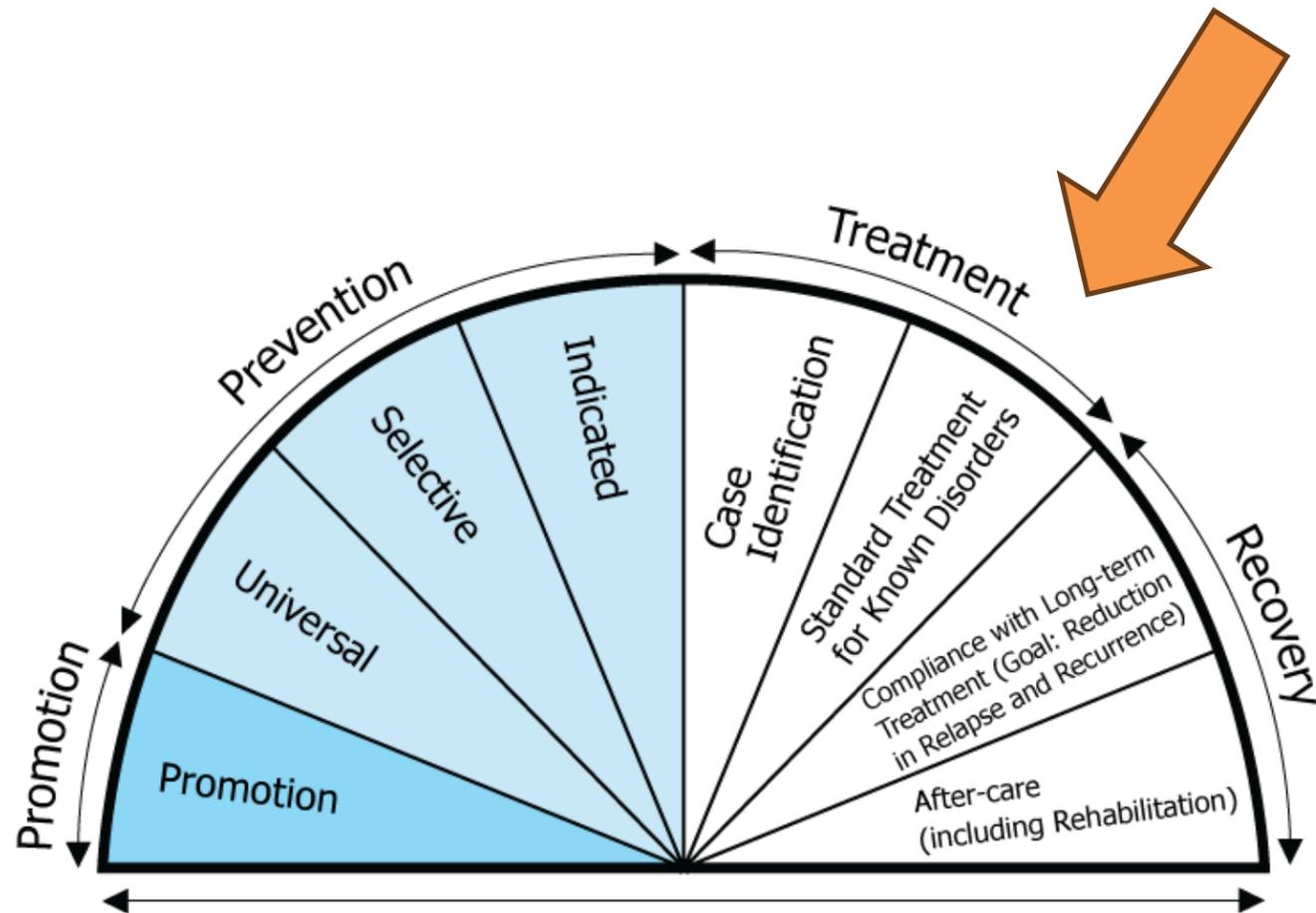
Grand Forks Public Health
Opioid Response Activities

Grand Forks
Substance
Abuse
Prevention
Coalition and
Others





MAT at Correctional Center



- Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) is a standard of care for treatment of opioid use disorder
 - Existing MAT treatment plans are not continued at GFCCC
 - Concerns
 - Diversion
 - Cost
 - Regulation



MAT at Correctional Center

Landmark civil rights settlement ends after Whatcom County Jail successfully implements program to provide medications necessary to treat opioid use disorder

News Release: Monday, August 1, 2022

Lawsuit claims New Mexico prisons not giving inmates needed addiction medication

by: [Curtis Segarra](#)

Posted: Dec 15, 2022 / 05:02 PM MST

Updated: Dec 16, 2022 / 08:55 AM MST

Jefferson County jail sued over access to addiction treatment

WRVO | By [Associated Press](#)
Published March 2, 2022 at 7:41 PM EST



Jefferson County to pay legal bill for jail inmate's lawsuit over drug treatment

WATERTOWN, New York (WWNY) - A judge's order helps Jefferson County Jail inmates have more access to drug addiction services. It comes at a cost to the county, which was ordered to pay some legal bills.

In a judge's order from 2 weeks ago, the county has been ordered to pay the inmate's \$160,000 legal bill.

- Legal Risk
 - Failure to provide MAT may create legal risk related to:
 - 8th Amendment “cruel and unusual punishment”
 - 14th Amendment “Due process clause”
 - Civil Rights Act of 1871
 - Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Tort
 - Legal cases related to denying MAT are increasing
 - Source: [Bureau of Justice Assistance – Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails: A Legal Brief](#)
 - Source: [Legal Action Center: Cases Involving Discrimination Based on Treatment with Medication for Opioid Use Disorder](#)



Spending Plan



- Establish a MAT program at Grand Forks County Correctional Center
 - \$45,000 per year in 2024, escalating to \$53,800 per year in 2030
- Pursue 340b pricing for medications at GFCCC
 - One time: \$25,000
- Community Medical Services
 - One time: \$25,000
- Existing expenditures
 - SSP - \$4,000
 - MAT Medication Support - \$8,000



Bringing it together

Proposed Expenditures – 2023 – 2030 Grand Forks County Opioid Settlement			
	Estimated Expenditures	County Total	Ending Balance
2023	\$ 62,000	\$ 101,079	\$ 39,079
2024	\$ 45,061	\$ 40,759	\$ 34,777
2025	\$ 46,412	\$ 56,476	\$ 44,841
2026	\$ 47,805	\$ 45,450	\$ 42,486
2027	\$ 49,239	\$ 45,450	\$ 38,696
2028	\$ 50,716	\$ 42,641	\$ 30,621
2029	\$ 52,238	\$ 42,968	\$ 21,351
2030	\$ 53,805	\$ 38,778	\$ 6,324
2031		\$ 35,800	\$ 42,124
2032		\$ 32,499	\$ 74,624
2033		\$ 26,384	\$ 101,008
2034		\$ 26,384	\$ 127,392
2035		\$ 26,384	\$ 153,776
2036		\$ 25,999	\$ 179,775
2037		\$ 15,703	\$ 195,478
2038		\$ 15,703	\$ 211,180
2039		\$ 15,703	\$ 226,883

- County Strategy
 - Support MAT at GFCCC
- Proposed City Strategy
 - Support prevention through broad programming with Mental Health Matters
 - Withdrawal Management
 - Settlement Administration
- State Strategy
 - Support existing opioid response work and capacity building



Questions?



ASSUMPTIONS:

- *If addiction is seen as a moral failing, it will be condemned.*
- *If seen as a deficit in knowledge, it will be educated.*
- *If the addiction is viewed as an acceptable aberration, it will be tolerated.*
- *If the addiction is considered illegal, it will be prosecuted.*
- *If viewed as an illness, it will be treated.*
- *Social policies mirror these different views with strategies ranging from prohibition and criminalization to hospitalization and mandated treatment.*

– DiClemente, 2006, p. vii



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Grand Forks Public Health

February 2026

North Dakota Health & Human Services - Behavioral Health Division
600 East Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Grand Forks Public Health, which serves the political subdivisions of the City of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County. We continue our commitment to addressing the opioid crisis in our community. The [plans approved](#) by both governing bodies continue to be implemented. Some logistical changes have transpired since 2023 and are outlined below.

City of Grand Forks

1. The Opioid Response Coordinator position has not been refilled after a vacancy in 2024. The Community Mental Health Coordinator position has taken on some of the former position's duties. The Community Mental Health Coordinator continues to target prevention activities through the Mental Health Matters program for all ages and subpopulations within our community.

Grand Forks County

1. The Grand Forks County Correctional Center switched to a national pharmacy when their local pharmacy went out of business, thus 340b dollars may be reassigned in the future. Additionally, this pharmacy is connected to their newly implemented EHR and prices are at a lower cost.

We appreciate the continued collaboration with the North Dakota Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division to make a positive impact on the opioid crisis in our community.

Sincerely,

Tess Wall, Director