



## Behavioral Health Division Updates and Information

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Pamela Sagness, Executive Director, HHS Behavioral Health, and Committee Member



Health & Human Services

# Overview

- 68th Legislative Assembly action
- Overview of the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher Program
- Overview of current efforts utilizing federal funds to address opioid misuse





# 68th Legislative Assembly Action

# HB 1447

*relating to creation of the opioid settlement fund,  
creation of the opioid settlement advisory committee,  
and use of opioid settlement funds*

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 21-10-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 23-01-42 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended

- Related to Narcan availability over-the-counter

SECTION 3. A new chapter to title 50 of the North Dakota Century Code is created

- Definitions
- Opioid settlement fund
- Opioid settlement advisory committee
- Department of health and human services - Report to budget section
- Opioid remediation and abatement spending decisions – Implementation
- Political subdivisions - Public health units.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 5 of chapter 3 of the 2021 Session Laws is amended

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - OPIOID REMEDIATION AND ABATEMENT. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the opioid settlement fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$8,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of opioid remediation and abatement efforts under section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 6. TRANSFER - OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET - OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND. The office of management and budget shall transfer to the opioid settlement fund all funds received by the state and any political subdivision of the state from opioid settlements and litigation during the period beginning March 1, 2021, and the effective date of this Act, and any additional funds received during the period beginning on the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 7. APPLICATION. To initiate staggered terms of the members of the opioid advisory committee, the initial appointments for the positions representing the North Dakota association of counties representative and the North Dakota state association of city and county health officials representative must be for one year.

SECTION 8. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure

# SB 2248

*relating to a special penalty for death or injury through distribution of illegal drugs, and fentanyl reporting...*

## **SECTION 1: New section to chapter 19-03.1 is created**

Distribution of illegal drugs - Special penalty for death or injury.

...

Criminal justice reform

## **SECTION 2: Section 19-03.1-23.6 is created - Fentanyl reporting - Report to legislative management - Fentanyl awareness campaign**

1. By November first of each year, the department of health and human services shall submit to the legislative management and the governor a written report summarizing the number of deaths that occurred in the state caused by or related to fentanyl consumption during the preceding calendar year, including the county in which the deaths occurred and the age and gender of the deceased individuals.
2. The department of health and human services shall make the data reported under subsection 1 available to the public by:
  - a) Making the information easily accessible on the department's government website;
  - b) Publishing easily comprehensible printed materials on fentanyl awareness, information, and resources;
  - c) Placing visible billboards in high-traffic areas to inform the public of the dangers of fentanyl; and
  - d) Developing a media and social media campaign to expand statewide awareness of fentanyl drug deaths and the fentanyl overdose epidemic occurring within the state

## **SECTION 3: Department of Health and Human Services – Fentanyl Awareness Expansion.**

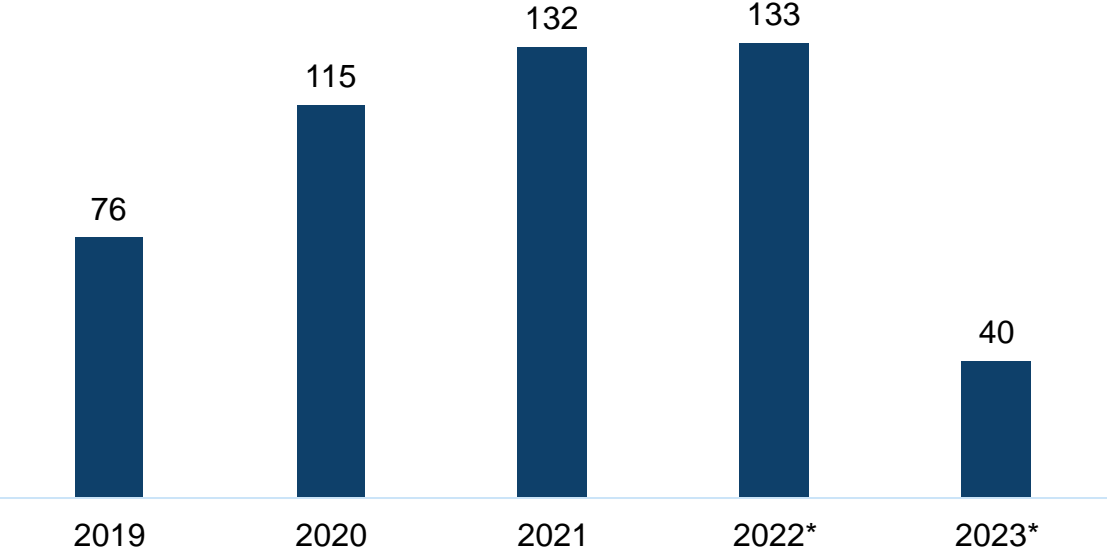
Best practices relating to fentanyl drug overdose by the department of health and human services as provided in section 3 of House Bill No. 1447, as approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly, includes providing and expanding statewide awareness of fentanyl drug deaths and the fentanyl overdose epidemic, communication strategies and campaigns, access to naloxone, and other strategies as provided under section 2 of this Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025.

# North Dakota Overdose Death Data

North Dakota Violent Death Reporting System (NDVDRS)

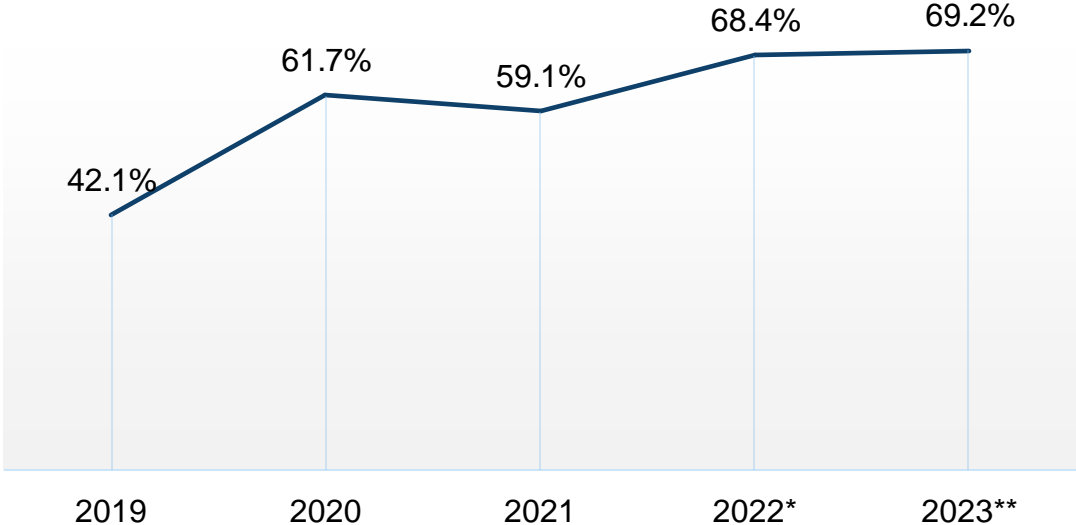
## Number of Overdose Deaths in ND

*\*2022 is preliminary; \*\*2023 is preliminary through July 10, 2023*



## Percentage of overdose deaths with fentanyl present in ND

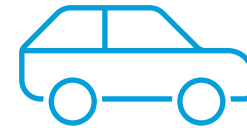
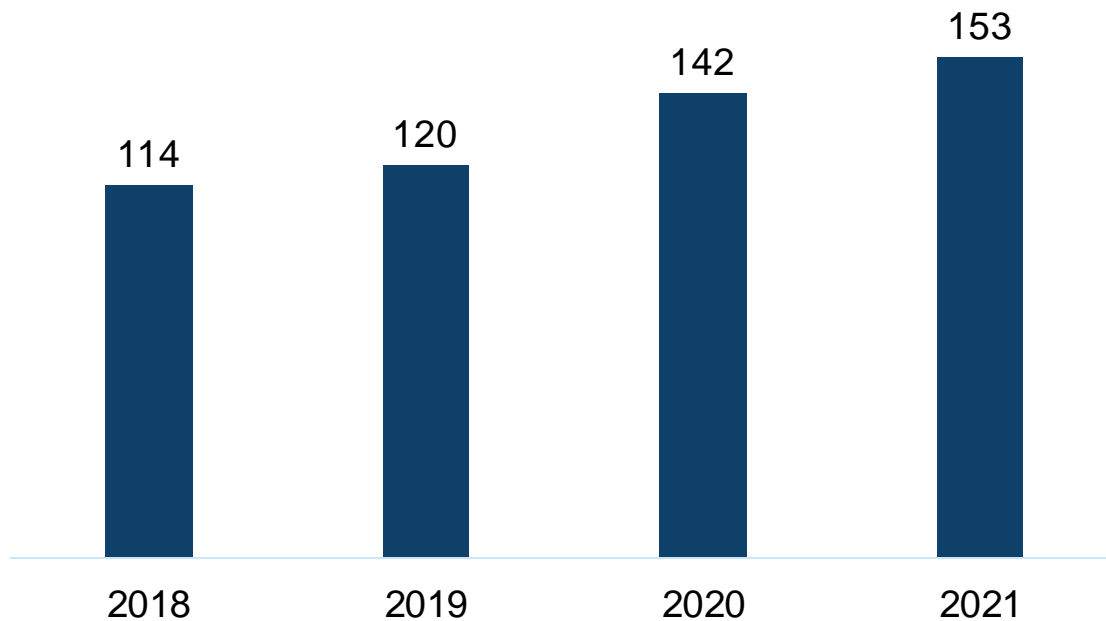
*\*2022 is preliminary; \*\*2023 is preliminary through July 10, 2023*



# North Dakota Alcohol-Related Death Data

## Number of Cirrhosis-related Deaths in ND

ND Vital Records (ICD Codes K70, K73-74)



**203 people** have died in alcohol-related crashes in North Dakota over the past 5 years.

Alcohol is a factor in about **39%** of fatal crashes in North Dakota annually.

*(North Dakota Department of Transportation; retrieved 8/25/23 from [visionzero.nd.gov/strategies/ImpairedDriving](https://visionzero.nd.gov/strategies/ImpairedDriving))*

# Billboard Draft 1

→ Fentanyl was present in 68% of overdose deaths in ND (2022)



Wallet, keys, **naloxone.**  
PREVENT OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATH.

[hhs.nd.gov/opioids](https://hhs.nd.gov/opioids)

**OPIOIDS**

TAKE CARE, BE AWARE.

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Behavioral Health  
Be Legendary. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary.



# Billboard Draft 2



[hhs.nd.gov/opioids](https://hhs.nd.gov/opioids)

**Naloxone saves lives.**  
**PREVENT OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATH.**

**75%** of overdose deaths occur at home or private residences

**OPPIOIDS**  
TAKE CARE, BE AWARE.

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Behavioral Health  
Be Legendary. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



# Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Voucher Program

# SUD Voucher GOALS

## **Goal 1: Allow Individual to choose provider**

### Objectives:

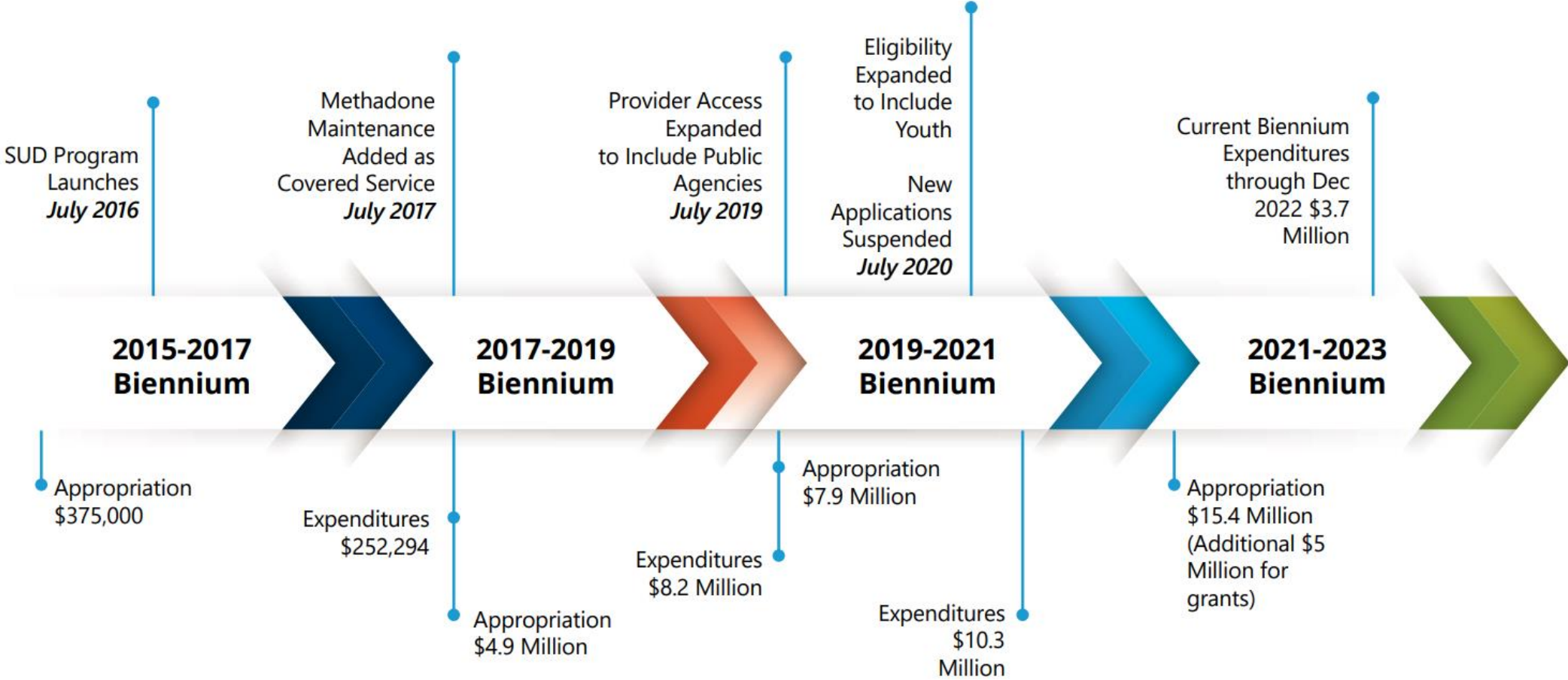
- Increase number of providers & service options
- Communicate service options to individuals

## **Goal 2: Improve access to quality services**

### Objectives:

- Reduce financial barriers for individuals accessing needed services
- Program providers offer evidence-based services tailored to individual's needs

# SUD Voucher HISTORY



# SUD Voucher INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY



14 years of age and older

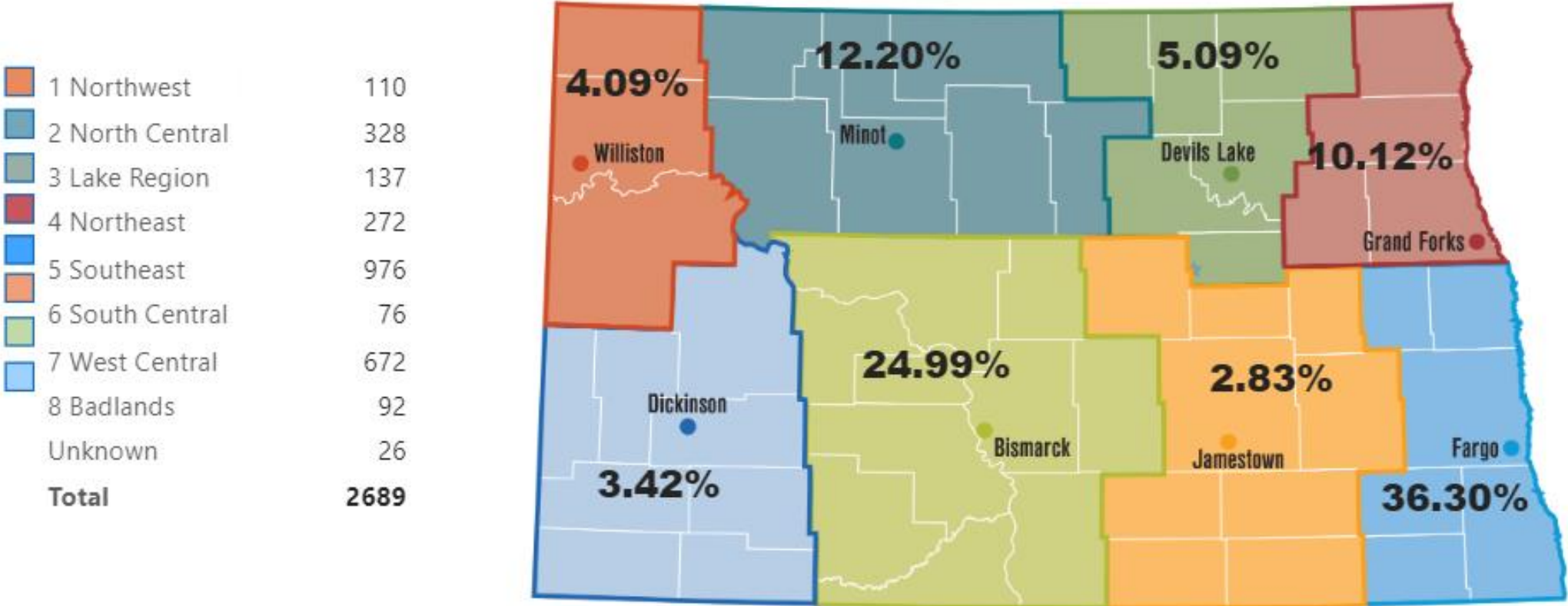
North Dakota resident

Lack of resources to cover treatment costs

Income below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

Since inception (July 2016), approximately **6,350 individuals** have been approved for services through the SUD Voucher.

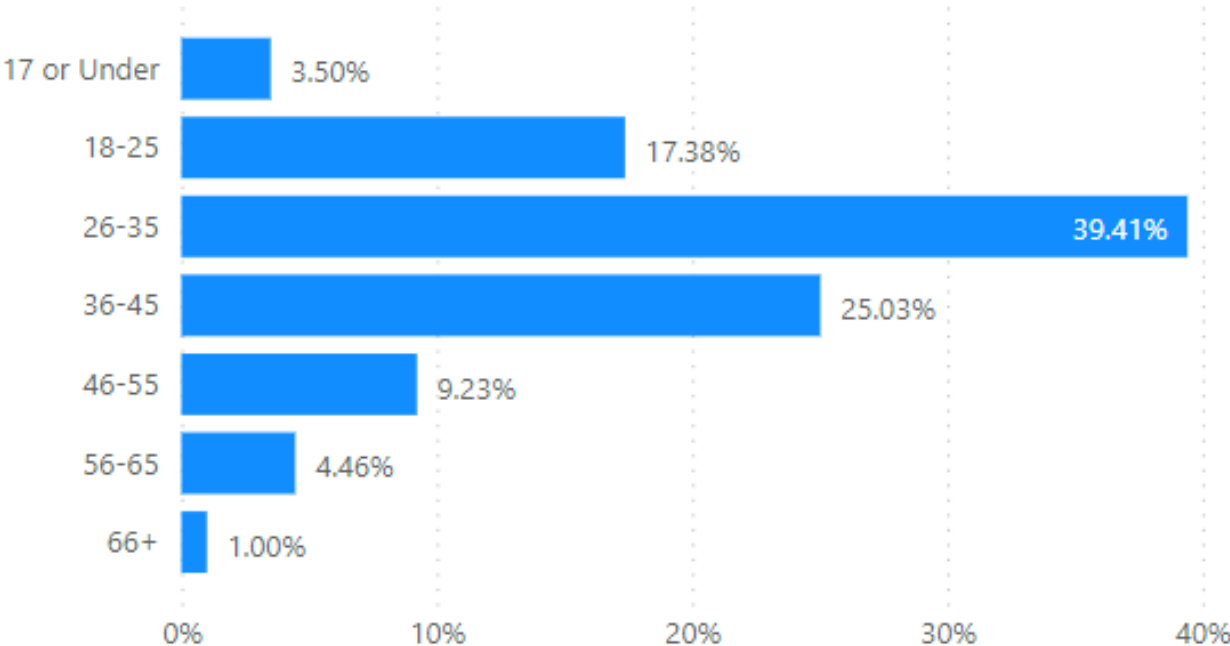
# SUD Voucher PARTICIPANTS



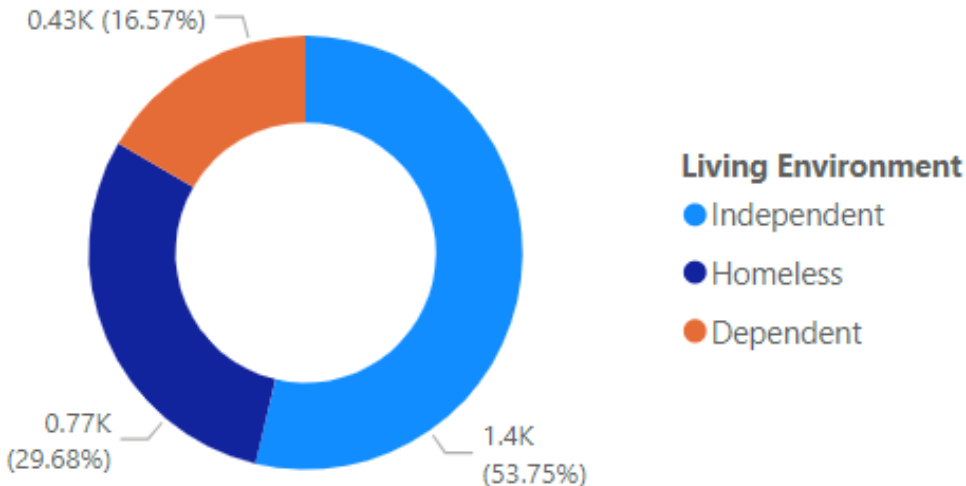
2689 unduplicated individual count who had at least one active application during the 2021-2023 biennium.

# SUD Voucher DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants by Age Range at Initial Approval



Participants by Living Environment

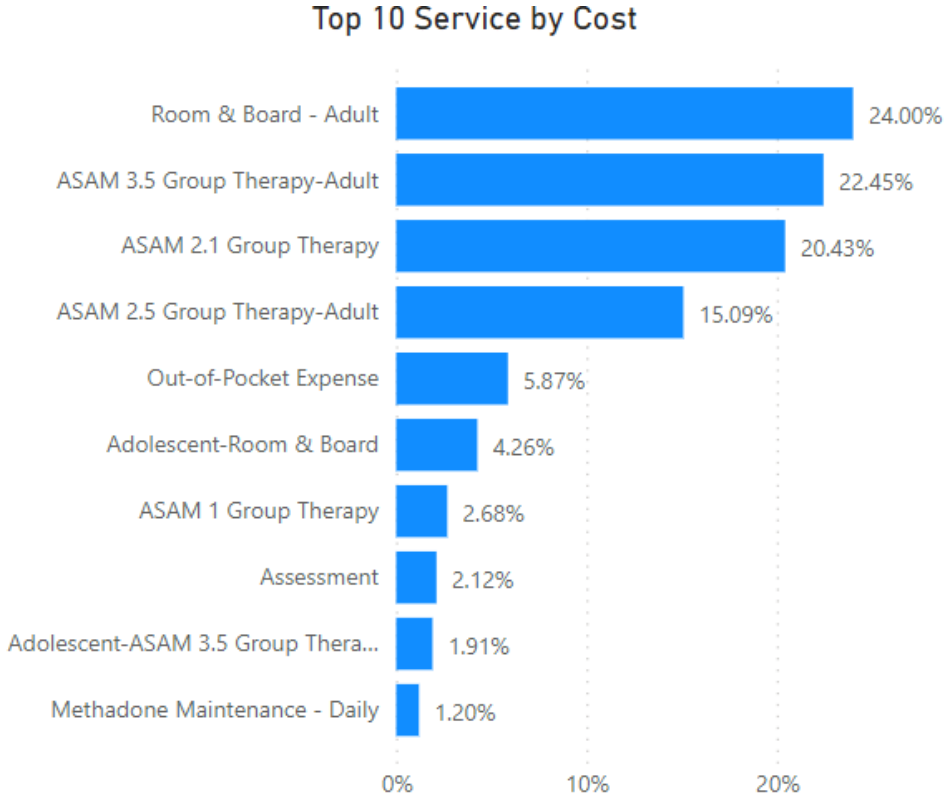


# SUD Voucher



As of July 1, 2023, there are 35 participating providers.

- An increase from 27 in February 2022.



Paid & adjusted invoices for services dates between 7/1/2021 and 6/30/2023





# Use of Federal Funds to Address Opioid (Mis)Use



## State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant (SAMHSA)



## Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant (SAMHSA)

# State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant GOALS & OVERVIEW



Prevent substance (mis)use (specifically focused on opioids and stimulants)



Reduce harm related to opioids and stimulants



Improve access to evidence-based treatment



Increase access to recovery support services

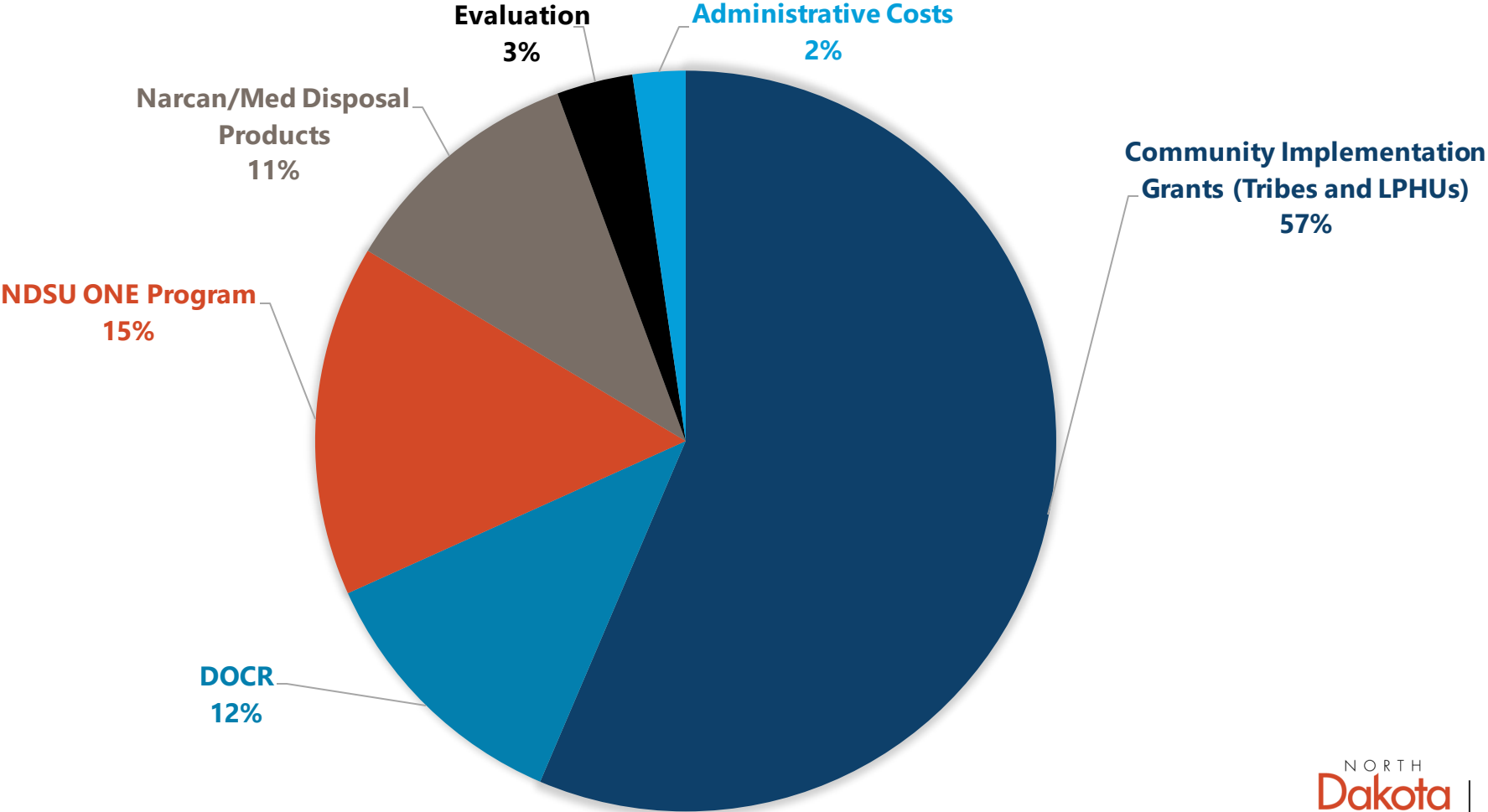
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**Grant timeframe:** September 30, 2022 – September 29, 2023

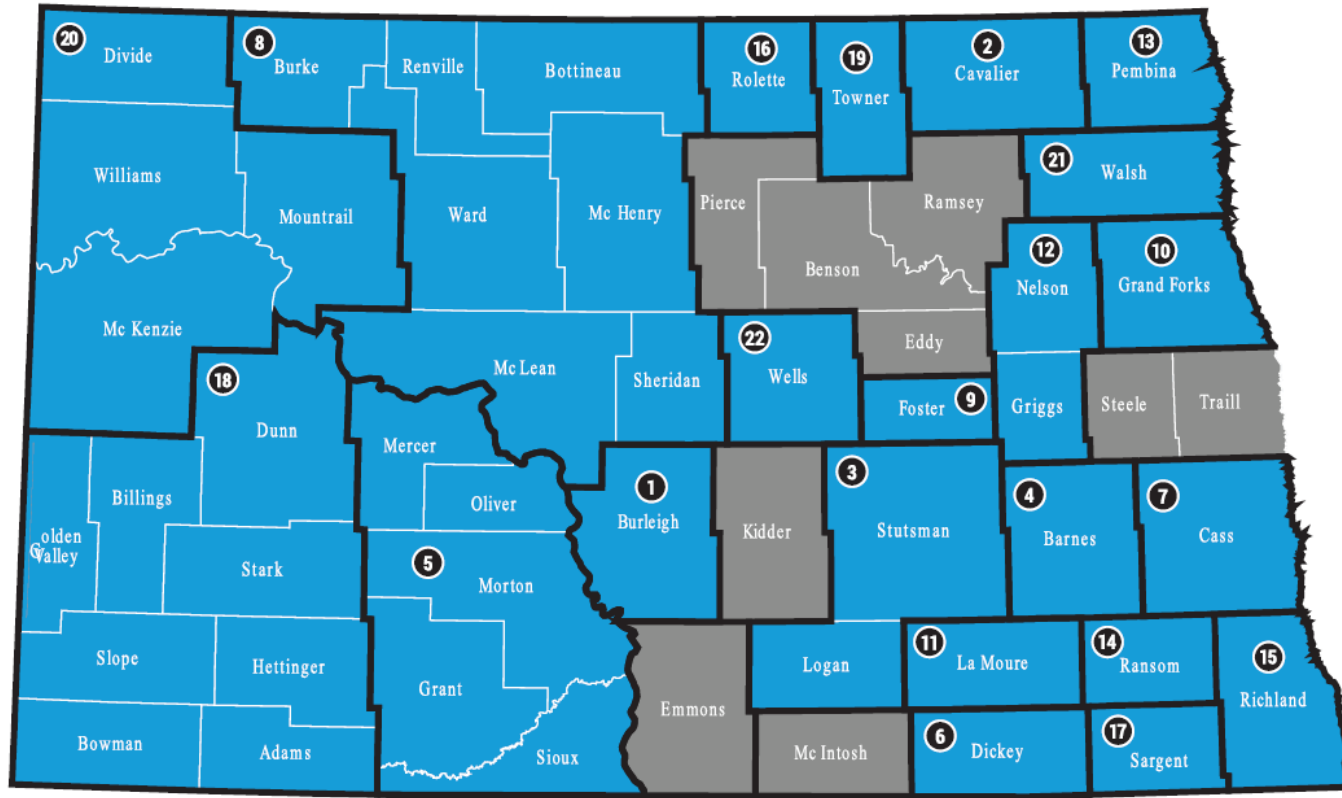
**Funding:** \$4,000,000

- *Anticipating to receive \$4,000,000 for September 30, 2023 – September 29, 2024*

# State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant FUNDING ALLOCATION



# State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant COMMUNITIES



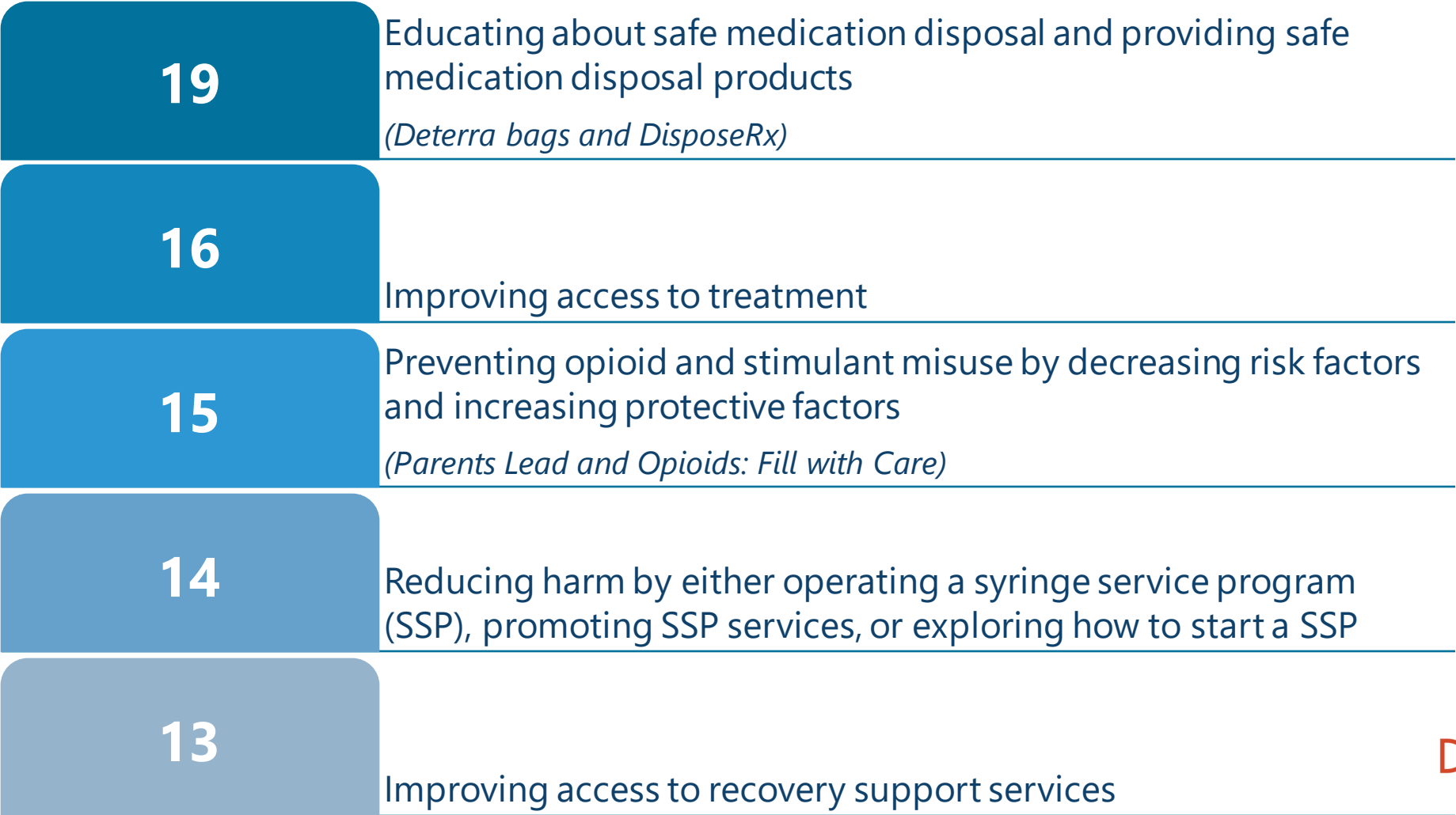
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health Unit | 12. Nelson-Griggs District Health Unit    |
| 2. Cavalier County Health District      | 13. Pembina County                        |
| 3. Central Valley Health District       | 14. Ransom County Public Health           |
| 4. City-County Health District          | 15. Richland County Health Department     |
| 5. Custer Health                        | 16. Rolette County Public Health District |
| 6. Dickey County Health District        | 17. Sargent County District Health Unit   |
| 7. Fargo Cass Public Health             | 18. Southwestern District Health Unit     |
| 8. First District Health Unit           | 19. Towner County Public Health           |
| 9. Foster County Public Health          | 20. Upper Missouri District Health Unit   |
| 10. Grand Forks Public Health           | 21. Walsh County Health Department        |
| 11. LaMoure County Public Health Dept.  | 22. Wells County District Health Unit     |

Tribes:

- Spirit Lake
- Standing Rock

# State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

## Number of Communities Implementing Various Efforts



# State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION

Through the Behavioral Health Division and grantees (Local Public Health Units, Tribes), **19,891 naloxone kits** have been distributed in ND from October 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023 to:

- First Responders
- Highway Patrol
- Correctional Facilities
- Behavioral Health Treatment Programs
- Tribal Communities
- Universities and Schools
- Public events (ND State Fair, professional conferences, local community events)
- Private businesses (hotels, gas stations, libraries)
- Individual requests



**708 overdose reversals** were reported at the community-level (October 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023).

# State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION

## North Dakota Department of Corrections – Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

- Reimbursement for Sublocade (buprenorphine product) prior to release

## North Dakota State University – ONE Program

- Implementation of screenings and naloxone distribution in pharmacies, home health, and county jails
- 12,072 individuals have been screened from October 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023

## Lighthouse Central Registry

- Software system connecting all OTPs in ND to prevent dual-enrollment and create a means for communication to all OTP patients
- Census as of 8/25/2023:
  - CMS Fargo: 498
  - CMS Minot: 235
  - CMS Grand Forks: 57
  - Heartview Bismarck: 232



# Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant

## Opioid-specific efforts:

- Communication efforts (Parents Lead and Opioids: Fill with Care)
- ND Board of Pharmacy NARX Care (PDMP system)
- Grand Forks OTP start-up funds
- Naloxone Purchasing



# Listening Session Recommendations & Next Steps

# Listening Session Summary

Fargo – June 29, 2023

- 6 individuals provided recommendations

Bismarck – August 22, 2023

- 9 individuals provided recommendations

2 recommendations received by email

1 recommendation received by phone



# Listening Session Recommendation Summary



Across the Continuum	Prevention	Treatment	Recovery	Harm Reduction
5	4	19	4	2

