

# North Dakota Outcomes in Addiction - 2024 Wrap Up & Data

Although not a new problem, addiction has been a growing concern across the United States and unfortunately, North Dakota is not immune. It is estimated that 20% of ND's adult population will struggle with addiction.

Since 2014 there has been a coordinated approach to improve behavioral health. While the state has made great strides in expanding services, we know the needs continue to grow amid our nation's mental health crisis. Legislators are engaged and have identified solutions and championed new programs in partnership with the executive branch.

- Since 2016, addiction treatment services have expanded, from 75 licensed programs, including 25 residential programs, to 107 with 40 residential, in 2024.
- The first Opioid Treatment Program in the state opened in 2016, and we now have four programs serving 1,125 individuals.
- The legislature authorized a substance use disorder voucher program (SUDV) which has created opportunity for 8,500 individuals to access treatment from private providers.
- Recovery support programs have also been implemented including Free Through Recovery, launched in 2018, and Community Connect, launched in 2021. These programs have provided care coordination, peer support, and recovery support for over 14,000 North Dakotans. These programs reimburse community providers based on outcomes and show consistent monthly success of 70% of participants achieving 3 of 4 goals (housing, employment, recovery, and criminal justice domains).
- A recovery housing assistance program (RHAP) was launched in 2022 and has supported over 1,100 individuals. 58% of RHAP participants saw improvement in their employment status with average income growth of 149%. 72% saw improvement with their criminal justice involvement, 81% report reduction in their emergency room use for non-emergent needs, and 90% saw improvement with overdose risk.
- As a recent participant shared, "When I arrived I was hopeless, addicted to meth, depressed, I was a broken man. I literally didn't care if I lived or died. I had \$12 to my name. The SUDV paid for my treatment and RHAP paid for my first three months of sober living. I am clean, sober, healthy, I have three jobs, am happy, I'm a dad again, I am hopeful for tomorrow. Thank you for your generosity and saving my life!"

Like the rest of the country, ND is facing a growing workforce shortage. However, we continue to take steps to address this need.

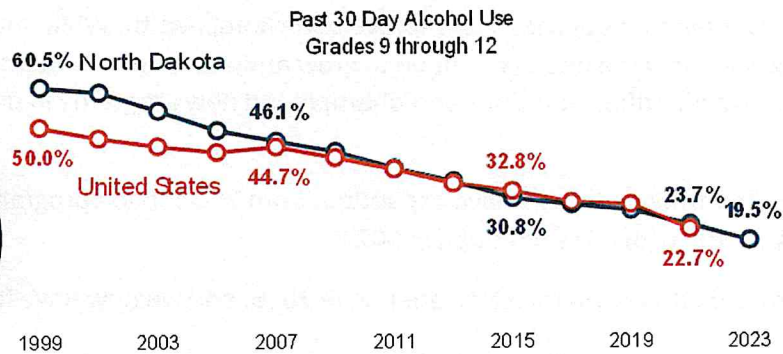
- Since 2018, over 1,200 individuals have been trained as peer support specialists, expanding recovery support into rural areas of the state.
- Through Opioid Settlement Funds, the Training Academy of Addiction Professionals has 28 trainees working towards licensure and offers 16 clinical training sites.

For the first time in years, we have seen a decrease in deaths by drug overdose and suicide.

- HHS has disseminated an average of 11,000 naloxone kits annually leading to 3,292 known overdose reversals since 2017.

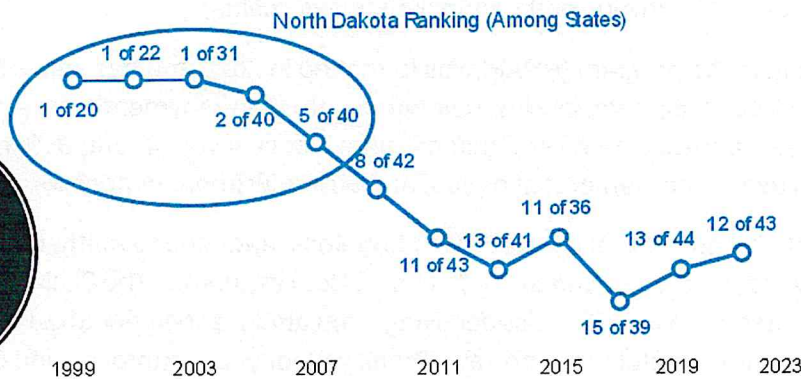
As presented at the recent Day For Prevention, North Dakota has also made significant progress in youth alcohol consumption. In 2023 the High School alcohol use was 1/3 the rate it was in 1999.

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Data Sources: CDC, High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013 through 2021; ND DHHS, High School YRBS, 2023



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Even with these advances, there is much work to do. Current estimates suggest only 22% of those needing addiction treatment in the state receive it. As you are all aware, we cannot continue to use the criminal justice system as a behavioral health intervention. Solutions will require comprehensive system collaboration with community and state leadership.

Thank you for your leadership and advocacy.

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