

Oversight Commission on Alabama Opioid Settlement Funds

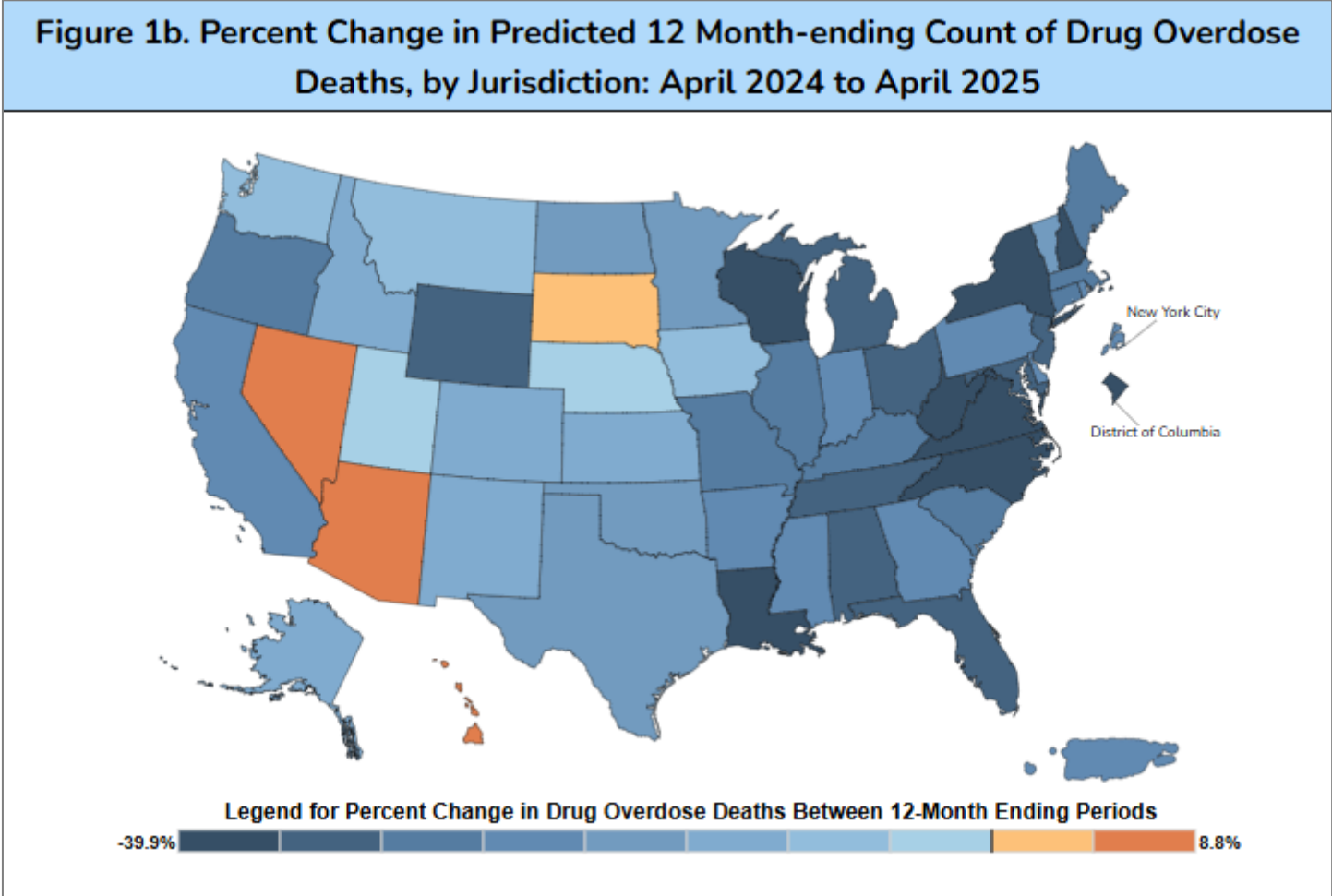
October 22, 2025



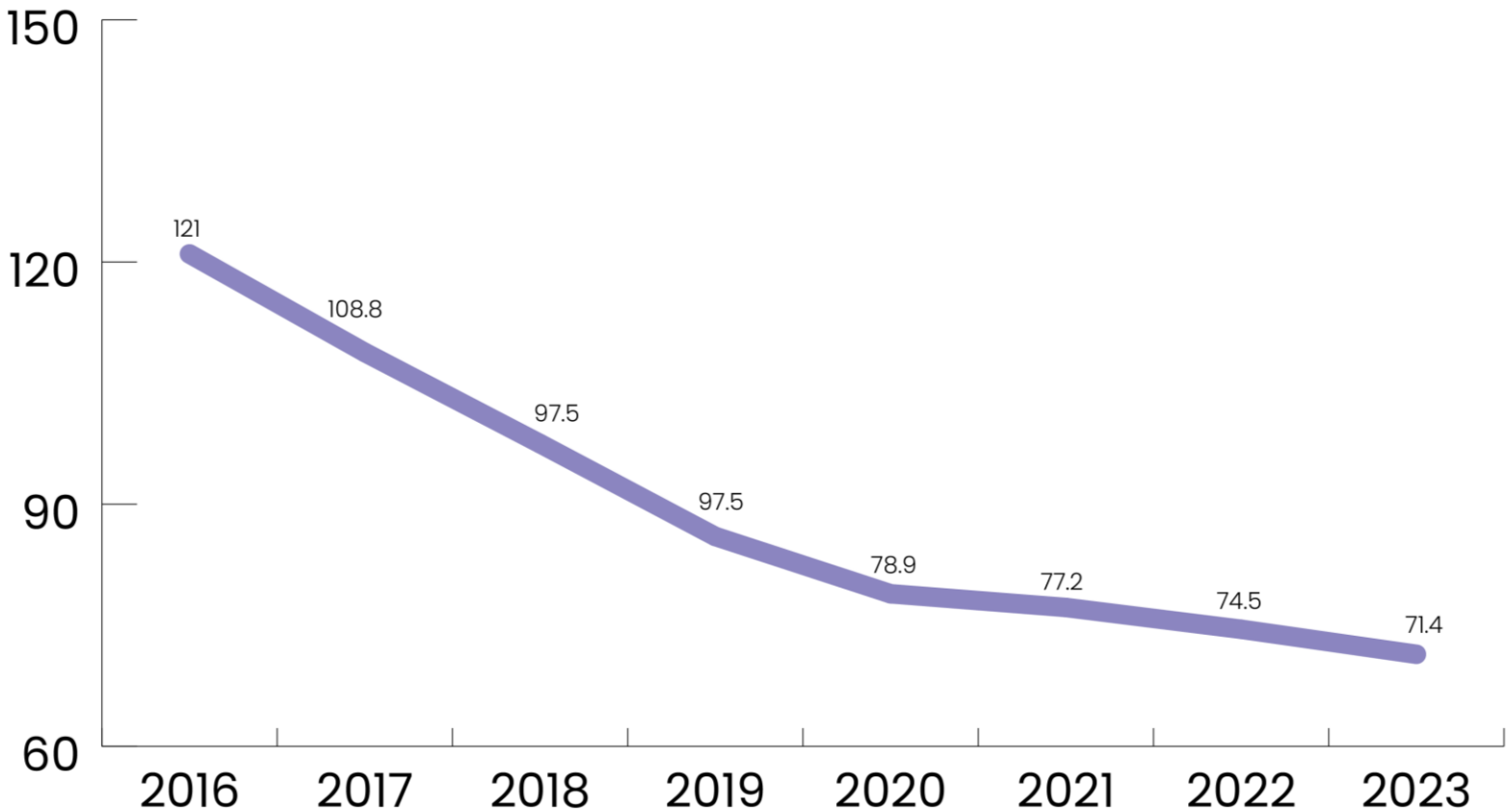
Kimberly G. Boswell, Commissioner
Alabama Department of Mental Health

Drug Overdose Deaths Decrease by 30% in Alabama

Reported drug overdose deaths in Alabama dropped **by 30.88%** between April 2024 to April 2025, according to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Decrease in Opioid Prescriptions per 100 persons



From 2016–2023, we have seen a **40.99%** decrease in opioid prescriptions.



Source: CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/opioid-dispensing-rate-maps.html>

Decrease in Opioid Prescriptions

Examples of Factors contributing to decrease:

- **State-led Initiatives:** ADMH, the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council and the Oversight Commission on Opioid Settlement Funds implemented various strategies, including using opioid settlement funds to expand prevention, treatment, and recovery services.
- **Enhanced Prescription Monitoring:** The continued monitoring and reporting of opioid prescribing/dispensing through the Alabama Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), which has seen increased use by health professionals.
- **Provider Education:** Training and resources offered to prescribers regarding pain management alternatives and responsible opioid use.
- **Naloxone Distribution:** Since March 2024, more than **88,323** kits have been distributed to law enforcement and first responders, mental health providers, community organizations and directly to state residents. The kits have saved the lives of those experiencing substance or opioid use disorders, as well as individuals who accidentally ingest or come into contact with fentanyl.

Opioid Settlement Fund Grants – Rounds 1 –3

One of the goals of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process was to encourage grant applications from nontraditional providers and to increase the number of organizations certified or approved by ADMH.

209 proposals were submitted in Rounds 1-3.
64 were from organizations not previously certified.

ROUND 1

CATEGORY	TOTAL SUBMISSIONS
PREVENTION	18
TREATMENT	25
RECOVERY	9
TOTAL	52

ROUND 2

CATEGORY	TOTAL SUBMISSIONS
PREVENTION	13
TREATMENT	25
RECOVERY	31
TOTAL	69

ROUND 3

CATEGORY	TOTAL SUBMISSIONS
PREVENTION	23
TREATMENT	24
RECOVERY	41
TOTAL	88

Round 1 Appropriation: Act 2023-384

ADMH to establish a competitive grant program “for community providers that provide opioid prevention, treatment, medication, and services to individuals and families that have a proven positive outcome on individuals and families suffering from opioid addiction.”

\$8,500,000.

Round 1 – Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Grants

CATEGORY	% OF \$8.5M	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT	# OF PROPOSALS	# OF PROPOSALS AWARDED
PREVENTION	20	1,700,000	18	10
TREATMENT	70	5,950,000	25	13
RECOVERY	10	850,000	9	9
TOTAL	100%	\$8,500,000	52	32

Round 1 Outcomes

Through Opioid Settlement Fund Grants, providers reported the following outcomes:

Category	Details
Prevention	323 adults and 294 youth directly provided a prevention strategy
	126 Narcan kits distributed
	1,000 fentanyl test strips distributed
	50 trainings and educational events held
	3,825 media imprints made or materials distributed
	13 pounds of medications collected through the Drug Take Back Program
Treatment	388 adults and 103 youth directly served
	4,094 individual treatment services provided
	950 Narcan kits distributed
	52 events held, along with 20 training sessions
Recovery	5,790 adults directly served
	2,053 unique individual services provided
	166 Narcan kits distributed
	149 support groups or family coaching sessions held
	58 public awareness sessions or events hosted
	13 training events held

Round 2 Appropriation: Act 2024-426

The appropriation included the following:

Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery Grants	\$8,060,000
Prevention and Improved Outcomes	\$1,150,000*
Medicaid State Match	\$2,000,000
Residential Detox	\$1,000,000
988 Crisis Line	\$3,000,000
Statewide Marketing Campaign	\$1,300,000
Specialty Courts	\$1,000,000
Veterans Mental Health Pilot	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$20,510,000

Round 2 – Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Grants

Awards were capped: Prevention \$75,000, Treatment \$350,000, and Recovery \$150,000.

CATEGORY	% OF \$9.2M	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT	FUNDS REALLOCATED**	# OF PROPOSALS	# OF PROPOSALS AWARDED
PREVENTION	30%	\$2,749,200*	\$1,101,700	13	12
TREATMENT	61%	\$5,600,000	\$1,109,500	25	11
RECOVERY	9%	\$800,000	\$0	31	18
TOTAL	100%	\$9,149,200	\$2,211,200	69	41

*The Prevention & Improved Outcomes appropriation was combined with Prevention grants to offer one RFP to address prevention focused programs.

**ADMH did not receive enough proposals that scored over the cut score of 75 to receive funding allocated for Prevention and Treatment grants. On December 12, 2024, the Oversight Commission voted to allow Round 2 funds in the amount of \$2,211,200 to be allocated to Co-occurring Civil Commitment Beds.

Round 2 Outcomes

Category	Details
Prevention	7,300 adults and 5,751 youth directly provided a prevention strategy
	742 Naloxone kits distributed; 1,420 Fentanyl testing strips distributed
	3,512 Drug Disposal kits and 400 Medication locking bags distributed
	34 trainings and 131 educational events held; 56,683 media imprints made; 19,991 materials distributed
	13 pounds of medications collected through the Drug Take Back Program
Treatment	940 adults and 8 children directly served
	434 group sessions provided
	468 individual treatment services provided
	55 Naloxone kits distributed
	70 individuals secured housing (now paying rent/mortgage on their own)
	93 individuals secured employment
	88 individuals sober within 30 days of program completion, and 80 sober within 90 days of program completion
	21 educational events and 6 training sessions held
Recovery	9,618 adults and 308 youth directly served
	6,425 group sessions provided
	179,138 individual recovery services provided; 857 treatment referrals made; 157 transports to treatment provided
	2,235 Naloxone kits distributed
	43 individuals secured housing (now paying rent/mortgage on their own)
	333 individuals secured employment
	5 individuals returned to college and 66 entered vocational school or program
	188 individuals sober within 30 days of program completion, and 135 within 90 days of program completion
	327 educational events and 184 training sessions held

Kinship Program

The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), in partnership with the ADMH and three (3) of Alabama's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), leads the Kinship Caregiver Pilot Program.

The program is funded through Opioid Settlement Funds in the amount of \$279,071.00 and aims to provide essential support to kinship caregivers affected by the opioid crisis. Funding is being used to fulfill critical financial needs for kinship caregivers.

Each AAA partner actively conducts outreach efforts to raise awareness of the project by engaging with local pediatricians and social service organizations in their service areas. Because of the work being done, families are steadily being enrolled and supported.

From October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, the program assisted **175** kinship caregivers and served **344** children.

Residential Detox

Funding was requested due to a lack of residential detox services in north Alabama.

WellStone was awarded an RFP for a 16-bed residential detox program, for qualifying adults, and provide detox services to those with an opioid, benzodiazepine, or alcohol use disorder.

WellStone renovated an existing facility and opened on June 24, 2025.

988 Crisis Lifeline

Four call centers were funded to expand staffing and hours of operation.

The appropriation was distributed throughout the following Call Centers:

- Region I (Northern Alabama) – WellStone – \$660,000
- Region II (North Central Alabama) – JBS/The Crisis Center, Inc – \$750,000
- Regions III/IV (Central Alabama & Wiregrass) – SpectraCare – \$930,000
- Region IV (South Alabama) – AltaPointe – \$660,000

The 988 Call Centers have had three consecutive months of a 90% Answer Rate, with only 15 calls flowing out to National Backup in September 2025.

- JULY 90.9%
- AUGUST 90.2%
- SEPTEMBER 90.4%

988 Crisis Lifeline

Cumulative Data from
July 2022–September 2025

AVERAGE SPEED TO ANSWER



July
2022



September
2025

IN-STATE ANSWER RATE



68%
July
2022



90.4%
September
2025

109,129

Total # of Calls

12,065

Total # of Chats

143,299

Total # of Contacts
A call, text or chat
to the 988 Suicide &
Crisis Lifeline

22,105

Total # of Texts

Statewide Marketing Campaign

Telegraph will report more on this topic today.

Specialty Courts

After a discussion with Judge Seay and communication with Chief Justice Stewart, it was determined the best use of funds would be through an interagency agreement with the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), which was completed in January 2025.

Veterans Pilot Projects: Update

Alabama Act 2024-358 established the Veterans Mental Health Steering Committee (VMHSC):

- The Act required the VMHSC to develop a Comprehensive Plan to address the behavioral health needs of the state's veterans. It also required a significant review of Alabama veterans' behavioral health needs, current services, and best practices.
- The Comprehensive Plan was developed by the VMHSC, reviewed by the House and Senate Veteran and Military Affairs Committees in April 2025, and approved by the Governor in August 2025.

The legislation also authorized ADMH to implement pilot projects through an RFP process.

- The Act required the pilot projects be based on the findings of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Pilot projects are to begin upon the appropriation of new funds and certification of projects.

Through Act 2024-426, ADMH was appropriated \$3 million in Opioid Settlement Funds for the veteran pilot projects.

- The purpose of the RFP is to fund innovative, high quality pilot projects that align with the goals of the Committee's Comprehensive Plan and Evidence-Based Best Practices.

Veterans Pilot Projects

RFP Selection Committee

- Membership of Selection Committee reflected the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.
- More than 50 percent of the Selection Committee were veterans. The Selection Committee consisted of seven individuals:
 - Four of the seven were veterans
 - Two of the seven were veterans' spouses or adult children
 - One of the seven oversees grants and operations of a veteran program
- No one on the Selection Committee was employed by, on the board of, or contracted with an organization applying for funds. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements were signed before the Selection Process began.

RFP Structure

- Organizations could apply for up to \$750,000 in award money.
- Awarded programs must fund prevention, treatment, or recovery services, as the funding source is from the state's Opioid Settlement Fund.
- Funds could not be used for capital expenses.

Veterans Pilot Program: RFP Response Breakdown

ORGANIZATION TYPE	NUMBER RECEIVED
501c3 Nonprofit Organization	8
509A2 Public Charity	1
Community Mental Health Center	3
Private Organization (LLC, Inc., etc.)	6
University Institute or Program	1
TOTAL	19

- All the RFPs were for veteran-specific programs or projects.
- Nineteen responses were received, but one was disqualified.
- Of the 19, seven were from organizations who only serve veterans.
- Further, seven were organizations that are either already certified by ADMH or currently contracting with ADMH.

Veterans Pilot Program: RFP Awardees

- The following awardees' budgets and scopes of work have been approved:
 - AltaPointe
 - Centerstone
 - Sojourn Counseling
 - The Shoulder
 - UWill
 - WINGS
- The following awardee's budget is still being negotiated:
 - Vets Recover

Round 3 Appropriation: Act 2025-255

The appropriation include the following:

Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Grants	\$8,930,000
Medicaid State Match (continuation)	\$2,000,000
Residential Detox (continuation)	\$1,000,000
Purchase of Naloxone	\$1,000,000
988 Crisis Line (continuation)	\$3,500,000
Co-Occurring Civil Commitment Beds	\$5,000,000
Statewide Marketing Campaign (continuation)	\$1,300,000
Medical Medicine Education—AL Society of Addiction Medicine	\$130,000
Therapeutic Community Model Project	\$5,000,000
TOTAL	\$27,860,000

Request for Proposal Process (RFP)

For each round of grants, the Alabama Department of Mental Health convened a diverse, multidisciplinary team of stakeholders, community leaders, providers, and state agency personnel.

- The Selection Committees were comprised of individuals recommended by Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council standing committee chairs/co-chairs or their designees.
- The Selection Committees were comprised of professionals with backgrounds in prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- No Selection Committee member submitted a proposal.
- No Selection Committee member was compensated for their time.

Round 3– Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Grants

Awards were capped: Prevention \$75,000, Treatment \$350,000, and Recovery \$150,000.

CATEGORY	% OF \$8.9M	MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT	# OF PROPOSALS	# OF PROPOSALS AWARDED
PREVENTION	70	1,786,000	23	18
TREATMENT	20	6,251,000	24	11
RECOVERY	10	893,000	41	29
TOTAL	100%	\$8,930,000	88	58

Purchase of Naloxone

Based on ADMH's ability to distribute Naloxone kits (as seen in earlier slide), **more than 41,000 kits** can be purchased and distributed through the 2025 appropriation of \$1,000,000.



Co-Occurring Civil Commitment Beds funded with FY 2025 Opioid Settlement Fund Appropriation

Community Mental Health Center	Beds
<i>JBS – Blount County Pilot</i>	4
<i>Southwest New CRU – Escambia County Pilot</i>	16
<i>Integrea CRU Expansion – Chambers County Pilot</i>	4
Integrea New CRU	12
TOTAL	36

Medical Medicine Education – Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine

The Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine plans to significantly increase outreach efforts to other physicians and increase ability to provide education to physicians throughout the state through the Opioid Settlement Fund:

- Expand the annual educational conferences in 2025 and 2026 to educate addiction medicine physicians and providers on best practices and the latest evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders
- Introduce a 2026 Addiction Medicine Basics course
- Introduction to Addiction Medicine Talks to Medical Schools and Residency Programs (Six planned for 2026)
- Upgrade website to be more accessible to prescribers and include educational materials
- Administrative staffing support for the above initiatives
- Sponsorships for students, residents, and scholarships to attend conferences to include annual meetings and the American Society of Addiction Medicine annual conference

Therapeutic Community Model

A one-time \$5 million appropriation in Opioid Settlement Funds is "to establish a dedicated opioid treatment center using the Therapeutic Community model through an RFP."

The legislative intent of this appropriation is to:

- Offer a longer-term, evidence-informed model of care known as the "Therapeutic Community Model." This model does not currently exist in the continuum of care in Alabama.
- This model is intended for individuals who require more structured, wraparound supports such as housing, employment, and character/identity development, due to chronic substance use.
- Awardee must have a self-sustainable financial model.

ADMH is currently in the research and drafting phase of the RFP process. The RFP will be published in late 2025 or early 2026.

Thank You

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