

## Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services in Prison

### Introduction

Approximately 90 percent of Minnesota inmates are diagnosed with substance use disorders (SUD). Because there is a strong link between substance abuse and crime, the Department of Corrections (DOC) provides treatment prior to release from prison for the purpose of reducing the risk of reoffense, also known as recidivism.

Providing treatment in prison has a number of advantages. While in prison, offenders are abstinent from drugs and alcohol, and housed in a stable environment without negative distractions that can interfere with treatment in a community setting. DOC programs are designed specifically for offenders, addressing both the substance abuse issues and the criminogenic factors that lead to recidivism.

Research shows prison-based treatment is effective and a sound public policy investment. A recent evaluation found successful participation in the department's substance use disorder programs effectively reduced recidivism by 23 percent<sup>1</sup>. A study of California's substance abuse treatment programs found every dollar spent on drug and alcohol treatment saves the public seven dollars through reduced crime<sup>2</sup>. When averted health care costs are included, the savings increase to \$12 for each dollar invested in treatment<sup>3</sup>.

With 1,051 residential treatment beds in the state prison system, the DOC provides a continuum of SUD services including treatment readiness, primary long-term treatment, and aftercare.

SUD treatment is available to offenders at every state prison custody level except maximum. Services are provided to adult male and adult female offenders. Department treatment programs are routinely reviewed for compliance with state certification and licensure standards.

### Treatment Staff

Every 100 primary treatment beds require 11 program therapists, two licensed supervisors, one assessor, and one administrative support position. Additional release planning and program security staff may also be necessary to supplement and support programming. Program certification standards are set specific to staffing ratio requirements.

#### Treatment Statistics - FY 2018 & 19

	FY2018	FY2019
Number of offenders with substance use disorders directed to treatment yearly:	3,668	3,543
Offenders entering a DOC residential treatment program:	1,714	1,637
Offenders successfully completing treatment:	74.9 %	78.1 %
Average program completion time:	6.3 mths	6.1 mths
Number of beds:	1,051	1,051

1. Prison-Based Chemical Dependency Treatment in Minnesota: An Outcome Evaluation - March 2010

2. California Department of Alcohol and Drug Program, California Drug & Alcohol Treatment Assessment

3. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, Shoveling Up II: The Impact of Substance Abuse on Federal, State and Local Budgets, May 2009

## Treatment Demands

Approximately 6,500 offenders are assessed as needing substance abuse treatment each year. The department is currently funded to provide treatment to about 1,600 offenders annually. Offenders can refuse treatment.

## Residential Treatment

The DOC provides long and medium-term, prison-based SUD treatment. The average length of treatment is seven months. Such programming is staff-intensive and targets offenders who are considered at a high-risk or high need for treatment.

An important component in the effectiveness of the department's SUD programs is its "therapeutic community" model. These treatment "communities" take advantage of the dynamics of a therapeutically controlled social environment to increase the intensity and broaden the scope of the treatment intervention. In this environment, offenders have the opportunity to practice and demonstrate improved decision-making skills in a sober environment and under staff supervision.

Facility/Program	FY10	FY19
<b>Faribault</b>	120	176
<b>Lino Lakes</b>		
TRIAD	256	256
Serenity West (Short Term)	0	60
SOTP	50	50
<b>Moose Lake (DOC)</b>	60	60
<b>St. Cloud</b>		
Reshape	24	32
Rivers (Short Term)	0	46
<b>Shakopee</b>		
Changing Paths	40	40
Compass - Challenge		
Incarceration Program (CIP)	0	40
<b>Stillwater</b>	36	36
<b>Togo</b>		
Juveniles	8	N/A
Adult Female (CIP)	30	N/A
Adult Male (CIP)	0	75
<b>Willow River Male (CIP)</b>	180	180
<b>Total:</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>1,051</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>\$6.474M</b>	<b>\$10.9M</b>

## Release Planning

Offenders who are in SUD programs are eligible to receive substance abuse-specific release planning services. These services connect the offender with community-based SUD treatment programs, including medication assisted treatment programs, to ensure continuity of care. Other release planning assistance is provided to program graduates in the areas of housing, employment, obtaining health insurance, and obtaining economic assistance.

## Cost of Adding Beds

An additional 1,100 primary SUD treatment beds are needed to offer treatment to all offenders with a directive to treatment. This bed figure is based on the current adult inmate population of approximately 9,500 offenders. Each 100 primary treatment beds is estimated to cost \$1.3 million annually. This includes salary and non-salary costs for treatment personnel. Adding treatment beds also requires capital costs to construct or remodel additional space for treatment programming.

## Aftercare

DOC staff identifies community-based programs that provide aftercare services to minimum-security offenders who have completed SUD treatment. These programs not only provide aftercare services to this population, but also work to establish long-term relationships with these offenders as part of preparation for release to the community.