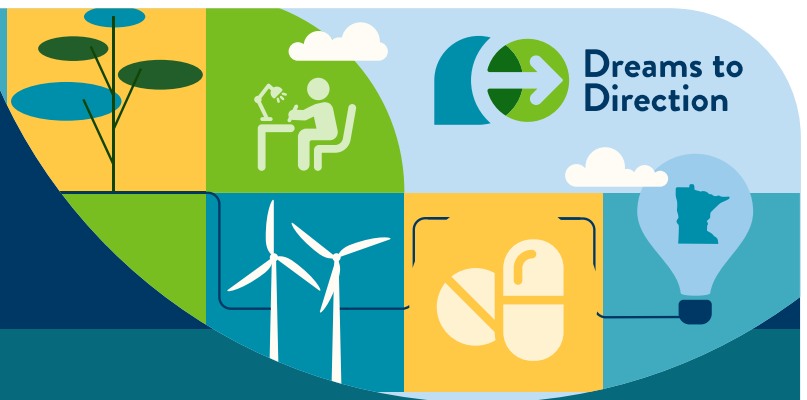


Aligning Substance Use Disorder Metrics



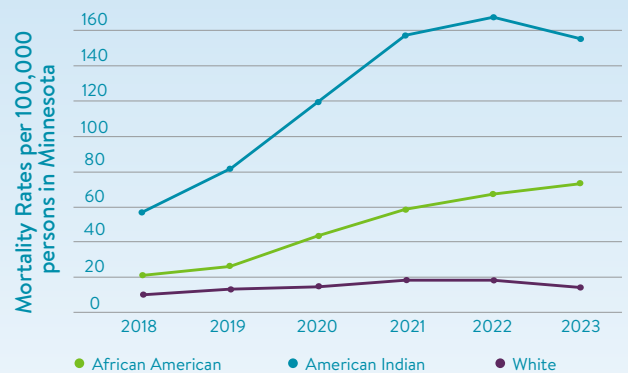
Substance use disorder (SUD) greatly impacts quality of life for individuals and communities across Minnesota. Innovative approaches and targeted investments to address SUD have begun to show promising results in reversing trends. While state agencies have developed goals, objectives, and, in some cases, metrics related to SUD to track progress, there is not currently a complete picture of what data is being collected across state agencies. **Addressing SUD in the long term requires sustained, coordinated action and a shared understanding across the state. Consistent data collection and tracking are essential for reliably measuring the outcomes and impacts of programs and policies.** To address this need, the Long-Range Planning team (LRP) will work in partnership with the Office of Addiction and Recovery (OAR) to convene a data-focused working group to understand and align SUD metrics.

Where Are We Now?

SUD harms individuals and communities across Minnesota. In 2018, an estimated 290,000 Minnesotans experienced SUD.¹ According to the Minnesota Department of Health, overdose deaths increased by 300% from 2014 to 2022 with 1,039 deaths in 2022.² In addition to the physical and emotional impacts of SUD for individuals and their families, there are also economic effects for the state. Research suggests that excessive drinking, for example, cost the state \$7.5 billion in 2019 through lost job productivity, health care and criminal justice costs, and motor vehicle crashes.³ Despite these troubling numbers, in 2023, opioid overdose deaths declined for the first time since 2018.⁴ These promising trends reflect investments and attention by state and local governments, community partners, health care providers, and individual Minnesotans to increase access to treatment options including medications for opioid use disorder. In 2023, over \$200 million in SUD investments were signed into law and are now reaching communities.⁵

By the Numbers

Alarming racial disparities exist in SUD rates as noted in the table below. Overdose rates are ten times higher for American Indian Minnesotans and three times higher for Black Minnesotans than for white Minnesotans.⁶



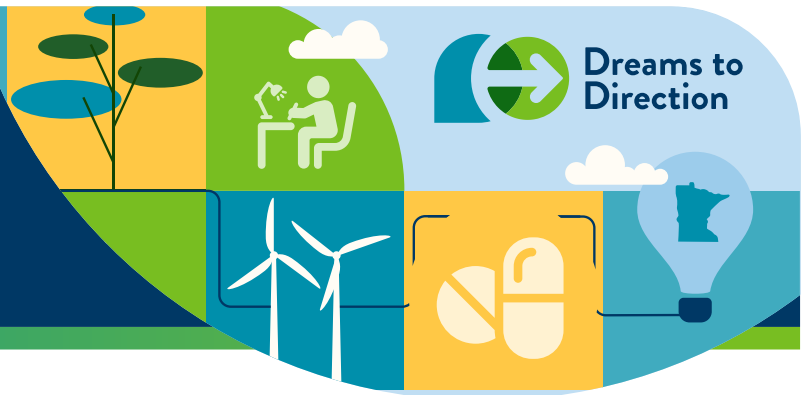
Substance Use Disorder Treatment



Only 1 in 10 people receive SUD treatment in the U.S. In Minnesota, the majority of people seeking treatment for SUD are using alcohol followed by methamphetamines.

Source: [MN Department of Health](https://mn.gov/health/)

Aligning Substance Use Disorder Metrics



What Could Progress Look Like?

Progress on this issue could mean that state agency programs and community providers would have a clearer understanding of what strategies and actions make a difference for people experiencing SUD. Several innovative approaches have been used and large investments made to address SUD and prevent overdoses over the last several years. While there is often good programmatic data about what is being done and who is being served, there isn't always a clear picture about whether the individual is better off and has better outcomes because of the specific services received. By coordinating and aligning data collection across agencies working on similar goals and activities, the state can gain a clearer picture of the impacts of these activities for individuals and the community at large. More complete data would also enable advocates and lawmakers to prioritize ongoing investments into the strategies and activities that have the greatest impact on reducing SUD and improving quality of life.

While this data-specific approach may seem highly technical, it is rooted in a belief that data-driven strategies help connect people with SUD to the services they need—no matter where they are. This supports recovery, prevents overdose deaths, and helps all Minnesotans thrive in their communities.

How Can Long-Range Planning Help?

The LRP team, in partnership with the OAR, plans to convene a data-focused working group to accomplish the following goals:

1. Develop a complete understanding of what SUD metrics are currently collected across state agencies.
2. Identify opportunities to align across key state agency partners on ongoing measurement.
3. Support the subcabinet in creating a measurement framework for the goals set in the comprehensive substance use and addiction plan.

In addition to these specific goals, the LRP team may also convene state agency partners to talk about what data is most meaningful to collect to show the positive impact of programs and investments. The LRP team can also provide technical assistance and training to improve the effective use of data by policymakers and program staff where needed.

mn.gov/planning

Get Involved

Join us in shaping Minnesota's future! If you have questions or want to participate, contact the Long-range Planning team at planning.mmb@state.mn.us.