



Preventing and reducing substance misuse and substance use disorder in Minnesota

Substance use disorder is a common medical condition that is treatable. An estimated 450,000 to 500,000 Minnesotans are directly impacted by addictions. Most people who enter drug and alcohol treatment complete it and are successful in reducing or eliminating their substance use.

The facts

- **Substance use disorder is a chronic disease.** Treatment is one way people get into recovery from substance use disorder.
- **Treatment works.** Four out of five people who complete treatment and have supportive services after leaving treatment do not return to treatment in the next 12 months.
- **Treatment is cost-effective.** Every dollar spent on substance use disorder treatment saves \$4 in healthcare costs and \$7 in law enforcement and other criminal justice costs.
- **Treatment in high demand.** There were over 55,000 admissions to treatment in Minnesota in 2017.
- **Not everyone who needs treatment is getting it.** Every year, nearly 400,000 Minnesotans with substance use disorder will not receive treatment. Many factors contribute to this “treatment gap,” including not being able to afford care, fear of embarrassment and discrimination, and lack of screening for substance use disorders.

The Behavioral Health Division

At the DHS, the Behavioral Health Division is working to prevent and reduce addiction to drugs, alcohol, tobacco and gambling. We do this through policy, funding, monitoring, treatment, prevention and enforcement.

Policy

In order to build and support an effective and efficient system of care, we work to:

- Provide data and analysis to the executive and legislative branches of government
- Develop treatment licensure rules
- Partner with consumers, counties, tribes and providers to develop person and family-centered, community-based care.

Funding

The Behavioral Health Division strives to support individuals, community programs, counties and tribes with the resources they need, while being good stewards of state and federal dollars.

We support:

- Substance Use Disorder treatment for individuals who meet certain financial and other eligibility requirements
- Prevention grants to local organizations and problem gambling awareness efforts
- Commercial tobacco use prevention activities such as vendor compliance checks.
- Opioid misuse prevention and Opioid Use Disorder treatment initiatives

What we do

Substance Use Disorder funding, policy and monitoring

- Of the 55,000 substance use disorder treatment admissions in Minnesota in 2017, approximately two thirds were publicly funded.
- DHS supports a number of culturally specific substance use disorder treatment programs. Culturally specific programs address the unique needs of individuals who share a common culture, and are governed with significant input from and employ individuals who are of that culture. Examples include programs by and for American Indians and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.
- Women's Recovery Services helps women in treatment remain alcohol and drug free, get and keep a job, stay out of the criminal justice system, have stable housing, get physical and mental health services for themselves and their children, and deliver babies who test negative for substances at birth.

Substance misuse prevention

- Positive Community Norms grants are part of our prevention planning and implementation grant programs in schools. In participating schools, alcohol use went down 23 percent among high schoolers and 50 percent among middle schoolers.
- Between July 2015 and Dec 2016, over 81,000 people visited KnowTheDangers.com for facts about synthetic substances.

Problem gambling prevention and treatment

- Minnesota Problem Gambling Helpline at (800) 333-HOPE provides help for people struggling with a gambling problem.
- A new gambling addiction effort launched in late 2016: <http://justaskmn.org/>. "Just Ask" seeks to raise awareness about the risks associated with gambling among college-age youth.

Tobacco prevention and compliance monitoring

- Enforcing retail tobacco laws is critical to decreasing smoking among youth. DHS Tobacco Inspectors have conducted 31,983 inspections resulting in 1,591 warning letters, 319 civil money penalties and one no sale order between December 2011 and March 2018.
- In 2017, 59 agencies from 47 of the 87 Minnesota counties participated in "Congratulate and Educate," conducting 1,448 educational tobacco compliance check inspections educating tobacco retailers and owners.

Our mission is to prevent and reduce human suffering due to substance misuse and addiction. Find out more at: mn.gov/dhs/recovery



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