



Dakota County Substance Use Services Continuum

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What is a Substance Use Disorder?



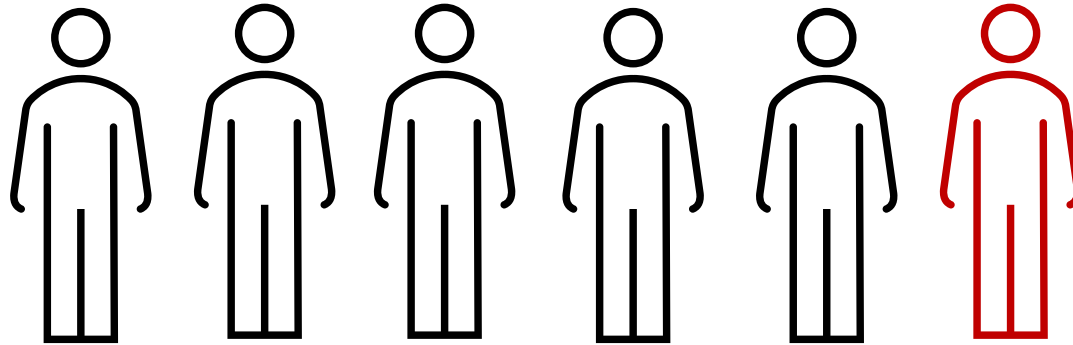
A substance use disorder (SUD) is a treatable health condition that can develop when alcohol or other drug use begins to create challenges in a person's health, relationships, responsibilities, or daily life, and it becomes difficult to reduce and stop use.

Substance Use by the Numbers



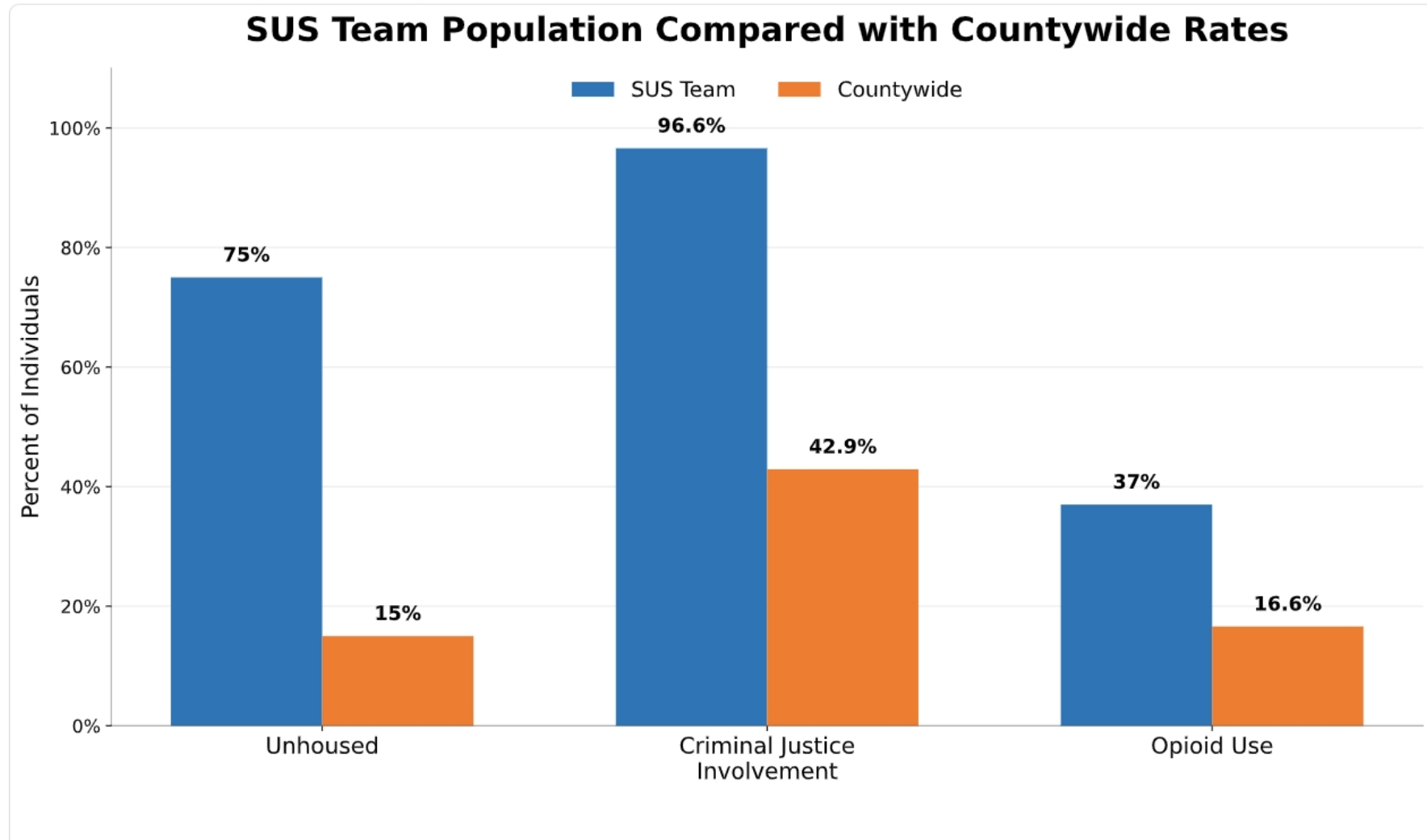
In 2024:

- Among people 12 or older, 16.8% (or 48.4 million people) had a past-year substance use disorder (SUD)
- 9.8% of people 12 or older had a drug use disorder
- 9.7% of people 12 or older with an alcohol use disorder
- Adults aged 18 or older, 33.0% (or 86.6 million people) had either mental illness or a substance use disorder in the past year



1 in 6 Americans have a Substance Use Disorder
1 in 2 American adults has been affected by SUD in their family

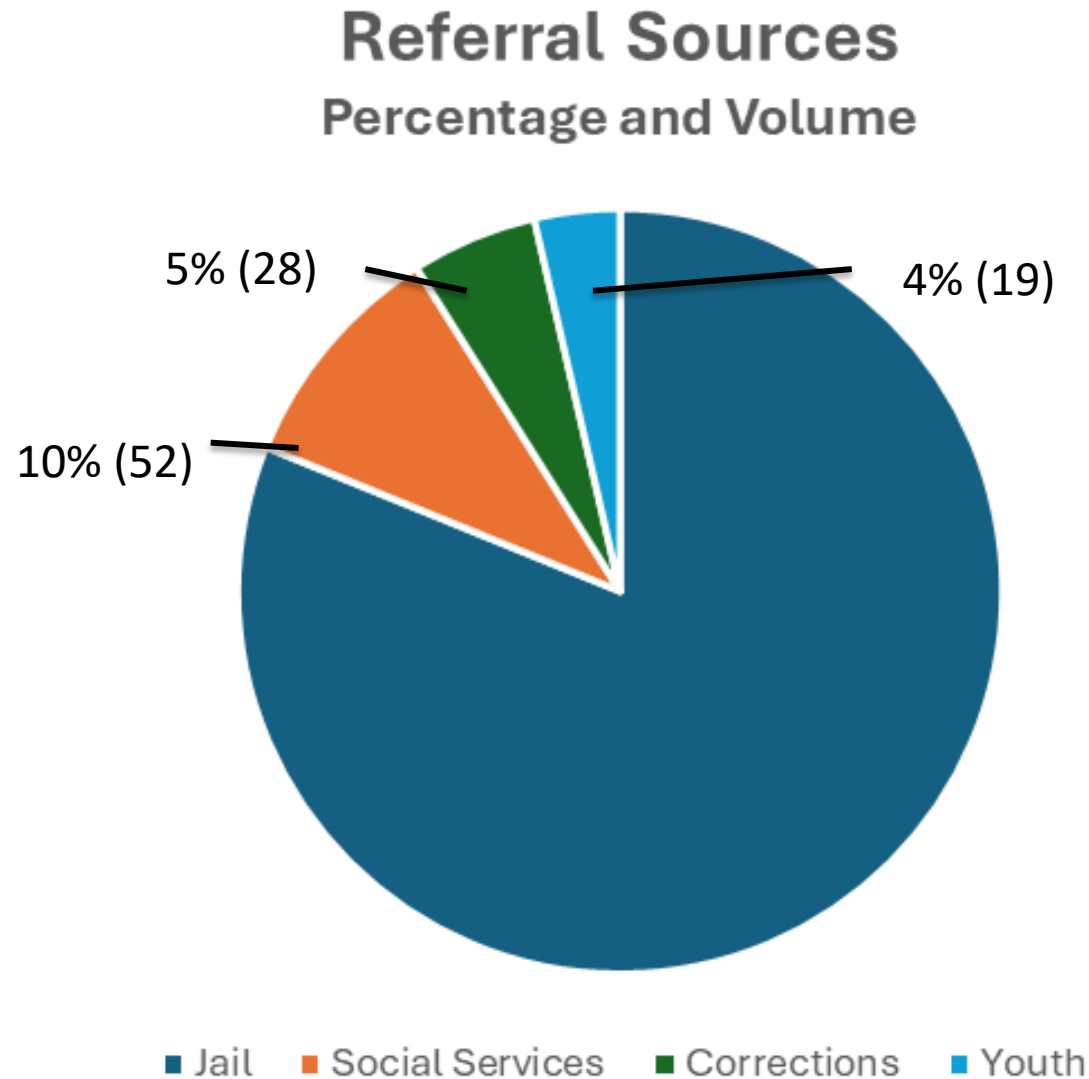
Population Served by Dakota County Substance Use Services



Source: Countywide rates sourced from 2025 DAANES Summary.

Countywide data: 2,666 treatment admissions
SUS data: 525 individuals

Referral Sources for the County's Substance Use Services



525 referrals sent to SUS
over a 12 month span
(8/1/25 to 7/31/26)

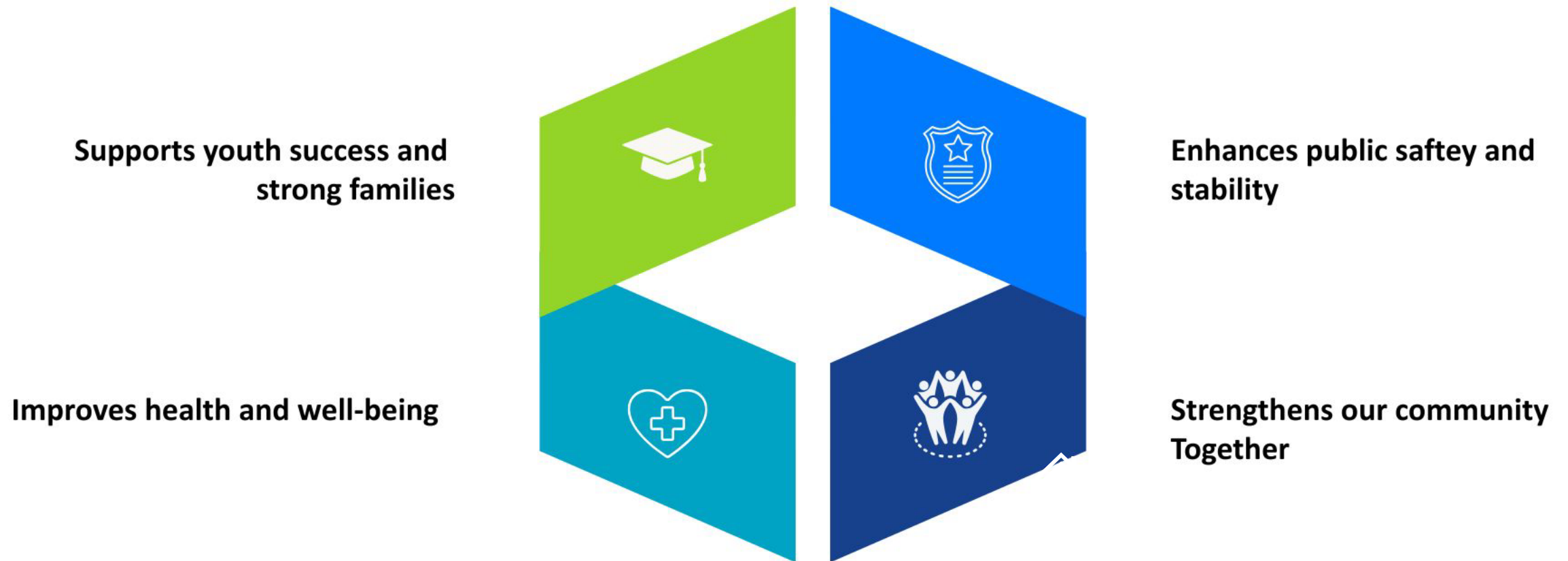
Dakota County's Role and Mandates



Minnesota counties carry broad and overlapping statutory mandates to ensure access to, funding for, and coordination of substance use disorder (SUD) services — spanning treatment funding, withdrawal management, civil commitment, and the justice system. These obligations are distributed across multiple chapters of Minnesota Statutes (Minn. Stat. 254B, 245G, and 256M to ensure access to and funding for substance use disorder (SUD) services, under 245F and related sections of 256B).

Counties also carry statutory obligations under Chapter 253B to perform civil commitment screenings, petitions, coordination, and placement for individuals with SUD. Additionally, counties have responsibility for ensuring appropriate SUD-related access within the justice system through statutes including 241.31 and 609.115.

Substance use service access affects individuals, families, and our entire community.



History of Dakota County Substance Use Services



1980s

- Eligibility for funding (CCDTF) and “Rule 25” Assessments, at jail and county buildings
- 4 FTE Social Workers; 2 FTE Admin

2008

- Social Services took over operating licensed outpatient SU treatment program within the Dakota County Jail
- Added 2 FTE Social Workers for Jail Treatment Program (JTP) and 1 FTE Coordinator

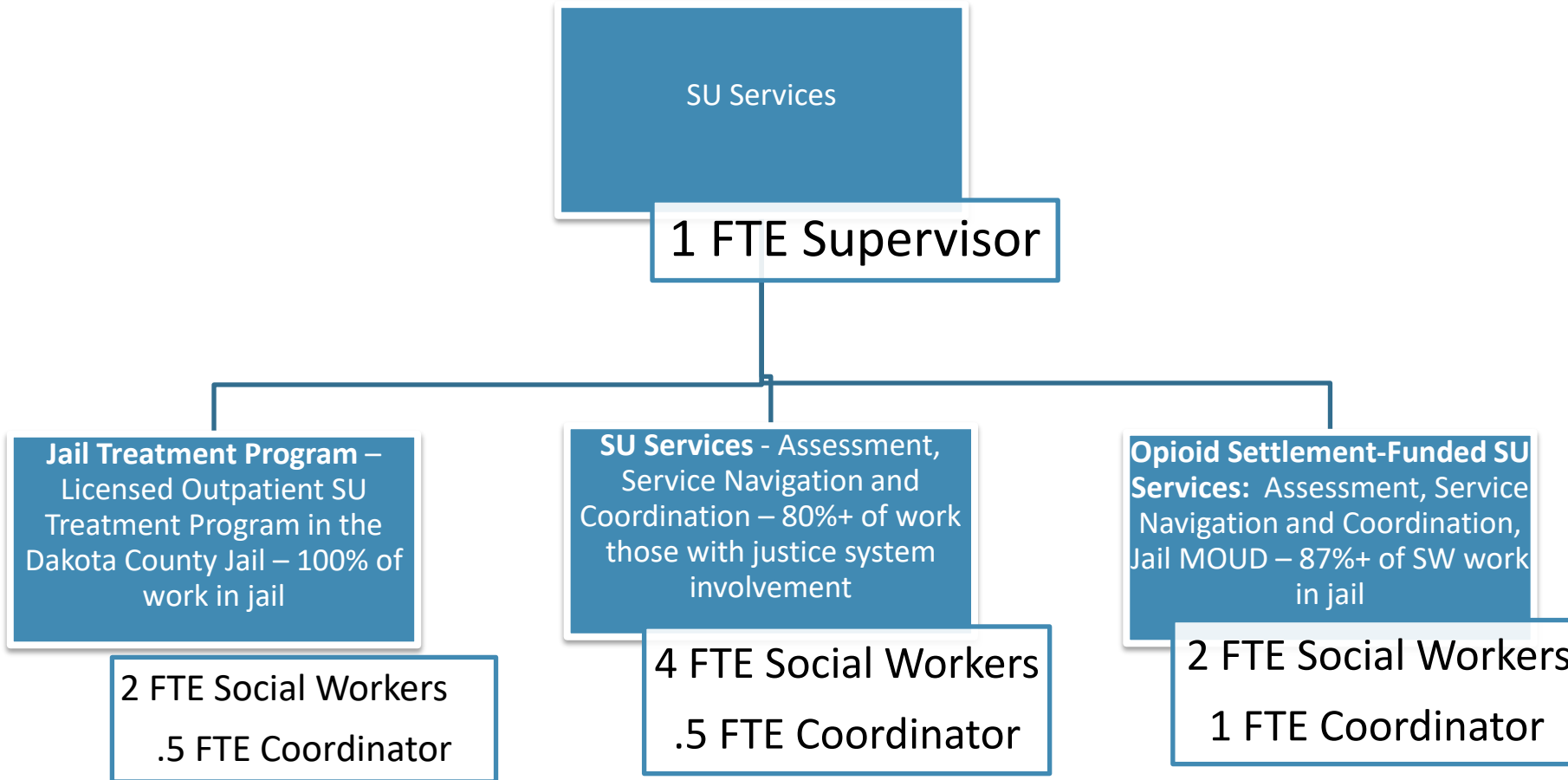
2024

- With Board support, in partnership with Public Health and Sheriff’s Office, expanded services to address opioid use (OU), including access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)
- Added 2 FTE Social Workers and 1 FTE Coordinator

2026

- DHS moved funding eligibility to State July 1, 2026; 2026 County budgeted eliminated 2 FTE Admin. + reduced \$200,000 in contracted SU services
- Current state: Services provided across continuum with continued focus on serving most underserved populations including jail population – 85%+ of all service for those in jail or justice system involved; 468 jail assessments in last 12 months
- Effective August 1, 2026 more services billable in 15 minute units
- Applying for grants

Substance Use Services Team



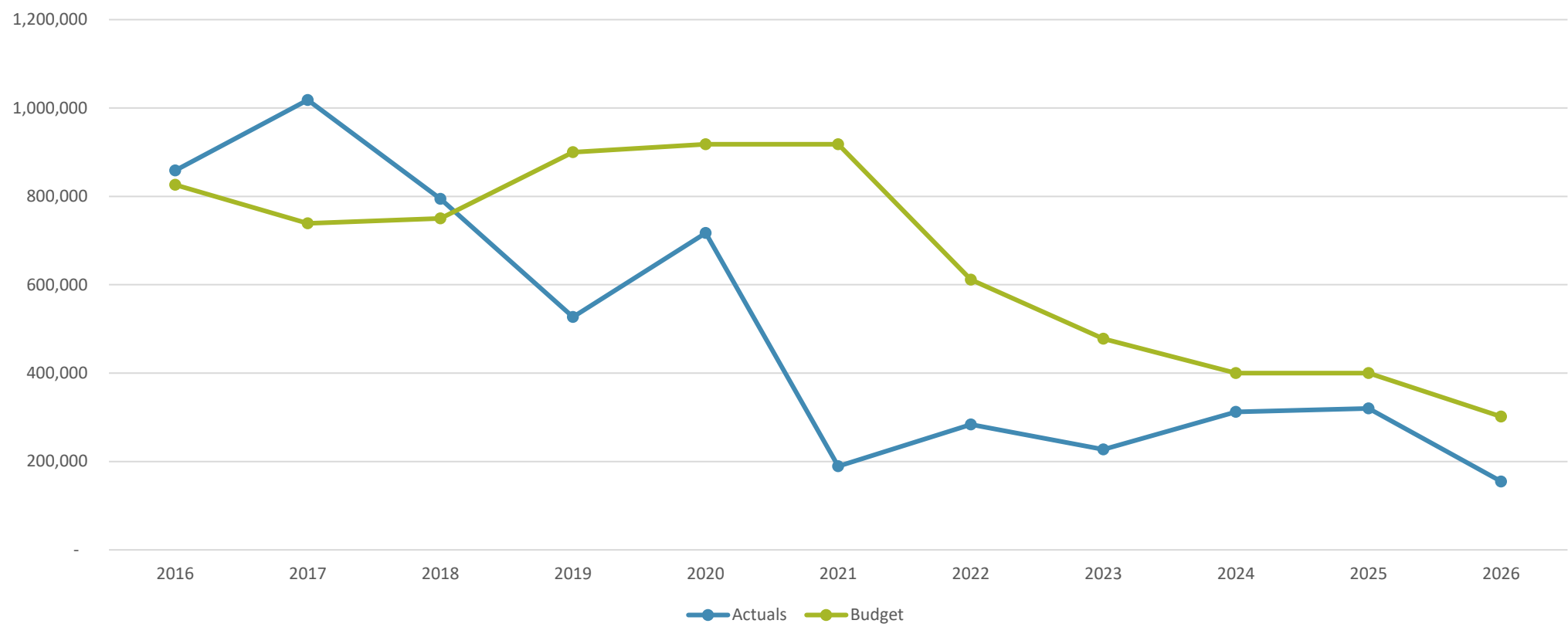
FTE Funding Sources



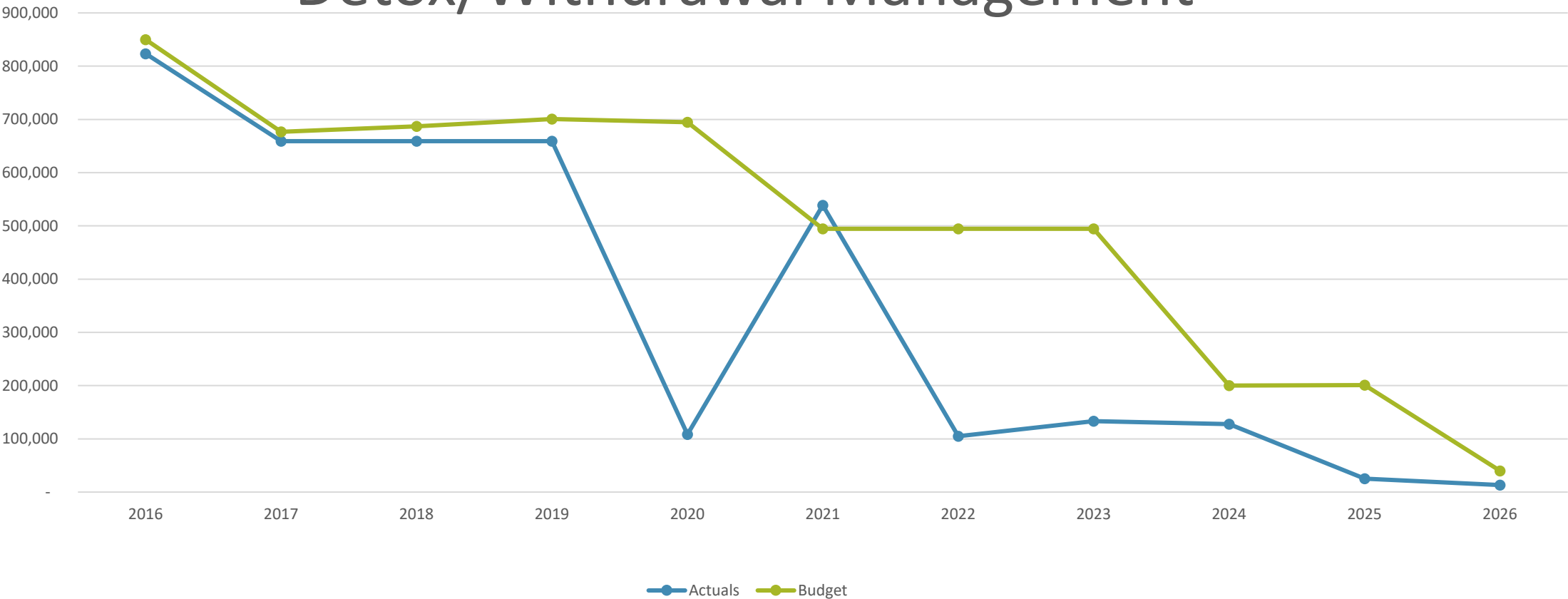
Fund Source	2026 Adopted Budget
Opioid Settlement	\$438,534
Billing for Services – Jail Treatment Program	\$155,000
Billing for Services – Assessment and Coordination	\$125,000
Levy	\$804,287
Total	\$1,522,821



Behavioral Health Fund (BHF)



Detox/Withdrawal Management



Substance Use Disorder Continuum of Care



EARLY INTERVENTION

Prevent and reduce risk before problems escalate.



COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Timely, person-centered assessment to guide next steps.



TREATMENT COORDINATION

Coordinated planning and connection to the right level of care.



TREATMENT

Evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment tailored to individual needs.



Building resilience and reducing risk before problems escalate



In Depth Pilot: An alternative to school suspension or citation



Pre-Engagement collaboration: Crisis Embedded Social Work Team



Collaboration with South Saint Paul PD on high frequency SUD calls



Psychoeducation presentations to schools, community corrections, and community



Understanding each person's unique needs to guide the right path forward



Person-centered and trauma-informed SUD assessment



Meeting residents where they are at: in schools, the community, and law enforcement center/jail – 468 assessments August 2025 to July 2026



Timely and accessible



Alternative to suspension

Jail Assessments, January – July 2026



- Individuals provided with assessment *and* treatment coordination: **266***
 - 70 of these individuals reported opioid use (26% of all applicants)
- Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) referrals: **68**
- Total amount of individuals with opioid use served: **138**
- Average turnaround time for an assessment: **< 2 business days**
 - Per statute, providers have up to 5 business days to complete assessments.
- Number of SUS applications requested: **304**
 - **266** (87.5%) were sent back, processed, and assigned a SUS social worker**

* Minnesota Stat. §254B.0501 subdivision 5 requires the county to complete assessments according to §254A.19

** Jails are required to respond to requests for SU services; assist people to apply for the Behavioral Health Fund; submit application to DHS; notify county economic assistance of and date of incarceration and release date. In the Dakota County Jail, Social Services social workers perform many of these duties. Work has increased with move of funding eligibility to State



Connecting people to the right services at the right time



Individualized recovery planning



Referrals to treatment, including as condition of release from jail



Food, housing and employment resources



Behavioral Health Fund and Medical Assistance application assistance



Dakota County Jail Treatment Program Evidence-based, trauma-informed care tailored to individual needs.



52 individuals served in outpatient substance use treatment in 2025



Group counseling 9 hours a week



Individual counseling



Psychoeducation

Stronger together. Better outcomes for everyone.



Schools

- 12 Schools served in 25/26



First Responders

- Dakota County Sheriff's Office
- Drug Task Force
- South St. Paul PD
- South Metro Fire



Justice Partners

- Adult Drug Court
- Veteran's Court
- Family Drug Treatment Court
- Juvenile Drug Treatment Court



Public Health Collaboration

- HOPE Summit
- LPHA Opioid Settlement Summit



Treatment Providers

- Minnesota Recovery Connection
- Thrive
- Wayside
- People Inc.

Working across systems to create a seamless continuum of care, 80+% of work within the justice system.

Building on what works. Expanding what's possible.



EXPANDED EARLY INTERVENTION

- INDEPTH pilot at Hastings Middle School and Inver Grove Middle School (5 referrals in 2025-2026 school year)



STRENGTHENED ACCESS

- Comprehensive assessments in schools, the community, and justice settings
- Meeting individuals where they are at



TREATMENT

- 245G Jail Treatment Program
- 50% graduated in 2025
- 100% received individualized continuing care planning for community re-entry



RECOVERY CONNECTIONS

- Presentation at LPHA Opioid Settlement Summit
- MDH presentation
- HOPE Summit
- Jail Resource Fair
- Recovery Fair
- Recovery Navigator Partnership – Ampact/Americorp



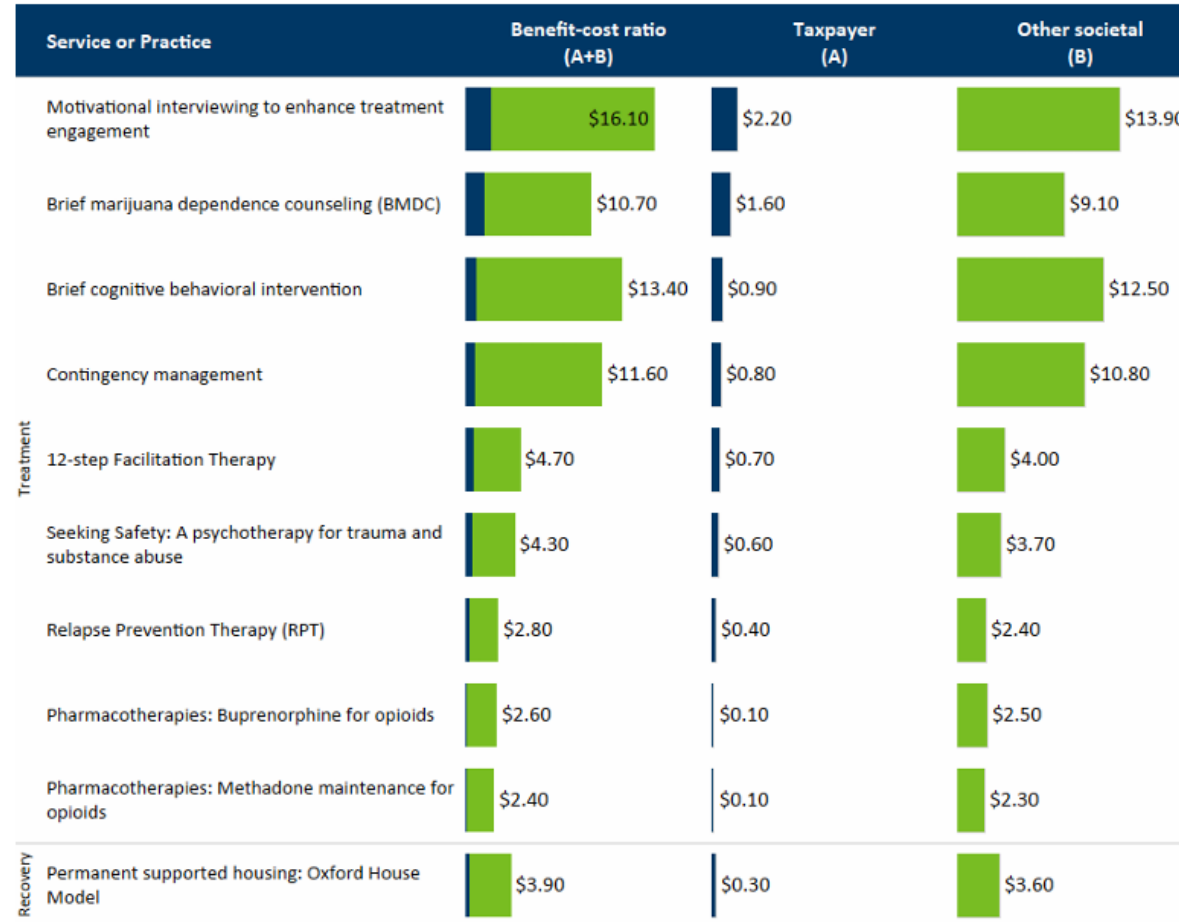
CROSS-SYSTEM COLLABORATION

- Schools
- Public Safety
 - South St. Paul PD
- Community Corrections
 - Adult Drug Court
 - Family Dependency Treatment Court
 - Juvenile Drug Court
 - Veteran's Court
- Public Health
- Treatment Providers

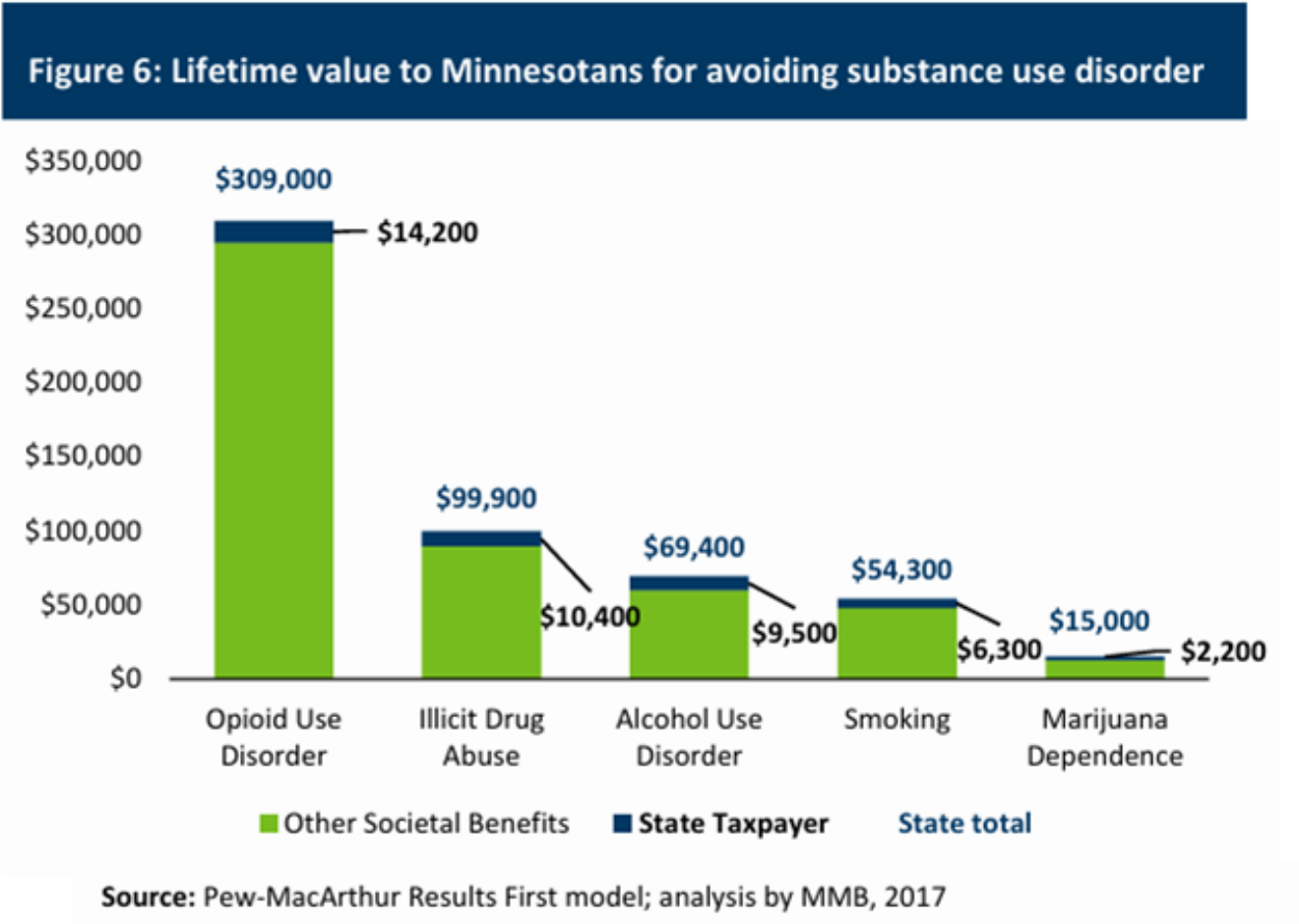
Return on Investment, Treatment and Recovery



Figure 5: Comparison of benefit-cost ratios for treatment and recovery services



Source: Minnesota Management and Budget, Results First, Adult and Youth Substance Use Disorder Findings Benefit-cost Analysis Summary September 2017.



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Funding Agency:

Minnesota Opioid Epidemic Response Services Grant, Department of Human Services and Minnesota Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council (OERAC)

Due Date:

- Application due August 10, 2026

Dakota County Proposal:

- Preserve or expand evidence-based services for justice involved adults and youth

Request for Board Action, Ratification:

- September 2026

Letters of Commitment/Support:

- Dakota County Sheriff's Office, Public Health, ISD 196, and Thrive!

Questions?

