

Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH)

Our 2024 legislative priorities were identified and developed by more than 240 SUD professionals across the state.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

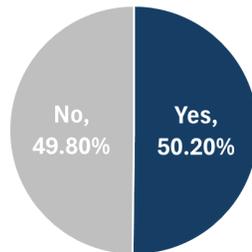
ISSUE: Substance use disorder (SUD) is a chronic disease. Minnesotans deserve quick access, and ample support throughout their recovery journey. Programs need adequate funding to maintain appropriate staffing levels to deliver life-saving care.

BACKGROUND: The SUD field has rapidly evolved since 2017, with program standards shifting to statute 245G, the 1115 Waiver becoming a mandate, and a push towards ASAM standards. The COVID pandemic, social justice efforts, and workforce crisis add additional challenges. While adopting evidence-based practices aligned with ASAM is positive, timing and cost of implementation are crucial considerations.

Any further delays in addressing SUD rates will result in more burnout and program closures. With overdose deaths at an all time high, we are at a critical breaking point and need immediate and long-term relief.

We received survey data from more than 620 SUD workers in MN, focusing on stress, burnout, and hope.

BURNOUT: In the past 12 months, have you considered leaving the SUD field?



“Understaffing is the single most detriment to providing the best quality of care.”

STRESS: When asked what the one thing is that causes the most stress, the top 4 answers were:

- Caseload/Program needs
- Paperwork
- Not enough staff/inexperienced
- Client Acuity

“High caseloads and turnover “water down” the quality of care, which contributes to clients relapsing and needing to return to treatment, or worse.”

THE FACTS

**Rates = Fast
Change = Slow
Help = NOW!**



Net loss of 45 licensed SUD providers over last two years. More than 40% of these closures happen outside of the 7 county metro area. Closures in Greater MN have a significant impact on access.



MN opioid-involved overdose deaths increased 43% from 2020 to 2022; more than doubled since 2019.

10 X

In 2021, American Indian MNs were 10x as likely to die from a drug overdose than white MNs.

3 X

In 2021, Black MNs were more than 3x as likely to die from drug overdose than white MNs.

Opioid Overdose Deaths in MN
(according to MDH)



Contact Us

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www.marrch.org

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

POLICY ([SF3984/HF4149](#))

- **Expand alternative paths to licensure [Section 1]**
- **ASAM certification/Alternative Licensing Inspections [Section 2]**
- **Eliminate ratios to align with ASAM [Sections 3 and 5]**
 - Medical and mental health staffing
 - Residential engagement documentation
 - Federal holidays off for counselors
- **County Affidavit for BHF [Section 4]**
- **Hard deadline for paperwork reduction of December 2024 [Section 6]**

FUNDING ([SF4276/HF4190](#))

- **Waiving Fees for IDs (Sections 1, 2, and 3)**
 - Birth certificate and driver's license/ID card
- **SUD rates**
 - Develop group peer rate (section 4 and 5)
 - "Unstrike" SUD and be included in 3% increase effective Jan. 1, 2024 (section 7)
 - Auto inflation adjustment (section 7)
 - Implement rate methodology recommendations ASAP (section 11)
- **SUD Treatment Effectiveness (Section 6)**
 - Create an SUD data dashboard
- **Extend rate study** to include adolescent SUD (residential/non-residential, Withdrawal Management) and Room and Board payments (section 8)
- **1115 Waiver** for Incarceration (section 9)
- **Transition Support Workgroup (Section 10)**
 - Develop recommendations related to housing, food support, childcare, and transportation services for people transitioning out of SUD services
- **Deduct student loan payments from MN taxes (Section 12)**

RESOURCES

[Legislative Report Outpatient Services Rate Study](#)

[DHS presentation on Outpatient Services Rate Study](#)

ABOUT MARRCH

About MARRCH is a professional association of addiction treatment professionals and organizations striving to raise awareness about addiction and the power of recovery. We represent more than 150 agencies/organizations and more than 2,500 individuals (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, students, other behavioral health professionals) with members in every region of Minnesota.

As a collective body, MARRCH works to educate, support and guide individuals and agencies while speaking with a unified voice in public policy venues.