Texas Targeted Opioid Response

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TEXAS
Health and Human Services

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1. Introduction

The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic. More than 130 people a day die from opioid-related drug overdoses in the U.S. (Health Resources & Services Administration, 2022). In Texas, one in four residents has experienced an opioid overdose or knows someone who has (Texas Health and Human Services, 2022).

To address this epidemic, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission started the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) in May 2017. TTOR is a public health initiative with a mission to save lives and provide life-long support to Texans with opioid and stimulant use disorders by expanding access to services. This program serves the entire state with a particular focus on three groups at increased risk for opioid use disorder (OUD), harmful stimulant use and resulting consequences: 1) people living in rural/remote areas, 2) people using multiple substances, and 3) people with historically low access to services. Four values guide TTOR implementation across the continuum of care: collaborative, accessible, evidence-informed, and wholistic. These core values provide a framework for services that meet communities where they are and ensure positive outcomes for all Texans.

Four broad strategies are employed to address OUD in Texas: prevention, integrated, treatment, and recovery. Each strategy contains projects supporting evidence-based services to reduce opioid misuse.

> **Prevention** projects connect communities to resources throughout Texas, raising awareness about prescription opioid misuse, distributing life-saving naloxone, and stopping substance use disorder before it starts.
>
> **Integrated** projects work with organizations that provide rapid, short-term services to people with OUD and then arrange longer-term care through other, more specialized providers.
>
> **Treatment** projects expand access to the organizations that provide medication for OUD, ensuring people can choose from a variety of treatment options.
>
> **Recovery** projects provide peer support, employment, housing, and other services important for sustaining long-term recovery from OUD.

TTOR also implements evidence-based services to address stimulant use disorders, including cocaine and methamphetamine.

References:

Opioid crisis. Official web site of the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration. (2022, June 10). Retrieved August 10, 2022, from https://www.hrsa.gov/opioids

Together, Texans are Fighting the Opioid Crisis. Texas Targeted Opioid Response. (n.d.). Retrieved September 9, 2022, from https://txopioidresponse.org/

2. Background

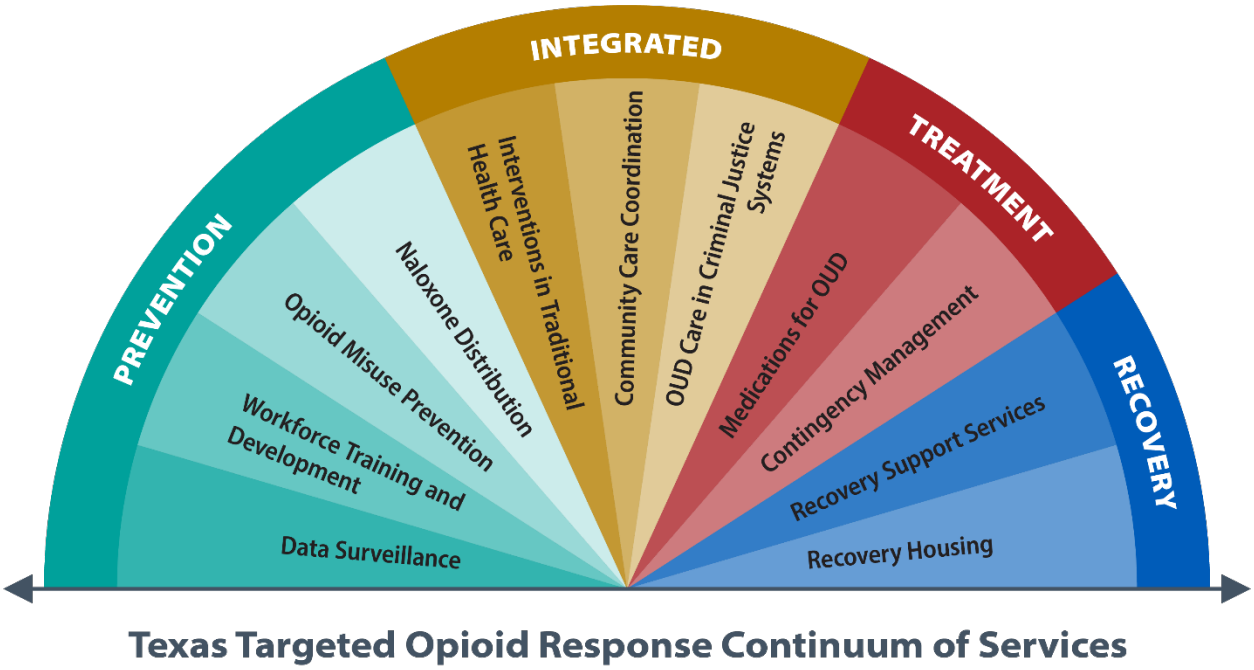
TTOR is a public health initiative funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This funding addresses the opioid crisis by:

1. Increasing access to medication-assisted treatment using the three FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder; and
2. Reducing opioid-related overdose deaths.

3. Program Overview

TTOR strategies span the behavioral health continuum of care, coordinating prevention, integrated, treatment, and recovery services across the state. To rapidly deploy these community services, HHSC leverages existing contracts and partners with governmental entities such as academic institutions and local mental health authorities (LMHAs) and local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs). TTOR also supports independent evaluation of services and implements continuous quality improvement to ensure delivery of evidence-based interventions and support of data sharing.

Figure 1. Texas Targeted Opioid Response Continuum of Services Model



More information about the TTOR program areas:

	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Data Surveillance	**Opioid Surveillance Dashboards** This program increases the visibility of the TTOR program and opioid-related data through the Texas Health data website.	Statewide resource at https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboards/drugs-and-alcohol/opioids/
	Data Surveillance	**Texans Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts (TxCOPE)** This program develops, tests and implements a reporting platform called TxCOPE to facilitate community reporting of overdoses and overdose reversals.	Statewide resource at https://txcope.org/
	Workforce Training and Development	**Texas Opioid Training Initiative (TxOTI)** This program expands online education and in-person training for a broad range of health professionals to prevent opioid- and stimulant-related harm.	Statewide education at https://txoti.org/
	Workforce Training and Development	**Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)** Project ECHO uses a web-conferencing platform to build a community of healthcare providers that share substance use disorder treatment best practices through didactic presentations and case-based learning.	For more information visit: https://c-stat.uthscsa.edu/echo/
	Workforce Training and Development	**Recovery Workforce** This program makes use of the University of Texas at Austin-Addiction Research Institute to access resources to assist in providing training and technical assistance on evidence-based practices for all TTOR peer-based recovery support services organizations.	Statewide support at https://socialwork.utexas.edu/research/institutes/ari/

	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Opioid Misuse Prevention	**Safe Drug Disposal and Community Awareness Program** This program helps Texans safely dispose of their unused or expired medication by providing safe drug disposal materials. The goal of the program is to reduce access, which is a major contributor to opioid misuse.	Statewide distribution to prevention coalitions, fire departments and other community stakeholders Static statewide distribution locations available at https://uh.edu/pharmacy/research/centers-and-institutes/the-premier-center/community-outreach/
	Opioid Misuse Prevention	**PAX Good Behavior Game** This program provides PAX Good Behavior Game and PAX Tools trainings to equip adults with strategies to help build children's self-regulation skills. This universal preventive approach not only reduces opioid misuse by reducing early childhood predictors of opioid use disorder, but also improves classroom behavior and academics.	Statewide education at https://texasgoodbehaviorgame.org/
	Opioid Misuse Prevention	**Opioid Misuse Public Awareness Campaign** This campaign aims to increase awareness of opioid misuse-related dangers and risk mitigation strategies, and help individuals find treatment for opioid use disorder.	Statewide education at https://txopioidresponse.org/
	Naloxone Distribution	**Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone** This program provides overdose prevention education and access to overdose reversal medication with the goal of reducing overdose deaths.	Statewide education and distribution at https://morenarcanplease.com/

	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Interventions in Traditional Healthcare	**Educate Before You Medicate** This program provides education to pharmacists to improve their ability to counsel patients on the safe use, storage and disposal of medications.	Statewide education
	Interventions in Traditional Healthcare	**Utilization of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)** This campaign aims to increase prescriber and pharmacist enrollment and their meaningful use of the PMP.	Statewide education at www.txpmp.org
	Interventions in Traditional Healthcare	**Integrated Family Planning Opioid Response (IFPOR)** IFPOR adds overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery support to family planning clinics to reach low-income and pregnant/post-partum women and their families.	Four healthcare systems located in Bexar, Harris, and Dallas Counties
	Interventions in Traditional Healthcare	**Support Hospital Opioid Use Disorder Treatment (SHOUT) Texas** This project expands inpatient initiation of buprenorphine across hospital service lines, adds peer recovery support services, and provides stigma-reduction training to clinical staff in hospital emergency departments and other acute care units.	Four healthcare systems located in Bell, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis Counties
	Community Care Coordination	**Priority Admission Counselors (PACs)** PACs operate within Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral (OSAR) providers and focus on priority populations with OUD. PACs provide these individuals with screening services, engage them in a process of informed consent, ensure timely access to treatment, and provide overdose prevention education including access to naloxone.	Located in Texas' 14 LMHA/LBHA OSAR providers

	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Community Care Coordination	**Integrated Community Opioid Network (ICON)** The ICON project establishes local community partnerships to identify individuals with OUD and connect them to evidence-based treatment, recovery support, and other services either in the community or through virtual resources.	Located in Harris County and eventually up to nine other counties in Texas
	Community Care Coordination	**HEROES Helpline** This initiative offers a 24/7 treatment referral line to first responders at risk for opioid use disorder. The initiative refers callers to treatment and recovery resources as well as provides in-person and online trainings to raise awareness among first responders of substance use, stress, and other behavioral health risks.	Statewide resource at https://sbmi.uth.edu/chsa/heroes-helpline.htm
	Care for OUD in Criminal Justice Systems	**Overdose Prevention Drop-in Centers** Drop-in Centers provide individuals at high risk for overdose with access to prevention education, overdose reversal medication, access to Medication Assisted Treatment, and recovery support. TTOR supports walk-in centers as well as pre-arrest diversion facilities.	Located in Austin, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio
	Care for OUD in Criminal Justice Systems	**Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support** This partnership will improve medication assisted treatment and recovery services for individuals preparing for release from Community Corrections Facilities. Clients receive intensive reach-in services for OUD and aftercare following release to ensure a seamless journey to recovery.	Located in Bexar County

	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Medications for OUD	**Treatment in Office** This project increases access to medications for OUD, also known as medication-assisted treatment (MAT), in a variety of settings outside of the traditional clinic by increasing the number of physicians providing both buprenorphine and extended-release naltrexone, expanding opportunities for physicians to obtain DATA 2000 Waiver training, creating a professional peer mentoring network, and expanding the network of state-funded treatment providers.	39 Locations for OBOT services through Be Well, TX For more information visit: txmoud.org
	Medications for OUD	**Treatment in Clinic** This project increases access to all three U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for the treatment of OUD (methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone) by expanding capacity at new and existing clinics. This will enable clinics to treat both primary opioid use disorder along with co-morbid conditions such as hepatitis C, psychiatric conditions, and wound care at a single clinic site.	58 clinics statewide For more information, visit: https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/adult-substance-use/texas-targeted-opioid-response

	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Contingency Management	**WEconnect** WEconnect, a contingency management and motivational reinforcement platform, functions as a smartphone-based application that supports service for people with stimulant use disorder and/or opioid use disorder and extends the reach of recovery to people in treatment. Through WEConnect, clients receive assistance with performing selfcare routines including taking prescriptions, exercise, and hygiene, as well as check-ins for medical treatment, counseling, and peer support activities.	Available through Be Well, TX provider network
	Recovery Support Services	**Peer Support** TTOR implements a network of peer-based recovery support services (RSS) organizations at a minimum of 11 new sites to provide peer support, access to recovery housing, employment support, and reentry from criminal justice and rehabilitative settings to foster health, home, purpose, and community.	Statewide support at https://txmoud.org
	Recovery Support Services	**Biofeedback Intervention** This project partners with TTOR Peer Recovery programs to provide people in recovery with a heart-rate biofeedback smartphone app to guide them through slow-paced breathing exercises at the specific moments they feel compelled to use. Consistent use of these breathing exercises can also reduce stress, general anxiety, depression, and reoccurrence in substance use.	Statewide support at https://socialwork.utexas.edu/projects/opioid-use-biofeedback-intervention-program/

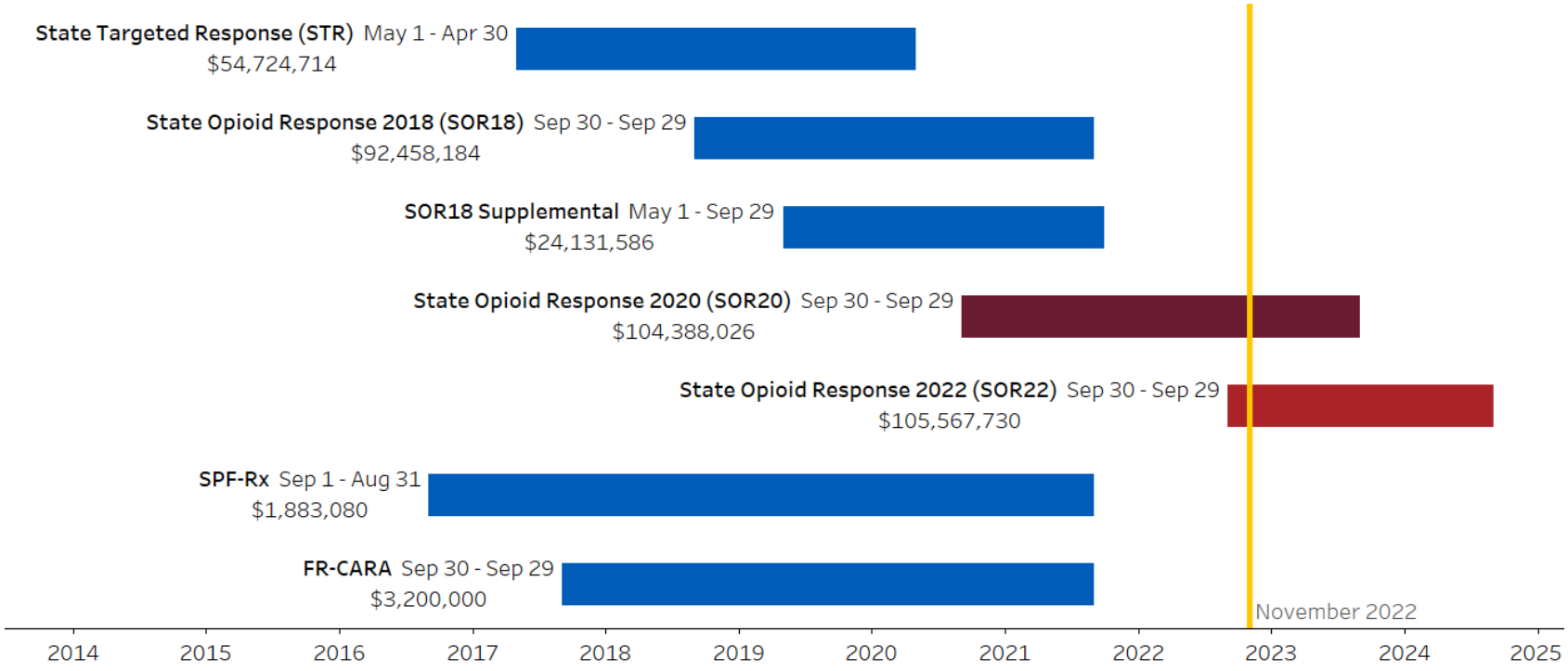
	Strategy	Program Description	Location
	Recovery Support Services	**Medication-Assisted Recovery Services (MARS)** This project provides trainings to develop peer recovery communities among patients engaged with Opioid Treatment Programs in Texas.	Statewide support at marsproject.org
	Recovery Housing	**Housing for Opioid MAT Expanded Services (Project HOMES) and Evaluation** TTOR provides Level II and Level III National Alliance for Recovery Residences/Texas Recovery Oriented Housing Network certified recovery housing and recovery support for people utilizing MOUD and people with a history of stimulant use disorder across the state.	13 homes currently serving metro, rural, border, and tribal communities

4. Grant Award Information

Timelines and Funding

SAMHSA Grant Award	Funding Awarded	Funding Period
State Targeted Response (STR)	$54,724,714	May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2020
State Opioid Response 2018 (SOR18)	$92,458,184	September 30, 2018 – September 29, 2021
SOR18 Supplemental	$24,131,586	May 1, 2019 – September 29, 2021
State Opioid Response 2020 (SOR20)	$104,388,026	September 30, 2020 – September 29, 2023
State Opioid Response 2022 (SOR22)	$105,567,730	September 30, 2022 – September 29, 2024
Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx)	$1,883,080	September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2021
First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA)	$3,200,000	September 30, 2017 – September 29, 2021

Figure 2. All TTOR Project Implementation Timelines 2016-2024



Contracts

As of August 2021, the TTOR program oversees 93 active contracts. This number includes 37 contracts funded in whole or in part by the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant or general revenue.

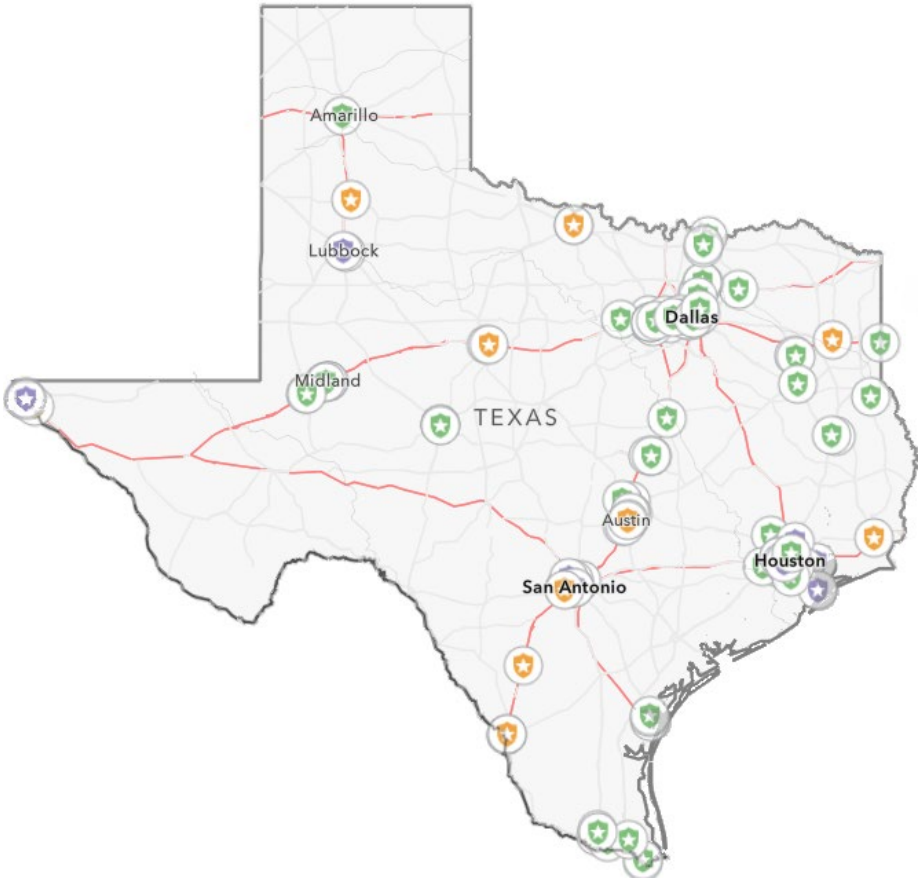
Who We Serve

Type of Service	Population
Prevention	General public
Integrated	People at risk for opioid overdose and their support systems
Treatment	People with opioid use disorder who meet the financial and clinical eligibility requirements
Recovery	People with a history of opioid and/or stimulant use

Program Service Locations

Click here for an interactive version of the map below with additional provider details: [Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) Contractor Locations (arcgis.com)]

Figure 3. Map of TTOR Provider Locations



Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) Contractor Locations

Program Type

- Integrated
- Recovery
- Treatment

Note: TTOR Prevention Programs are available statewide

5. Addressing System Gaps

The TTOR Program aims to address the following goals in the 2017-2021 Statewide Behavioral Health Strategic Plan:

Goal 1	Program and Service Coordination – Promote and support behavioral health program and service coordination to ensure continuity of services and access points across state agencies.
Goal 2	Program and Service Delivery – Ensure optimal service delivery to maximize resources to effectively meet the diverse needs of people and communities.
Goal 3	Prevention and Early Intervention Services – Maximize behavioral health prevention and early intervention services across state agencies.
Goal 4	Financial Alignment – Ensure that the financial alignment of behavioral health funding best meets the needs across Texas.

Through TTOR prevention, integrated, treatment, and recovery services across the state, TTOR programs address the following gaps in the behavioral health services system as indicated below:

Gap Number	Strategic Plan Gaps	Addressed by TTOR
1	Access to Appropriate Behavioral Health Services	Yes
2	Behavioral Health Needs of Public School Students	Yes
3	Coordination Across State Agencies	Yes
4	Supports for Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families	No
5	Continuity of Care for People of All Ages Involved in the Justice System	Yes
6	Access to Timely Treatment Services	Yes
7	Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices	Yes

Gap Number	Strategic Plan Gaps	Addressed by TTOR
8	Use of Peer Services	Yes
9	Behavioral Health Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	No
10	Social Determinants of Health and Other Barriers to Care	Yes
11	Prevention and Early Intervention Services	Yes
12	Access to Supported Housing and Employment	Yes
13	Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage	Yes
14	Shared and Usable Data	Yes

See Appendix A for a list of the specific TTOR programs that address each strategic plan gap.

TTOR ensures coordination of funded services within HHSC and among other state agencies, federally funded providers, and tribal governments. The Statewide Opioid Coordinator is responsible for identifying and tracking all opioid projects in Texas. This includes projects not funded by TTOR but other federal and state funds to address the opioid crisis. Work involves identifying and outreaching to funded projects to assess for any duplication of effort.

6. Outputs

May 2017 through August 2022

Prevention

- Opioid surveillance data dashboards have been viewed 32,915 times on the Texas Health Data website.
- 102 people have used the TxCOPE overdose reporting platform
- 29,609 health professionals received continuing education trainings
- 2,657 people participating in Project ECHO Community of Practice sessions.
- Recovery workforce trainings have been delivered to 1,617 people to learn about evidence-based practices for RSS and Recovery Management Programs.
- 538,705 safe disposal units have been distributed.
- An estimated 260,065 students have received PAX Good Behavior Game in Texas schools.
- The TTOR public awareness media campaign has been seen 49,151,899 times by Texans.
- 8,799 people have received overdose prevention education.
- 467,167 naloxone kits (two 4mg doses) have been distributed.

Integrated

- 207 pharmacies were trained in "Educate Before You Medicate".
- The Prescription Monitoring Program media campaign has been seen 54,298,760 times by health professionals.
- 216 patients and allies received overdose prevention and naloxone education through family planning clinics.

- Through SHOUT Texas, 3,626 hospital staff were given opioid use disorder treatment education.
- Priority Admission Counselors at the Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral agencies screened 12,948 adults who were positive for opioid use disorder.
- 182 people have received peer or behavioral health support services through the HEROES helpline.
- Through the HEROES helpline project, 2,377 people attended continuing education events for first responders.
- Overdose prevention drop-in centers served 17,236 people.

Treatment

- MOUD has been provided to 9,766 people in a clinic-based setting.
- 18,854 health screenings, testing, and treatment services for comorbid conditions for made available to individuals receiving MOUD.
- MOUD has been provided to 2,395 people in an office-based setting.
- 702 people used WEconnect

Recovery

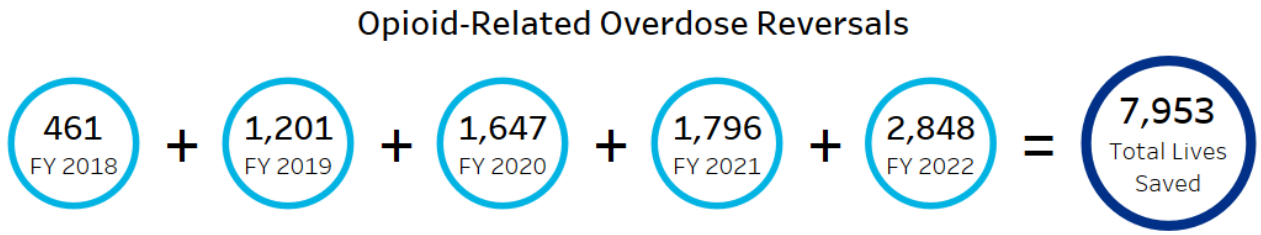
- 20,602 people were offered peer recovery coaching services.
- Long-term peer recovery coaching was provided to 1,530 people.
- 1,365 people received "in-reach" services while in county jails, state prison facilities, and rehabilitative settings.
- 37 people have used a biofeedback mobile app that supports people in recovery.
- 214 people have attended trainings to develop peer recovery communities for patients engaged with opioid treatment programs.
- Recovery housing was provided to 301 people who were participating in medication-assisted recovery.

7. Outcomes

May 2017 through August 2022

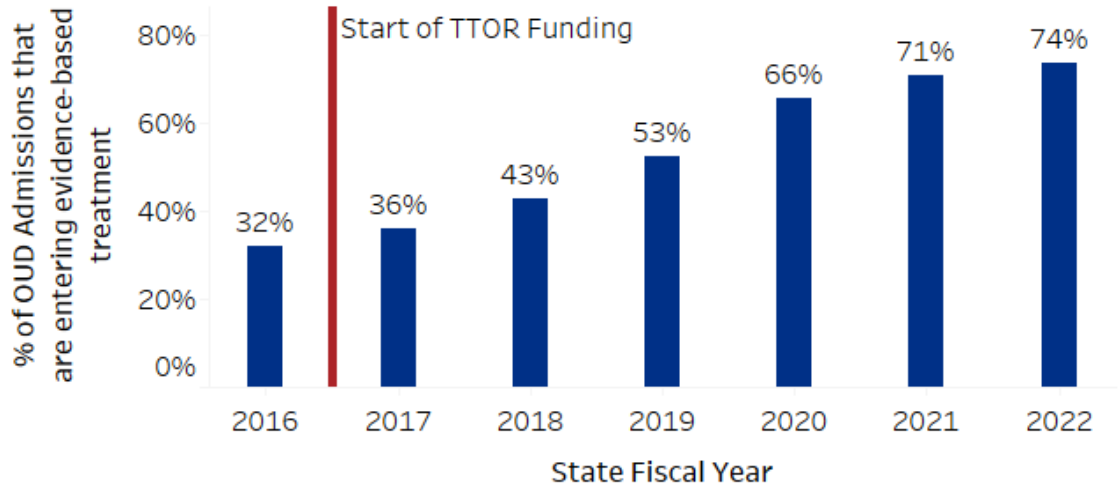
As of August 2022, a total of 7,953 overdose reversals have been reported using naloxone purchased with TTOR funds.

Figure 4. Opioid-Related Overdose Reversals



HHSC has seen an increase in the percentage of people served in evidence-based treatment for OUD, from 32 percent in state fiscal year 2016 to 74 percent in state fiscal year 2022. 1,515 admissions to MOUD were attributed, in whole or in part, to a Recovery Coach. 3,272 people entered MOUD through non-traditional settings from TTOR integrated programs.

Figure 5. Percent of OUD Admissions Entering MOUD



List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
ECHO	Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FR-CARA	First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
ICON	Integrated and Community Opioid Network
IFPOR	Integrated Family Planning Opioid Response
LBHA	Local Behavioral Health Authority
LMHA	Local Mental Health Authority
MARS	Medication-Assisted Recovery Services
MOUD	Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
OSAR	Outreach, Screening, Assessment, and Referral
OUD	Opioid Use Disorder
PACs	Priority Admission Counselors

PMP	Prescription Monitoring Program
Project HOMES	Housing for Opioid MAT Expanded Services
RSS	Recovery Support Services
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SHOUT	Support Hospital Opioid Use Disorder Treatment
SOR	State Opioid Response Grant
SPF-Rx	Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs
STR	State Targeted Response Grant
TTOR	Texas Targeted Opioid Response
TxCOPE	Texans Connecting Overdose Prevention Efforts
TxOTI	Texas Opioid Training Initiative

Appendix A. TTOR Programs Addressing Strategic Plan Gaps

Gap #	Strategic Plan Gaps	TTOR Programs Which Address This Gap
1	Access to Appropriate Behavioral Health Services	• HEROES Helpline • IFPOR • SHOUT Texas • Overdose Prevention Drop-in Centers • Priority Admission Counselors • Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support • ICON • MOUD Treatment in Clinic • MOUD Treatment in Office • Project ECHO • WEconnect • Project HOMES • Peer Support
2	Behavioral Health Needs of Public School Students	• PAX Good Behavior Game
3	Coordination Across State Agencies	• Opioid Surveillance Dashboards • PAX Good Behavior Game • Utilization of the PMP • IFPOR • MOUD Treatment in Clinic • MOUD Treatment in Office • Peer Support • Recovery Workforce
4	Supports for Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families	• None
5	Continuity of Care for People of All Ages Involved in the Justice System	• Priority Admission Counselors • Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support • Project HOMES • Peer Support

Gap #	Strategic Plan Gaps	TTOR Programs Which Address This Gap
6	Access to Timely Treatment Services	• HEROES Helpline • IFPOR • SHOUT Texas • Overdose Prevention Drop-in Centers • Priority Admission Counselors • Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support • ICON • MOUD Treatment in Clinic • MOUD Treatment in Office • Project ECHO • WEconnect • Project HOMES • Peer Support
7	Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices	• All TTOR programs
8	Use of Peer Services	• Peer Support • SHOUT Texas • Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support • ICON • Biofeedback Intervention Mobile App • Project HOMES • Medication-Assisted Recovery Services
9	Behavioral Health Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities	• None
10	Social Determinants of Health and Other Barriers to Care	• Overdose Prevention Drop-in Centers • SHOUT Texas • Priority Admission Counselors • IFPOR • Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support • ICON • MOUD Treatment in Clinic • MOUD Treatment in Office • WEconnect • Project HOMES • Peer Support

Gap #	Strategic Plan Gaps	TTOR Programs Which Address This Gap
11	Prevention and Early Intervention Services	• Opioid Misuse Public Awareness Campaign • Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone • PAX Good Behavior Game • Safe Drug Disposal and Community Awareness Program • Texas Opioid Training Initiative • Utilization of the PMP • Project HOMES • Peer Support
12	Access to Supported Housing and Employment	• Criminal Justice Opioid Response and Re-entry Support • Project HOMES • Peer Support
13	Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage	• SHOUT Texas • WEconnect
14	Shared and Usable Data	• Opioid Surveillance Dashboards • TxCOPE • Utilization of the PMP • Project HOMES