



Substance Abuse Treatment in Alabama

Alabama Department of Mental Health

Statistics-Nationally

- According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 19.7 million American adults (aged 12 and older) battled a substance use disorder in 2017.
- Almost 74% of adults suffering from a substance use disorder in 2017 struggled with an alcohol use disorder.
- That same year, 1 out of every 8 adults struggled with both alcohol and drug use disorders simultaneously.



Statistics from ADMH

Substance associated with primary diagnosis at time of admission	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Opioids	4672	5259	5650	6851	12075
Marijuana	6077	5907	5944	6362	7073
Alcohol	6637	6112	5708	5947	6181
Methamphetamine	2298	2538	3171	4390	5397

Overdose Deaths: Nationally and in Alabama

- 70,237 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2017. The age-adjusted rate of overdose deaths increased significantly by 9.6% from 2016 (19.8 per 100,000) to 2017 (21.7 per 100,000).
- Opioids—mainly synthetic opioids (other than methadone)—are currently the main driver of drug overdose deaths.
- Opioids were involved in 47,600 overdose deaths in 2017 (67.8% of all drug overdose deaths).
- Alabama had a statistically significant increase of 11.1% in the drug overdose death rate from 2016 to 2017.

Alabama Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids

- In 2017, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there were 422 overdose deaths--- involving opioids in Alabama—a rate of 9.0 deaths per 100,000 persons.
- The greatest increase in opioid deaths occurred among cases involving synthetic opioids (mainly fentanyl), with a rise from 16 deaths in 2012 to 198 in 2017.
- Heroin involved deaths also increased dramatically from 40 deaths in 2013 to 122 in 2014 but have remained unchanged through 2017.
- There were 167 deaths involving prescription opioids in 2017, an increase from 124 in 2016.

Statistics on Treatment

- In 2017, an estimated 20.7 million people age 12 and older needed treatment for a substance use disorder. Only 4 million people received treatment, or about 19% of those who needed it.
- In 2017, of the more than 18 million people who needed but did not receive treatment for substance use, only 1 million, or 5.7%, of those people felt they needed treatment.
- There are over 14,500 specialized substance abuse treatment facilities in the United States providing a variety of care options, including counseling, behavioral therapy, medication, case management, and other forms of care.

Treatment in Alabama

There are currently 73 certified providers of substance abuse treatment services in the state. This includes free standing agencies and some mental health centers.

Of those 73 certified agencies, 66 agencies receive funding through the Alabama Department of Mental Health to provide substance abuse treatment services.

Alabama's substance abuse agencies provide a range of services along the continuum of care as defined by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). These services encompass early intervention services, outpatient services, residential services and withdrawal management services.

Treatment

- No single treatment is appropriate for all individuals
- Effective treatment attends to multiple needs of the individual, not just his or her alcohol or drug use
- Treatment must address medical, psychological, social, vocational and legal problems

Treatment

- All individuals admitted to any level of care must have a placement assessment completed by a qualified individual using the approved Department of Mental Health assessment tool
- This includes a screening prior to completion of the assessment.

Requirements for Treatment

- Agencies generally prefer that the client make the appointment for the assessment. There is personal information they need prior to the assessment. This also cuts down on no-shows.
- Individuals must have some type of ID.

Requirements for Treatment

- The assessment determines if someone needs treatment. Agencies will tell you if an individual does not need treatment. Remember, assessments are based on self report unless you send collateral information to the agency prior to the assessment.
- The individual must have a substance use disorder diagnosis in order to qualify for treatment. The agency will make this determination.

Priority Admission Requirements

- Agencies must give priority admission preference to people in the following order:
 - Pregnant IV using women
 - Pregnant women
 - IV users
 - Women with dependent children
 - HIV positive individuals
 - All others with a substance use disorder

Agencies cannot deny admission based on any of the following:

- Age (with consideration of whether the program is adult or adolescent program)
- Gender (with consideration to whether the program serves one or both sexes)
- Pregnancy status
- Education achievement and literacy
- Household composition
- Ethnic background
- Income level and ability to pay (unless private for profit)
- Need for or use of medication assisted therapy
- Disability
- Existence of a co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder
- HIV status
- Current maintenance on methadone.
- Previous admission to the program
- Prior withdrawal from treatment against clinical advice
- Referral source
- Involvement with the criminal justice system
- Relapse

Treatment

- Treatment for a year? Treatment can mean many different things so when a judge orders a client to treatment for a year or for any amount of time, the substance abuse agency will determine the type of treatment which may vary over the course of the ordered time.

5 Signs of Quality Treatment (SAMHSA)

1. Accreditation: Has the program been licensed or certified by the state? Is the program currently in good standing in the state? Are the staff qualified? Good quality programs will have a good inspection record and both the program and the staff should have received training in treatment of substance use and mental disorders and be licensed or registered in the state. Does the program conduct satisfaction surveys? Can they show you how people using their services have rated them?

2. Medication: Does the program offer FDA approved medication for recovery from alcohol and opioid use disorders? At this point in time, there are no FDA approved medications to help to prevent relapse from other problem substances.

3. Evidence-Based Practices: Does the program offer treatments that have been proven to be effective in treating substance use disorders including medication management therapies, such as motivational therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol counseling, education about the risks of drug and alcohol use, and peer support? Does the program either provide or help to obtain medical care for physical health issues?

5 Signs of Quality Treatment (SAMHSA)


4. Families: Does the program include family members in the treatment process? Family members have an important role in understanding the impact of addiction on families and providing support.

5. Supports: Does the program provide ongoing treatment and supports beyond just treating the substance issues? For many people addiction is a chronic condition and requires ongoing medication and supports. Quality programs provide treatment for the long term which may include ongoing counseling or recovery coaching and support, and helps in meeting other basic needs like sober housing, employment supports, and continued family involvement.

Current Grants for SA Treatment

- SOR (State Opioid Response Grant, State Wide)
- MAT PDOA (Medication Assisted Treatment Prescription Drug Opioid Abuse, Specific Counties)
- BJA (Bureau of Justice Assistance, Specific Counties)
- Drug Court (Alabama Rural Counties Treatment Expansion, Specific Counties)
- SABG (Substance Abuse Block Grant, State Wide)

24/7 helpline for Substance abuse




24/7 Helpline
844-307-1760

Are you, or a family member, struggling with addiction or in need of support?
Do you prefer chat? Live chat is available through our website: www.rosshelpline4u.org
Want to send an email? Send us a message: helpline4u.ai@gmail.com

Every call, live chat and email is answered by a person in recovery at:
RECOVERY ORGANIZATION OF SUPPORT SPECIALISTS
R.O.S.S.

Addiction is a disease, not a moral failing.
All services are free, made possible through funding from ADMH and SAMHSA.



Potential Grant Initiatives

- ❖ Distance Learning Telehealth
- ❖ Informing policies around rural health disparities
- ❖ Peers in neonatal units and emergency departments
- ❖ First responder training and information dissemination around the “Good Samaritan” law
- ❖ Development of a deaf/hard of hearing treatment/housing program

Challenges

- What happens when the money ends?
- Stigma-an ongoing battle when it comes to substance use disorders and MAT
- Capacity issues
- Workforce issues

Links to search for resources

- <https://mh.alabama.gov/providers-search/> (substance abuse, prevention, mental health, developmental disabilities)
- <https://www.ross4u.org/> (ROSS)
- [https://www.caressinc.com/about us](https://www.caressinc.com/about_us) (Caress)
- gulfcoastpeir@gmail.com (PEIR)

Sources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2018). [Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#)

<https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/pep18-treatment-loc.pdf>

National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2017). [Trends & Statistics](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>

<https://mh.alabama.gov/>

Questions?

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The ADMH Mission:

Serve • Empower • Support

The ADMH Vision:

Promoting the health and well-being of
Alabamians with mental illness,
developmental disabilities and substance
use disorders



Thank you