

Division of Substance Use Programs

# Annual Overview 2024



# We are expanding our **Services**



## VT Helplink

Alcohol & drug support center



### **Text feature launched**

so people can access VT Helplink by texting "LINK" to 802-565-LINK (5465)

**24/365** **Call and text hours expanded**  
to all day, every day at the start of 2025

**34k** **Calls, texts and visits**  
to [VT Helplink](#) 



## **Recovery Services**



Vermont is establishing recovery support services as a Medicaid-reimbursable benefit for people covered under the Vermont Medicaid State Plan.

**9**

### **New Bedrooms**

under construction to provide stable and affordable recovery   
*housing (opening spring 2025)*



Vermont is developing and recommending a certification program for recovery residences and following an assessment of certified and non-certified recovery residences.

# We are reaching **People**

**8k** **People** provided with substance use treatment services.

**5k** **School-aged children** provided with substance use education. \*

**88k** **Visits** to substance use recovery services. \*

**28k** **Naloxone doses** distributed through harm reduction packs. \*

**\$55m** **Federal and state funding** spent to help people prevent, reduce harm from, treat and recover from substance use issues.

**8.6m** **Views, reactions, clicks and swipes** of substance use messaging through 11 media campaigns. \*

**1.7k** **Substance use professionals** trained through 29 workforce development opportunities. \*



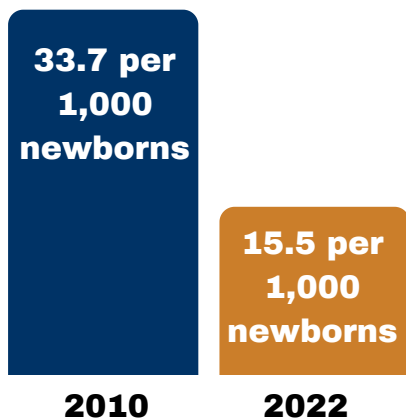
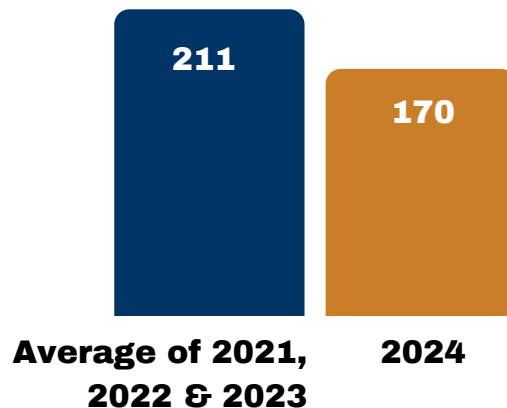
We developed Overdose Prevention Center (OPC) Guidelines to establish requirements for operating in Vermont. \*

# We are making an **Impact**

## Opioid overdose deaths are declining.

The number of deaths between Jan - Nov in 2024 (170) was **lower** than the average number of deaths for the same time period of the three prior years (211).

[HealthVermont.gov/OpioidDashboard](https://HealthVermont.gov/OpioidDashboard) \*



## Babies born with substance use symptoms are declining.

The 2022 rate of Vermont newborns diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)\* is **less than half** the 2013 rate.

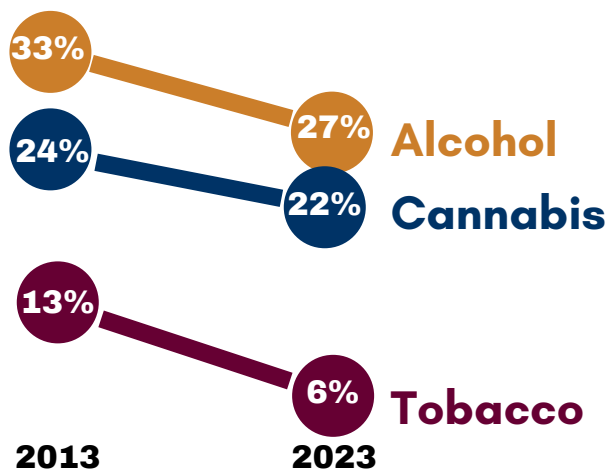
\*Symptoms experienced by a newborn that is no longer exposed to opioids or other drugs through the parent.

[HealthVermont.gov/DSUDashboard](https://HealthVermont.gov/DSUDashboard) \*

## Youth substance use is declining.

Percent of high school students using **alcohol**, **cannabis** & **tobacco** has decreased.

[HealthVermont.gov/YRBS](https://HealthVermont.gov/YRBS) \*



Learn more at [HealthVermont.gov/Reports](https://HealthVermont.gov/Reports) \*

# We focus on **Collaboration**

## within the **Department of Health**

- Substance use information for people who are pregnant
- Wound care & HepC education for people who inject drugs
- Safe storage of household items including cannabis & alcohol
- Vaping information for teens & young adults ✨
- Naloxone training & distribution ✨

## **Department of Mental Health**

- Certified community-based integrated health centers (CCBHC)
- Integrating mental health resources to VT Helpline
- Mobile crisis services for co-occurring disorders



## **Agency of Transportation**

- Safe driving messaging cross-over with Drive Well VT
- Transportation for people in recovery ✨

## **Department of Corrections**

- Providing medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) to people who are incarcerated
- Ensuring continuity of care for people who are released from incarceration

## **Department of Vermont Health Access**

- Medicaid payment reform to cover more treatment and recovery services
- Comprehensive pain services
- Trainings on co-occurring disorders
- Providing HepC treatment in substance use treatment Hubs

## **Blueprint for Health**

- Collaborative to Advance mental Health & Substance Use Recovery for Everyone (CARE)
- Hub and spoke system

## **Office of the Court Administrator**

- Treatment court system



# Learn More

## Our 2025-2027 Strategic Priorities

1. Coordination & Collaboration
2. Expansion of Supports & Services
3. Resources & Capacity
4. Training, Education & Awareness

## Our Programs in Detail

- Community Prevention Grants
- Cultural Brokers Program
- Drug Disposal System
- Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program
- Medication Dosing Units
- Messaging Campaigns
- Overdose Data to Action Grant
- Outreach Workers
- Preferred Treatment Provider Network
- Recovery Coaches in Emergency Departments
- Recovery Housing
- Recovery Job Transportation
- Recovery Services
- Regional Prevention Partnership Grant
- School Prevention Grants
- System of Care Enhancements
- Prevention Lead Organizations
- VT Helplink
- Workforce Development

## Contact Us

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[HealthVermont.gov/DSU](https://HealthVermont.gov/DSU) 



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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**