

Substance Use Disorders

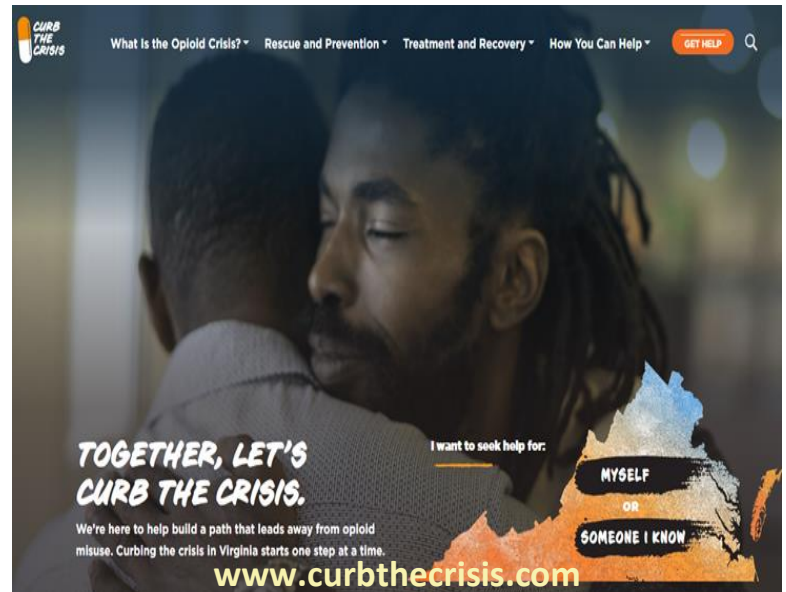
DBHDS: A Life of Possibilities for All Virginians

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Virginia's substance-use disorder programs and services have historically relied on federal funding. Because of the national opioid crisis, more federal dollars have recently been available. Virginia is making extensive progress building services and creating community coalitions across Virginia. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing significantly increased numbers of overdoses and deaths – a battle Virginia will likely be fighting well beyond the end of the pandemic.

COVID-19 is Intensifying Virginia's Opioid Crisis

- The physical, psychological and economic impacts of the pandemic have caused Virginians to be increasingly at risk of depression, anxiety, and substance misuse.
- Group support and other face-to-face services that are imperative for people to stay in recovery were unable to continue.
- The Virginia Department of Health estimates Virginia could see 2,053 deaths from prescription and illegal drugs in 2020. There were 1,626 of these deaths in 2019, which at the time was the highest recorded number in Virginia.





Federal State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant

Virginia has received \$38 million in SOR funds over the past two years and was awarded an additional \$52.6 million to address opioids and stimulants for 2021 and 2022. Key initiatives built using these funds include:

- **Numbers Served** – So far with this funding over 4,000 people have received treatment services and over 10,000 received recovery support services.
- **Medication Assisted Treatment** – MAT is available in all 40 CSBs, so far serving over 3,500 people.
- **REVIVE!** – REVIVE! is training for lay people and law enforcement to administer Naloxone in the event of an overdose. 5,789 Naloxone kits have been distributed. DBHDS recently released REVIVE! curriculums to target those at highest risk and one for first responders. SOR also covers program cost for CSBs and naloxone funding at VDH.
- **Peer Recovery Specialists** – The SOR grant has expanded peer services in hospitals. A new workforce of 2,247 peer recovery specialists and family support partners have been trained since January 2017.
- **College Recovery Programs** – Eight Virginia colleges built campus recovery programs.
- **Curb the Crisis** – DBHDS launched a redesigned Curb the Crisis website. This is a partnership among several agencies to provide resources and the ability to search for treatment for people seeking help during the opioid crisis. Curb the Crisis is found at www.curbthecrisis.com.

DBHDS works to ensure behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services are available to all Virginians who need them in the most community-oriented, integrated setting possible. More information is available at dbhds.virginia.gov/about-dbhds/policy-and-public-affairs/ga2021

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