

COVID-19 Response

Vermont saw a dramatic increase in opioid overdoses during COVID, up 38% in 2020 from 2019.

Visits to Emergency Departments for opioid overdoses also sharply increased, up 46% from the previous year.

Tragically, opioid overdose fatalities in 2021 trended even higher.

Network agencies were there for Vermonters ensuring access to care during COVID by maintaining limited to no waitlists for Vermonters in need of SUD treatment.

In August of 2021, two out of 9 agencies held a waitlist, totaling 17 Vermonters.

Network agency Medication Assisted Treatment [MAT] providers helped save lives: 73% of Vermonters on MAT during COVID stayed on MAT, compared to 64% the previous year.

“As of today, I have been sober for 149 days, and they have been the happiest of my adult life! I’m still in sober living and have a wonderful community of people around me...You set me on this path, and it’s one day at a time, but I remark every day that it’s the best decision that I’ve made in my life.”
– CCN/RMHS client

Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services



VCP AGENCIES ARE HERE FOR VERMONTERS IN RECOVERY

Nine VCP network agencies provide treatment as preferred providers with the Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention [ADAP] Program. All agencies provide co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder treatment using evidence-based practices.

Services include medication assisted treatment [MAT], intensive outpatient programs, individual and group therapy, community supports, and service coordination.

IMPACT

Network agencies fielded calls from over 2000 Vermonters seeking treatment for substance use disorders in FY21: 1687 clients seeking outpatient care, 362 for intensive outpatient treatment, and 322 for MAT.

- 32% of SUD clients receive care coordination to support their treatment. Community partners included recovery coaches, maternal/child health care providers, domestic violence advocates, Reach-Up/economic services providers, and criminal justice partners.
- Network agencies supported clients in a variety of locations and modalities: 83% of clients received a service via telehealth; 32% of clients received a service at the agency office site; and 7% of clients received a service in the community.



Road to Recovery: Clay Gilbert, Director of Evergreen Substance Use & Recovery Services at Community Care Network/Rutland Mental Health Services (left), hosts episode 1 of Road to Recovery, a PEG TV series focused on destigmatizing and providing education on substance use disorders. Clay retired at the end of 2021 after a long and impactful career at RMHS.