

Maine Opioid Response



2023-2025 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 MISSION | 6 FOCUS AREAS | 9 PRIORITIES | 34 STRATEGIES

Mission & Approach

Our mission is to decrease the negative health and economic impacts of opioid and other substance use disorders on individuals, families, and communities in Maine, employing a comprehensive, multi-sector approach. In so doing, we strive to reduce isolation and generate hope that recovery is not just possible, but probable.

We focus on infrastructure, prevention, public safety, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. Within each of these focus areas, we apply four cross-cutting approaches that we consider foundational to our success. We evaluate our work and our progress through this same lens.

1. Reducing the stigma associated with substance use disorder across all populations and settings
2. Centering equity and prioritizing strategies for populations disproportionately impacted by substance use disorders by engaging and investing in community-driven solutions
3. Maintaining a trauma-informed mindset and building resilience in individuals across the lifespan
4. Utilizing the highest quality data available and providing timely communications with partners and the public



Gov Mills at opening of Hills Recovery Center in Norway 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Focus Area: Infrastructure

PRIORITY A: Build a statewide infrastructure to support evidence-based and community-focused actions in response to Maine's opioid crisis

STRATEGY #1: Provide strong state-level leadership and coordination among prevention, public safety, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery strategies

STRATEGY #2: Develop and train a prevention and treatment workforce sufficient to meet the needs of all Maine communities

STRATEGY #3: Support community-based and faith-based organizations and networks, prioritizing populations that are disproportionately impacted by substance use disorder and opioid use disorder

STRATEGY #4: Maintain a data collection and analysis infrastructure and engage in ongoing evaluation of interventions and program performance

STRATEGY #5: Maintain an inventory of prevention, public safety, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery initiatives and infrastructure, regardless of funding source

STRATEGY #6: Invest in local and statewide efforts to improve public understanding and reduce stigma and discrimination regarding substance use disorder and opioid use disorder



Focus Area: Prevention

PRIORITY B: Reduce the percentage of Mainers who develop a substance use disorder

STRATEGY #7: Support healthy early childhood development

STRATEGY #8: Reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)

STRATEGY #9: Expand behavioral health support, life skills, and resilience-building capacity and programming for all youth in all schools

STRATEGY #10: Support policies and initiatives designed to prevent the early use of addictive substances by children, youth, and young adults

STRATEGY #11: Expand local partnerships that educate and engage youth, families, and communities in primary prevention initiatives to include every community in Maine

STRATEGY #12: Invest in secondary prevention efforts that identify and support youth and young adults at higher risk of developing a substance use disorder



Explore up-to-date reports on Maine's substance use and substance use disorder data.



Original site of Portland Recovery Community Center

Focus Area: Public Safety

PRIORITY C: Reduce the number of prescribed, illegally trafficked, and unsafely stored opioids

STRATEGY #13: Improve the safety of opioid prescribing

STRATEGY #14: Strengthen state and local efforts to intercept and reduce the illegally trafficked drug supply

STRATEGY #15: Strengthen state laws that help disrupt the trafficking and distribution of illicit narcotics in our communities

STRATEGY #16: Support and enhance federal efforts to intercept and reduce the illegally trafficked drug supply

STRATEGY #17: Protect children from accidental ingestion of dangerous substances



Erik Lamoreau at ARCH in Houlton

Focus Area: Harm Reduction

PRIORITY D: Build harm reduction skills and improve public understanding that everyone has a role to play in preventing overdoses and saving lives

STRATEGY #18: Increase public awareness, understanding, and utilization of harm reduction strategies and resources, including overdose prevention strategies

STRATEGY #19: Promote a comprehensive system of care and referrals among health care and harm reduction services

PRIORITY E: Reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses

STRATEGY #20: Ensure the availability of harm reduction resources and referrals to treatment and recovery supports for individuals at high-risk of overdose

STRATEGY #21: Ensure widespread distribution, saturation of availability, and ease of access to naloxone and other FDA-approved reversal medications by the general public in all communities

STRATEGY #22: Provide harm reduction resources and supports for people experiencing homelessness who have a substance use disorder

Focus Area: Treatment

PRIORITY F: Expand the availability of treatment that is local, immediate, affordable, and most appropriate for the patient

STRATEGY #23: Dedicate staff and funding to support the screening, treatment, and recovery of pregnant people with substance use disorder and support substance-exposed infants

STRATEGY #24: Expand the availability of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), with special efforts to reach historically marginalized and at-risk populations

STRATEGY #25: Increase MOUD provider capacity for providing low barrier, rapid access to treatment

STRATEGY #26: Implement the most promising practices in response to increased use of stimulants and polysubstances

PRIORITY G: Increase the proportion of persons with SUD/OD who seek or are in treatment

STRATEGY #27: Provide information to the public about the availability of navigation support and treatment options, including telehealth and faith-based programs

STRATEGY #28: Reduce structural and systemic barriers to treatment

Focus Area: Recovery

PRIORITY H: Improve and expand supports for individuals seeking or in recovery

STRATEGY #29: Support all forms of recovery for youth and adults with SUD/OD

STRATEGY #30: Support treatment and recovery for individuals involved with the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems

STRATEGY #31: Increase the availability of recovery coaching services

PRIORITY I: Build and support recovery-ready communities

STRATEGY #32: Expand safe and secure housing and transportation options for people in recovery

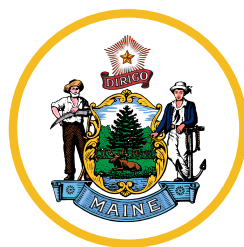
STRATEGY #33: Support the development of recovery-friendly worksites

STRATEGY #34: Promote stories of connection, hope, and recovery in Maine communities



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