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Corrections Department MAT GRO Update

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Presentation for LHHS
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Roadmap

1) What we know about MAT

2) Previous research on MAT for inmates

3) GRO appropriation

4) NMCD's implementation plan

5) MAT updates and challenges

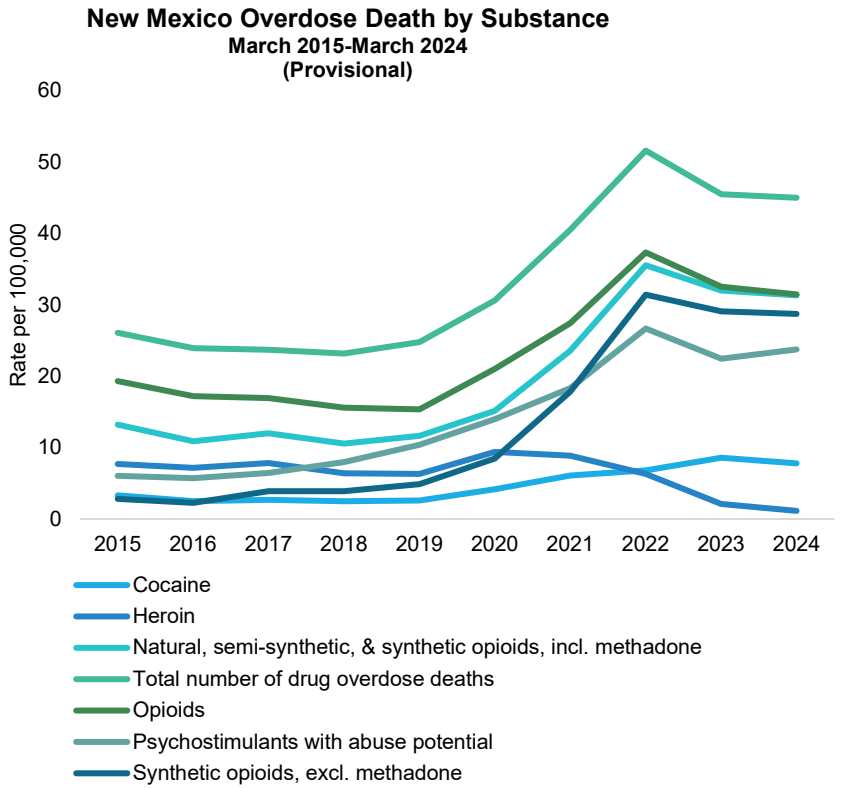
What we Know about MAT

- New Mexicans suffer from substance use disorders (SUDs) at a higher rate than other Americans

- Nearly 24 percent of New Mexicans have SUDs, and over half of those are opiate or alcohol use disorders that can be treated with MAT.

- HCA estimates more than 9,000 New Mexicans need MAT but are not receiving services.

- UNM Health Sciences research shows patients treated with MAT are less likely to overdose, die, continue to use opioids, contract hepatitis C or HIV, suffer infections or complications, or have contact with the criminal justice system.



*Categories are not mutallly exclusive

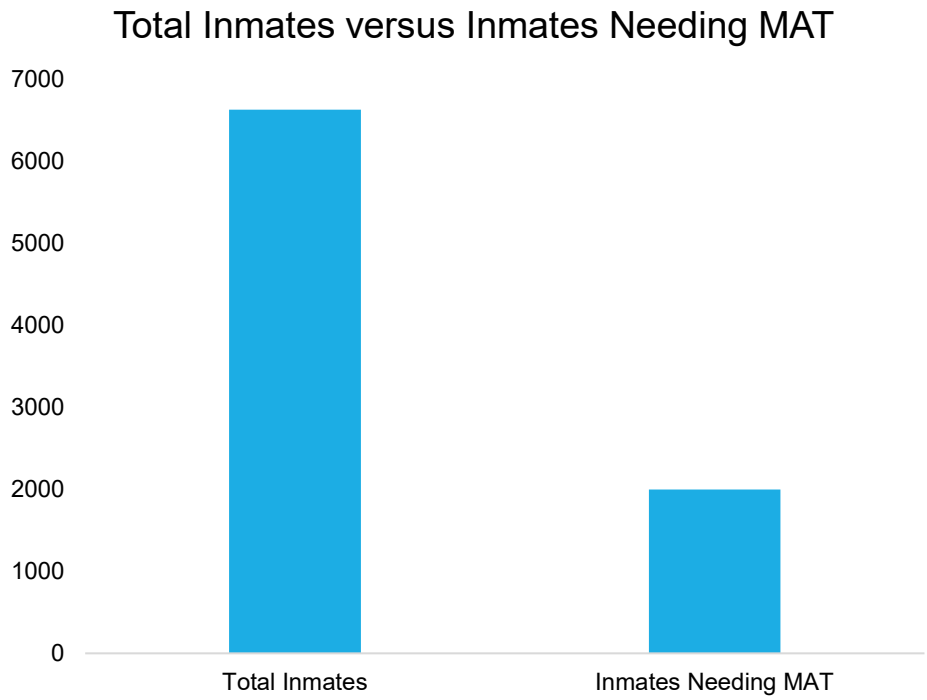
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Previous LFC Research on MAT for Inmates

- An NMCD survey estimates that 36 percent, or 2,000, state inmates require MAT services.

- Found that funding for MAT services for inmates has been slow to roll out and few adults received services in comparison to those that need services

- As of FY24, the Legislature appropriated $136.2 million to provide MAT services to individuals in the criminal justice system, with little of that funding being utilized.



GRO Appropriation for MAT

- NMCD received a GRO appropriation to provide MAT to inmates beginning in FY26 and going until FY28

- The appropriation amounted to $33.9 million, spread across three years.

- For FY26 and FY27 YTD, the program spent $3.7 million of the GRO appropriation.

July 1, 2025
- Initial evaluation plan due from agencies to LFC and DFA.

September 1, 2026
- Revised plan from agency due, if necessary.

November 1 each year
- Annual evaluation update due from agency.

September 1, 2027
- Final evaluation report from agency due.

MAT GRO NMCD Implementation Plan (Year 1; FY26)

- Continue operating the existing MAT program utilizing buprenorphine for individuals entering custody who are already receiving treatment, and maintain therapy as clinically indicated.

- By December 31, 2025, offer FDA-approved MAT modalities to individuals entering custody who are already engaged in treatment, as determined appropriate by clinical evaluation.

- Conduct staff training on evidence-based MAT protocols, clinical monitoring, and diversion prevention.

- Finalize operational protocols, including clinical workflow, medication storage, and safety measures.

- Begin collection of patient-level clinical data, adherence monitoring, and outcomes tracking.

MAT GRO NMCD Implementation Plan (Year 2; FY27)

- **Expand MAT access to all eligible incarcerated individuals in NMCD custody.**

- Initiate methadone and long-acting injectable formulations where clinically appropriate and operationally feasible.

- Maintain ongoing clinical staff training and supervision to ensure treatment fidelity and patient safety.

- Monitor treatment adherence, adverse events, and clinical outcomes, integrating data into continuous program quality improvement.

- Enhance patient care coordination with community providers to ensure post-release treatment continuity.

MAT GRO NMCD Implementation Plan (Year 3; FY28)

- Maintain universal MAT availability for all clinically eligible individuals.

- Continue quality improvement initiatives, including clinical audits, staff supervision, and protocol refinement.

- Evaluate program outcomes, including treatment adherence, relapse prevention, and continuity of care post-release.

- Use clinical and operational data to inform long-term program sustainability and evidence-based practice across the correctional system.

MAT Challenges

- Attempts at establishing an in-house Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) has been the most significant challenge. Multiple attempts through professional referral and Request for Information (RFI) approaches have been unsuccessful.

- Recruiting behavioral health staff for counseling and psychotherapy alongside pharmacotherapy has also been challenging.
  - NMCD has used telemedicine to provide behavioral health services and help address staffing gaps.

MAT Updates

- **7 out of 8** prisons are currently serving inmates with MAT services

- Of the **estimated 2,000** inmates that require MAT services, **1,407 inmates** received treatment with **815 inmates remaining active**

- While NMCD projects increasing the number of treatment episodes, it is unclear how they will increase uptake to ensure all 2,000 inmates estimated to need treatment are receiving treatment, if desired

- The estimated monthly medication cost for providing MAT services **$380 to $437 per inmate**
  - Meaning that in FY29, if the Legislature were to appropriate the full amount in the base budget after the expiration of the GRO pilot project, which will require showing strong evidence of the efficacy of the program, **$10.5 million would be needed**

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For More Information

- http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/lfc/lfcdefault.aspx
- Session Publications – Budgets
- Performance Report Cards
- Program Evaluations

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