NMHealth

MOUD in Public Health Offices

LHHS Update
October 20, 2026

Services addressing substance use

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Epidemiology and Data
Identifying substance use and overdose trends for programmatic planning

Inpatient and Intensive Outpatient Programs
Residential treatment programs and extended recovery options focused on emotional, cognitive, and behavioral supports



Harm Reduction
Naloxone and other services to reduce negative consequences of substance use

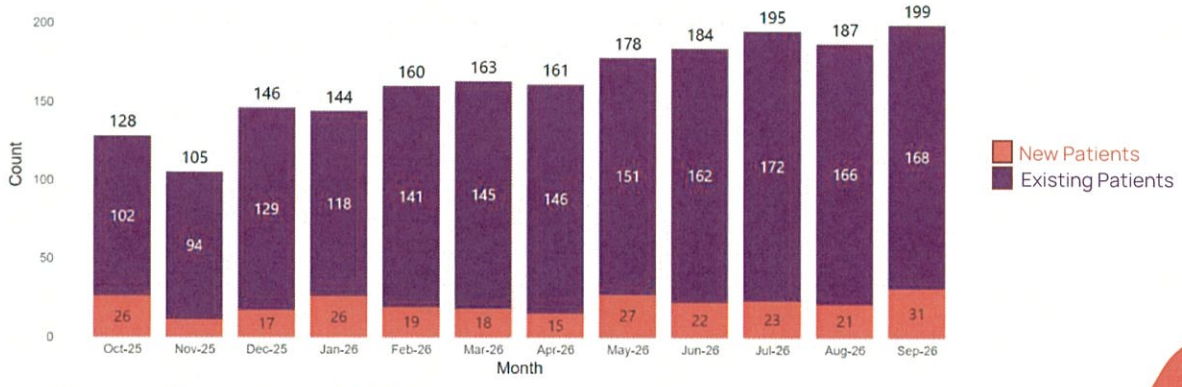
Nurse Helpline
Linking clients to services

Medical Detox
Clinical, 24/7 withdrawal management focused on adults with substance and alcohol-related health needs

Public Health Offices
Statewide access to Medication Assisted Treatment and other services

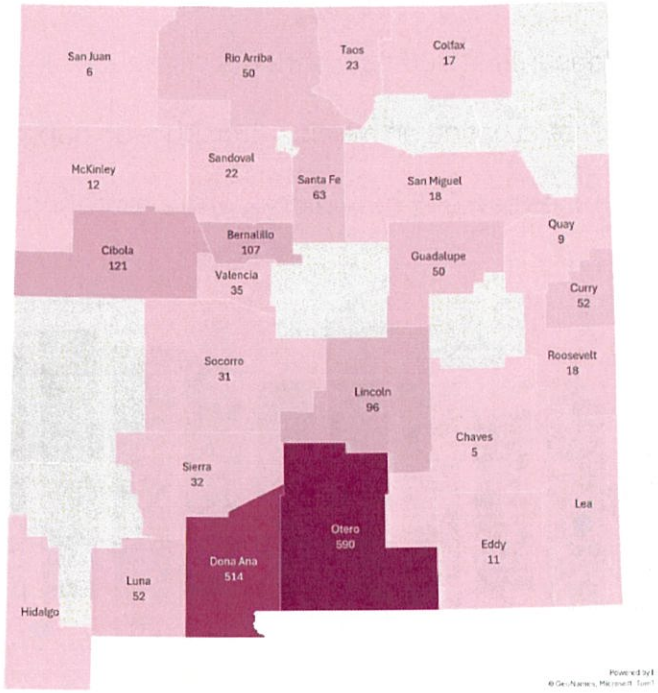
Clients Served in the Last 12 Months

- LFC set Performance Measures at 200 new patients with a 180-day retention rate above 45%.
  - The 45% retention rate is based on medical literature on buprenorphine-based programs.
- In FY26, Public Health Offices saw 235 new clients with a retention rate of 63%.



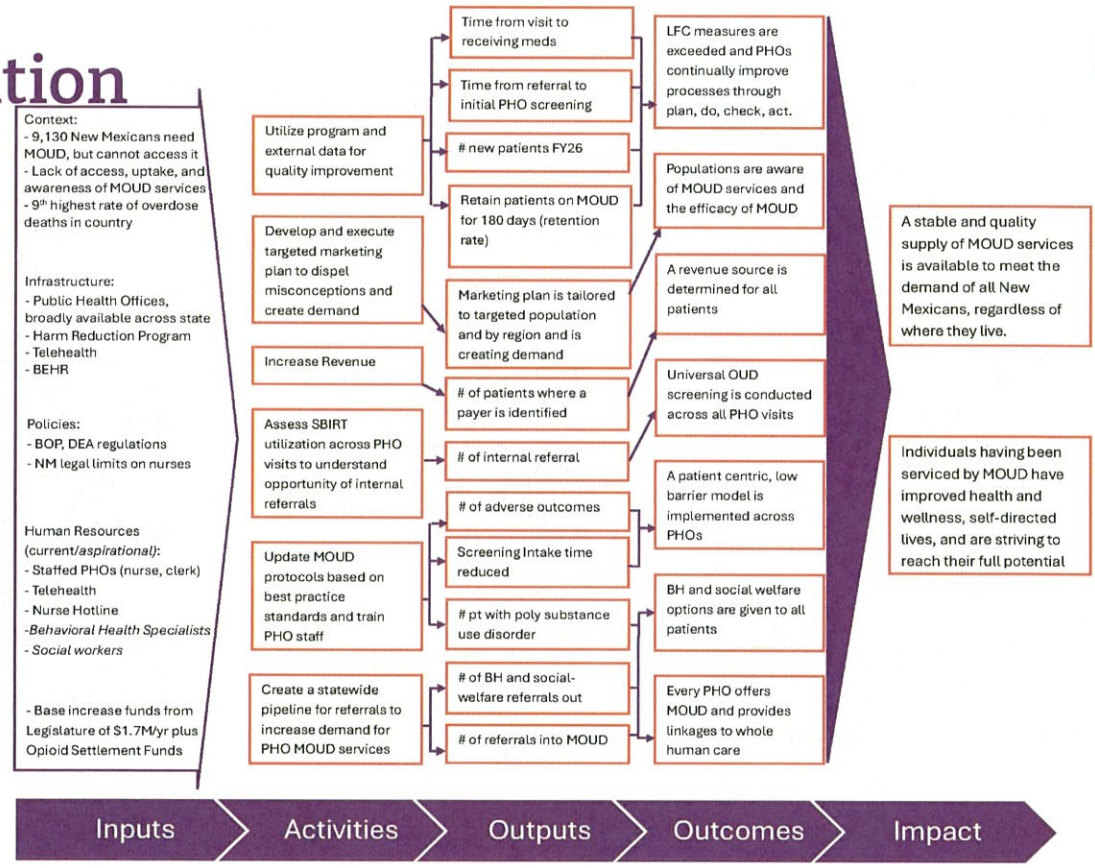
*Current retention rate over 12 months is 66%

Geographic Distribution



More information on the NMDOH Harm Reduction Dashboard

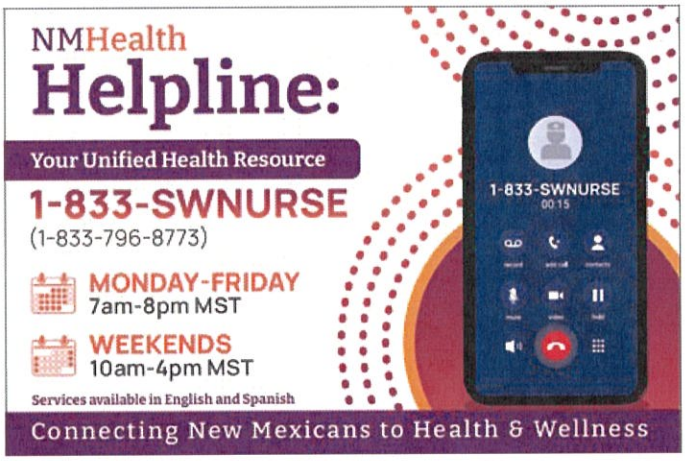
Post-Evaluation Logic Model



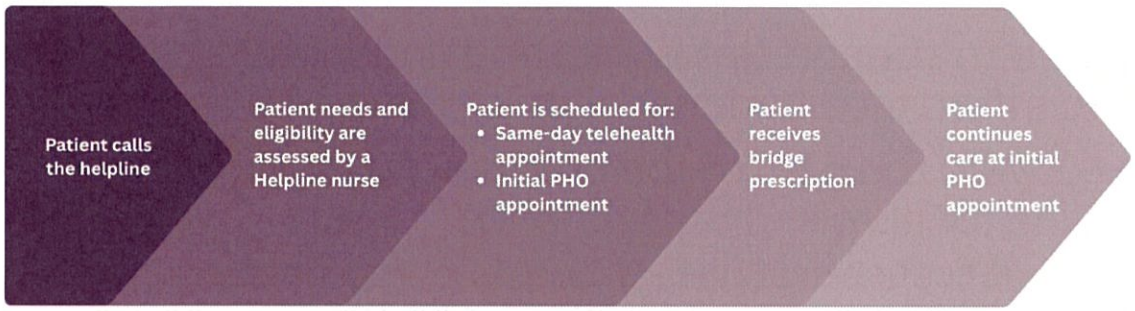
NMDOH Helpline Highlights

The Helpline is a centralized, statewide resource designed to provide real-time, person-centered support and navigation for individuals seeking help with substance use disorders (SUDs), including opioid use disorder (OUD). The helpline connects individuals to services such as MOUD, behavioral health treatment, primary care, and social supports.

NMDOH Helpline
Linkage to care
Provides "bridge prescriptions"
Referrals from providers
Operates as a front door to DOH services



Helpline Bridge Prescriptions



- NMDOH has provided a total of 249 bridge prescriptions.
  - Providers can prescribe medications to assist with withdrawal.
  - On call providers available during business hours (M-F 8-5).
  - Patients are also provided referrals for:
    - ✓ behavioral health, mental health, and crisis support services.
    - ✓ linkages to primary and specialty care.
    - ✓ harm reduction resources.

Medication Access Option Program

- Established to support uninsured and underinsured patients unable to afford medications for opioid use disorder.
- NMDOH covers the cost of the prescription while leveraging our Helpline for enrollment assistance.
  - Internal notification systems alert Helpline staff once a patient is insurance eligible through Medicaid or Employer
- Since July 2025, over 126 patients have accessed their medication through the Access Option Program.

Patient Experience

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- Client is greeted by clerk. Client is requested to provide personal details and insurance information. Client is provided Narcan and appointment information.
- Client receives intake assessment including a review of vitals and relevant medical, social, and substance use history. Client receives education and any ordered labs.
- Client may receive additional screening and assessment, including assessments for withdrawal and depression.
- Client undergoes provider visit to diagnose substance use disorder, develop a treatment plan, receive education, and offer referrals to other health services.
- If clinically appropriate, client receives relevant prescriptions and is provided information on follow-up care and visits.

Medication Pilot Sites

- Three sites in Espanola, Las Cruces, and Portales are established to dispense and administer .
  - All 3 sites will be able to order injectable buprenorphine products for administration.
  - Espanola and Las Cruces will maintain a small supply of oral Buprenorphine for those that are uninsured and lack transportation to a pharmacy or to cover if the pharmacy is out of stock.
- This pilot program demonstrates another step the department is taking to remove barriers to care and will inform decisions about future expansion and refinement.
- All three sites received Board of Pharmacy approval and a DEA registration and are now live.

Operational Achievements

- ✓ Statewide Opioid Treatment Manager Hired
- ✓Developed uniform, statewide training for clinical, policy, health promotions, and other staff
- ✓Updated and revised clinical protocols, health records management, and workflows, including on-call provider schedule and telehealth model.
- ✓ Worked with corrections to develop training materials and are actively receiving referrals from corrections and detention centers.
- ✓Launched Medication Access Program to cover medications for the uninsured.

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Update on Senate Memorial 21 Progress

Update on Senate Memorial 21

- During the 2026 Legislative Session, Senate Memorial 21 requested NMDOH to:
  - Evaluate the efficacy of implementing overdose prevention centers in New Mexico
  - Determine the statutory and regulatory framework to develop and implement overdose prevention centers
  - Produce a report to Legislative Finance Committee by November 1, 2026
- The department has engaged local and national experts and is on track to complete the report in the requested timeframe.

Areas of Analysis

Area of Analysis	Summary and Limitations
Overdose Prevention	While OPCs are successful in preventing overdoses on site, data showing wider population impact is limited with mixed effectiveness.
Infection Prevention	OPCs appear to be correlated with lower rates of syringe sharing, infections and sepsis, but limited data exists to compare with standard harm reduction programs.
Community Impact	Most studies indicate OPCs are not correlated with increased crime but may not decrease crime or public drug consumption.
Connection to Treatment	Data are mixed on OPCs and linkage to treatment and lack longitudinal studies evaluating sustained periods of abstinence.
Cost and Resources	Cost savings and return-on-investment data primarily driven by modeling.

Legal Considerations

- The federal Controlled Substances Act forbids knowingly opening or maintaining "any place…for the purpose of" controlled substance use.
- Department of Justice argued, and the Third Circuit held, that opening a proposed OPC in Philadelphia would violate this law
- Rhode Island and Vermont have state statute allowing for OPCs and NYC allows OPCs through executive action. These have not been legally challenged so far.
- However, the NYC nonprofit running the OPCs did lose federal funding.