KORE

Kentucky Overdose Response Effort

Impact Report



Federal Fiscal Year 2025

October 2024–September 2025

30.2%

DECLINE IN OVERDOSE DEATHS IN 2024

Kentucky's largest single-year reduction in drug overdose fatalities on record.

Hold hope. Maintain focus.

For years, Kentuckians held onto hope that we could change the trajectory of the overdose epidemic. This year, we see clear evidence that those efforts are making a difference. In 2024, overdose deaths in Kentucky declined by 30.2% — the largest single-year drop on record. This statistic is the cumulative result of thousands of daily decisions made by peer support specialists, clinicians, first responders, housing advocates, and the people in recovery who refused to give up on themselves or their communities.

KORE aims to support service access in all 120 counties, where every community has access to the prevention, treatment, and recovery services they need. Federal Fiscal Year 2025 brought real progress on that promise: 149,370 naloxone kits distributed, 1,706 individuals reached by Quick Response Teams within hours of an overdose, 474 recovery residences provided a safe and stable environment, and 33,542 Kentuckians who found their way to treatment or recovery services.

> *"Recovery is more than possible—it is probable when people have access to effective treatment, supportive communities, and the opportunity to heal."*

Now, we must maintain focus. Too many rural communities still lack adequate treatment options within a reasonable drive. The stimulant crisis demands new approaches that our system is still developing. And the workforce that delivers these services is stretched. These are not failures; they are the frontier of the work ahead.

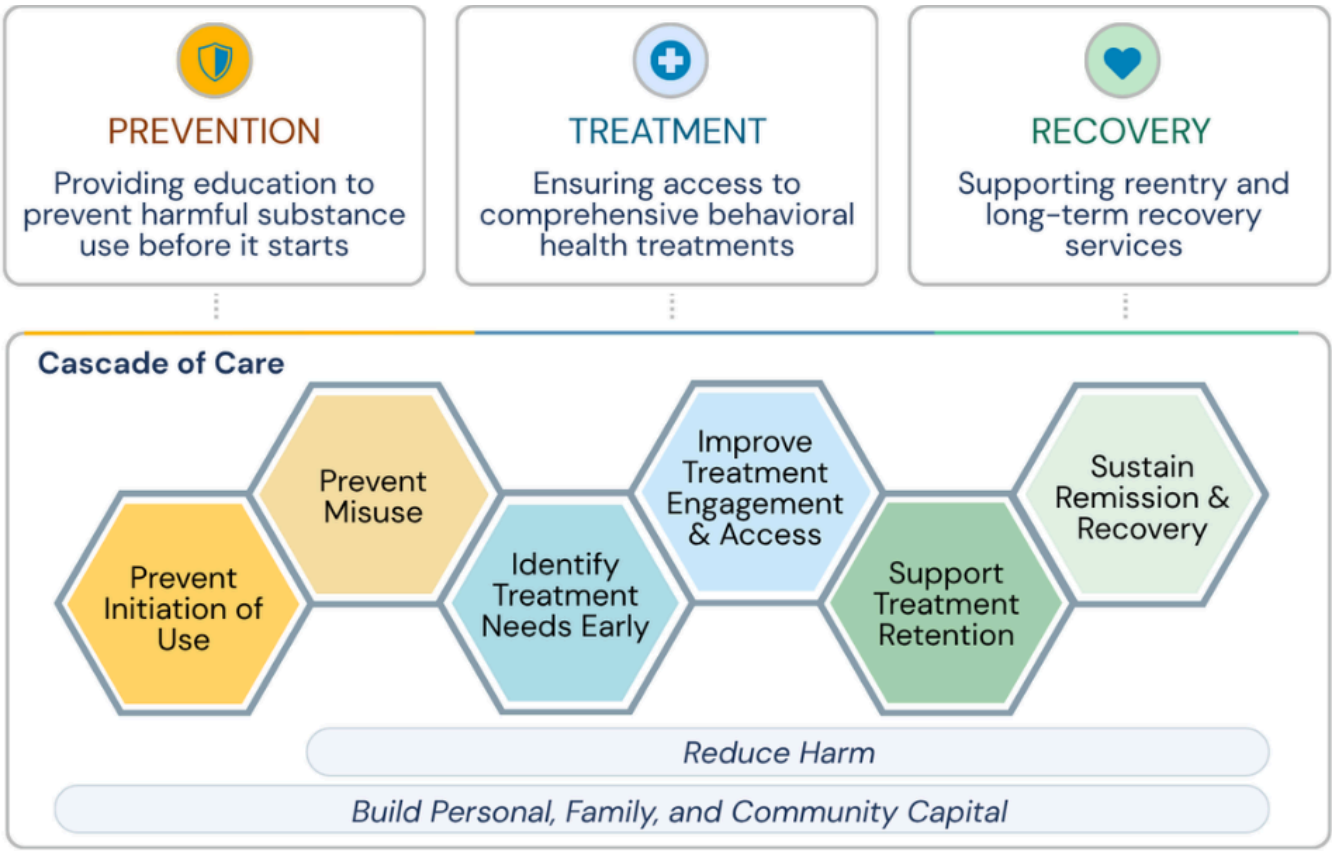
Hope reminds us that progress is possible. Focus ensures that progress continues. Together, we will continue building a comprehensive and recovery-oriented system of care so that every Kentuckian has the opportunity to thrive.

Caitlyn Hood, PhD
Project Director, Kentucky Overdose Response Effort
Cabinet for Health and Family Services

OUR MISSION

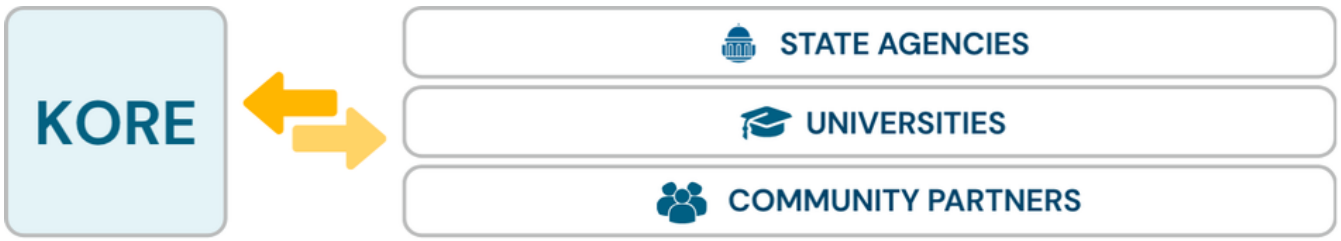
KORE aims to reduce overdose deaths by facilitating a comprehensive, recovery-oriented system of care across all 120 Kentucky counties.

KORE and its partners commit to implementing a trauma- and resilience-oriented care approach to address opioid use disorder (OUD) and stimulant use disorder (StimUD).



HOW PARTNERSHIPS WORK

KORE promotes cross-system collaboration through established feedback partnerships, sharing information bi-directionally between state agencies, universities, and community organizations.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE EXPANSION

Available statewide	Accessible to all	Person-centered	High quality & evidence-based

PREVENTION

Stopping the crisis before it starts

KORE focuses on preventing substance use initiation, reducing substance misuse, and decreasing overdose risk through evidence-based education and community-led initiatives across three tiers.

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TERTIARY
Prevent initiation	Identify and link early	Reduce harm

PRIMARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention aims to prevent substance use through evidence-based education, skill-building, and awareness initiatives that reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors.

Schools

Evidence-based curricula (Too Good for Drugs, Sources of Strength, Positive Action) build youth resilience and coping skills.

346
Schools & afterschool programs

160,308
Children & youth

Regional Prevention Centers (RPCs)

RPCs lead community efforts to reduce overdose risk, promote safe medication use, and increase public awareness of treatment and recovery resources across Kentucky.

Hosted safe medication storage & disposal events	**114**
Trained community members in overdose prevention	**2,230**
Trained community members in overdose prevention	**197**
Installed naloxone access kiosks	**223**

Hospitals

The Kentucky Hospital Association's Statewide Opioid Stewardship is a voluntary certification program helping hospitals and primary care clinics reduce opioid overprescribing and improve safe pain management.

90 primary care clinics

125 inpatient units

SECONDARY PREVENTION

Secondary prevention focuses on identifying substance use early and connecting people to help — before a pattern becomes a crisis.

FREE

The Funding for Recovery Engagement and Expansion (FREE) supported 10 community-based organizations to increase awareness of and linkage to substance use treatment and recovery resources.

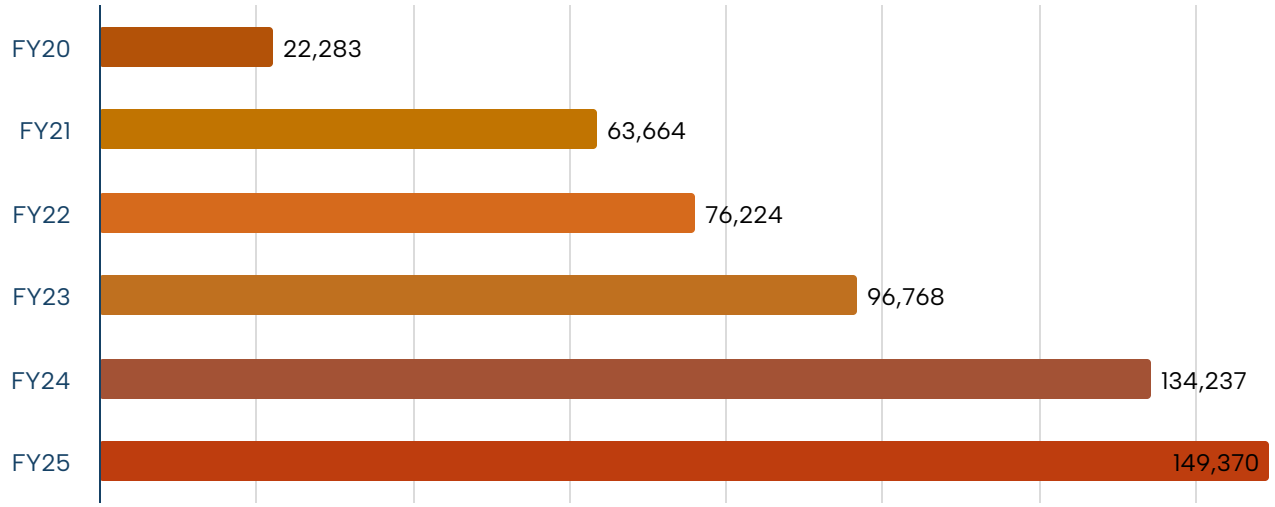
10	5,998	18,375
community organizations	individuals served	social media impressions

TERTIARY PREVENTION

Tertiary prevention meets people where they are — distributing naloxone, training communities, and reducing the immediate risks of active substance use while building bridges to care.

Naloxone distribution

KORE partners with the KY Department for Public Health and KY Pharmacists Association to distribute naloxone statewide. Distribution has grown 570% since FY2020.



149,370 naloxone kits distributed in FY25 — each one a potential life saved.

Preventing use and reducing harm is only part of the work. For Kentuckians already in the grip of addiction, a treatment network that provides the clinical bridge from crisis to care is essential. →

PREVENTION

Stopping the crisis before it starts

KORE focuses on preventing substance use initiation, reducing substance misuse, and decreasing overdose risk through evidence-based education and community-led initiatives across three tiers.

Crisis

Quick Response Teams (QRTs)

QRTs provide assertive outreach to individuals within 24–72 hours of an overdose or substance-related crisis — the critical window when connection to care is essential for treatment linkage.

1,706
individuals served

72%
linked to peer support or treatment

Hospital-Based Addiction Care

Hospital systems serve as the "hub," connecting patients to community-based treatment providers and recovery support services.

Assessment + Medical Stabilization + MOUD Inductions + Peer Support

18
partner hospitals

6,571
patients served

Treatment Access Program

Expands residential and intensive outpatient treatment for un- or under-insured Kentuckians who would otherwise face financial barriers to care.

1,547
individuals received residential or outpatient treatment

Low-Barrier Outpatient Clinics

Low-barrier outpatient clinics make it easier for people to access addiction treatment, including MOUD, by offering care in familiar settings.

Psychiatry clinic	**288 individuals**
Infectious disease clinic	**151 individuals**
Primary care clinics (11 FQHCs + RHSs)	**4,680 individuals**

Ongoing Care

MOUD Saves Lives

75% of individuals with OUD in KORE-funded programs received medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) — the first-line, FDA-approved treatment for OUD.

MOUD REDUCES

- ↓ Overdose deaths
- ↓ Opioid use
- ↓ Infectious disease transmission
- ↓ Recidivism

MOUD IMPROVES

- ↑ Craving & withdrawal management
- ↑ Retention in treatment
- ↑ Social functioning

→ **506** un- or under-insured individuals received methadone

Contingency Management

Reinforces recovery-oriented behaviors including abstinence from stimulants, MOUD adherence, and treatment engagement.

92.6%
completed 12 weeks of treatment

TREATMENT IN PRACTICE

A man who walked out of treatment, spent years behind bars, and arrived at Turning Point quietly planning to end his life left that same day with housing, a job offer, and a reason to stay. He recently showed up at a community recovery event with tears in his eyes — grateful that someone had refused to give up on him.

– Turning Point QRT, Paducah, KY

Priority Populations

PREGNANT & PARENTING	JUSTICE-INVOLVED	YOUNG ADULTS
506	**1,060**	**1,822**
individuals received treatment & recovery support	individuals served in two jails and all state-operated prisons	young adults receiving treatment and recovery support

Treatment opens the door—but recovery depends on safe housing, stable health, meaningful purpose, and a supportive community. KORE-funded partners provide all four. →

RECOVERY & REENTRY

Building lives that last

Recovery is sustained not by treatment alone, but by the resources surrounding an individual — safe housing, meaningful work, and a community that believes in them. KORE supports Kentuckians across all four of SAMHSA's pillars of recovery.

Home	Health	Purpose	Community
Safe and stable housing	Physical and emotional wellness	Employment, education, and meaningful activity	Connection, support, and belonging

Recovery Housing

KORE supports statewide housing through the Kentucky Recovery Housing Network, Oxford House, and NARR quality standards.

86
counties with recovery residences

5,703
recovery beds

340
NARR-certified residences

134
Oxford Houses

Reentry Efforts

- **463** individuals received employment support
- **309** individuals entered Oxford housing after incarceration
- **2,494** individuals enrolled in reentry care coordination
- **589** individuals received MOUD in state prisons

Recovery Community Centers (RCCs)

16 peer-led, community-based RCCs foster social connection through recovery coaching and mutual aid meetings.

8,511
mutual aid meetings

47,633
recovery coaching sessions

RECOVERY IN PRACTICE

I've been working with a client who was recently released from incarceration after serving a 10-year prison sentence. He has worked so hard over the past months and has maintained his MOUD. Now, he's gainfully employed, living in a stable environment, certified in peer support, and has his own transportation. He's done all the work – I've just walked alongside him.

– Recovery Coach, Paducah KY

Social Support and Self-Improvement

KORE's RCC partners host life skills classes, social activities, and community outreach events to promote connection, skill building, and recovery capital across all four pillars.

992
life skills classes

505
social events

1,457
outreach events

UNSHAME KY Social Media Campaign

Leverages Facebook and Instagram to promote recovery, increase fentanyl awareness, and reduce stigma.

2M+
Impressions

63,135
Engagements

UNSHAME KENTUCKY

Accessible Services – Deaf & Hard of Hearing

KORE supports accessible recovery services including interpretation, communication accommodations, and inclusive peer support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Employment Support

The Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment (SITE) helps individuals in recovery obtain and maintain employment through job coaching, education, and training — including credentialing programs.

2,821
unique individuals served

500
received certifications or credentials

The Role of Recovery Capital



Recovery is sustained not just by treatment, but by the resources and supports surrounding an individual—known as recovery capital.

- **personal capital** (health, skills, resilience)
- **community capital** (access to housing and opportunity)
- **social capital** (relationships and support networks)

Together, these elements form the foundation for long-term recovery.

— KENTUCKY AT A GLANCE

One system. 120 counties. Real results.

Across prevention, treatment, and recovery, KORE-funded partners delivered measurable impact for Kentuckians in every corner of the Commonwealth during Federal Fiscal Year 2025.

160k
youth reached

149,370
Naloxone kits distributed

223
Naloxone kiosks installed

90,005
recovery coaching sessions
(includes peer support services offered in treatment and recovery settings)

1,706
post-overdose interactions

33,542
treatment or recovery service recipients

474
recovery residences

75%
accessed MOUD during treatment

77
unique partnerships

30.2%

DECLINE IN OVERDOSE DEATHS IN 2024

Kentucky's largest single-year reduction on record

KORE exists because recovery is possible for everyone — no county, no zip code, and no person should be left without a path forward. Across all 120 Kentucky counties, the progress in these pages was built by dedicated partners, providers, and Kentuckians in recovery who showed up — every day — for each other.
Progress without pause. The work continues.











This report reflects the work of more than 70 partner organizations supporting over 140 initiatives across Kentucky. To the healthcare workers, peer support specialists, recovery housing providers, first responders, prevention professionals, and community leaders who make this work possible—thank you.

Every success in this report reflects your dedication and partnership. Together, we are expanding access to care, strengthening recovery, and saving lives.

KORE exists because of you. We are grateful for all you do.

-The KORE Team

ABOUT KORE

Kentucky Overdose Response Effort

The Kentucky Overdose Response Effort (KORE) is a statewide Team Kentucky initiative. Through a unified network of state agencies, universities, and community partners, KORE expands access to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and long-term recovery supports across all 120 Kentucky counties.

RESOURCES

2024 Kentucky Drug Overdose Fatality Report (odcp.ky.gov/Reports/2024%20Drug%20Overdose%20Fatality%20Report.pdf)

Find Help Now KY (findhelpnowky.org)

KORE (kore.ky.gov)

KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services (chfs.ky.gov)

Produced with funding from SAMHSA Award No. H79TI087770. Views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

WEBSITE
kore.ky.gov

EMAIL
kore@ky.gov

ADDRESS
275 E Main St. Frankfort, KY 40621

TEAM KENTUCKY
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES