

SFDPH Overdose Prevention Updates

Presentation for the HIV Community Planning Council

San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Agenda

- DPH Roadmap
- Updated Overdose Indicators
- Overdose Prevention Initiatives



Overdose Prevention & HIV Prevention and Treatment



Our Vision, Mission, and Key Strategies

Vision

For all San Franciscans to experience **mental and emotional well-being** and **participate meaningfully** in the community across lifespans and generations.

Mission

To provide **equitable**, effective substance use and mental health care and promote **behavioral health and wellness** among all San Franciscans.

Expand critical services

Improve access
to mental health
and substance
use care

Increase
awareness of
where and how
to get help

Division of Behavioral Health at DPH

Largest provider of mental health and substance use prevention, early intervention, and treatment services in San Francisco. 800+ civil service staff and 80 contracted community partners deliver clinical services across the City.

Managed care plan for Medi-Cal enrollees with serious mental health or substance use disorders.

100,000+ connections to prevention, care, and treatment

36,500 unique individuals receiving mental health services in DPH

3,600 unique individuals under 18 years old in specialty mental health care

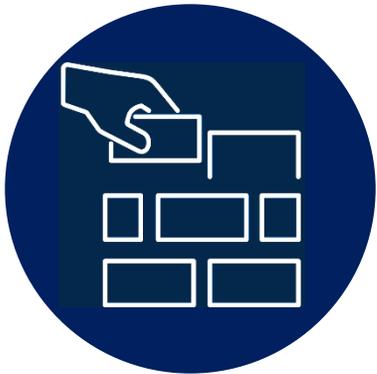
16,800 unique individuals receiving substance use services in DPH

Tackling San Francisco's Behavioral Health and Homelessness Crisis

Our goals

Build a more responsive and proactive behavioral health system of care that will help move people quickly from the streets into effective treatment and sustained recovery

Reduce fatal overdoses and reduce disparities in overdose rates across the city



SFDPH Roadmap for the Behavioral Health Crisis

**Expand
Treatment Beds
and Services**

**Accelerate and
Simplify Entry
to Care**

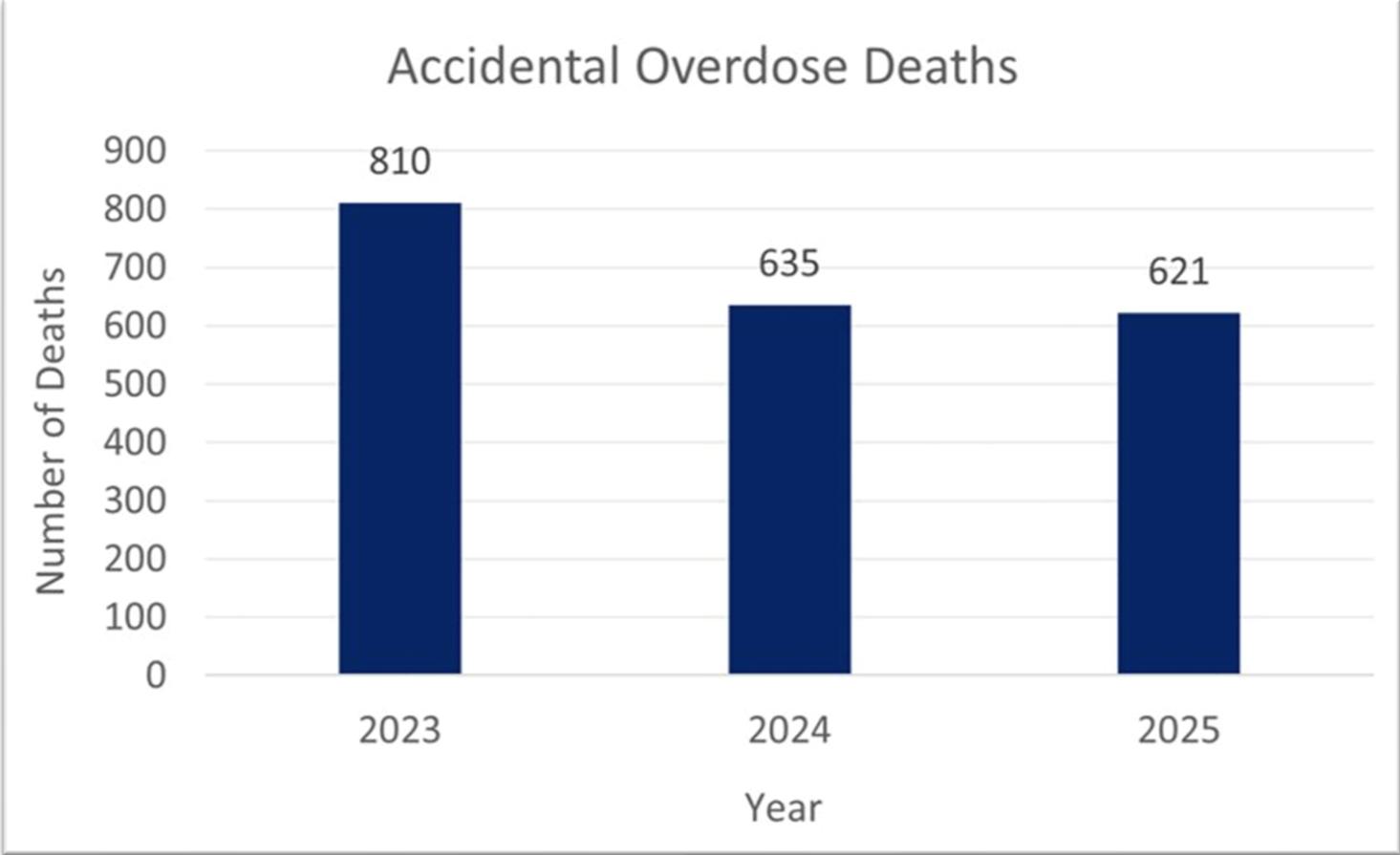
**Support People
To Progress
Through Care**

**Refrine
Distribution of
Safer Use
Supplies**

**Build a
Comprehensive
Pathway to
Recovery**

**Prevent
Overdoses**

Every overdose death is preventable and unacceptable. Our goal is to dramatically reduce overdose deaths.



Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Overdose Deaths by Year

Year	Jan-Nov	Jan-Dec
2023	760	810
2024	584	635
2025	588	621

The highest overdose deaths recorded in San Francisco was in 2023

- In 2025, overdose deaths are down 24% from this peak

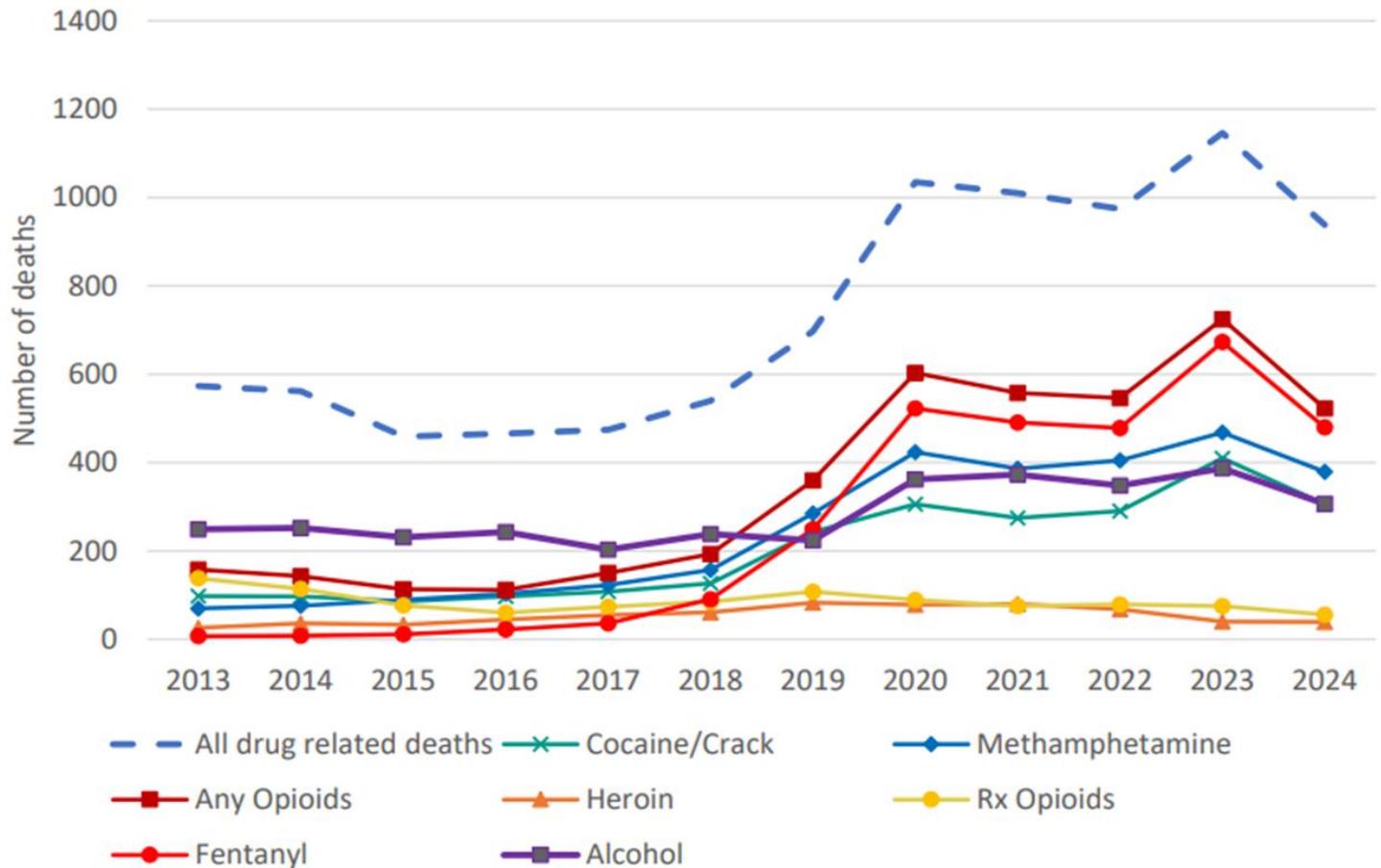


Deaths by substance involved

82% involve an opioid
95% of these
involve fentanyl

43% involve cocaine
52% involve
methamphetamine

Figure 1: Substance-Related Deaths by Non-Mutually Exclusive Contributing Substance in CCSF, 2013-2024

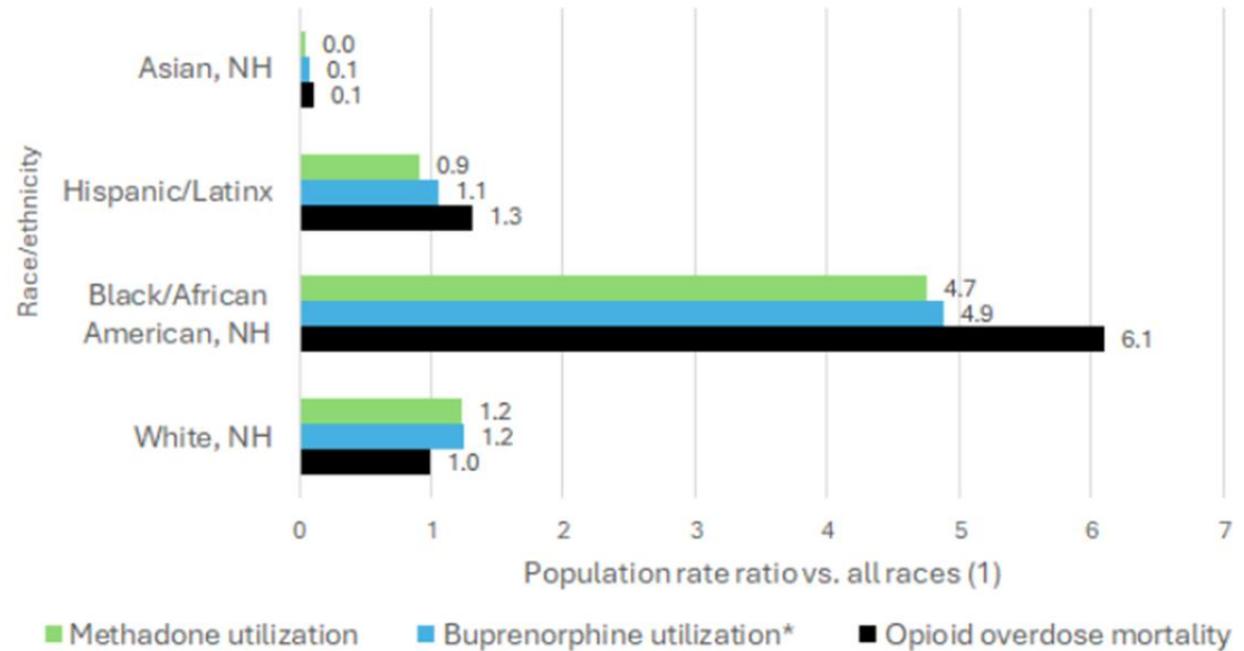


Not all populations are impacted equally

Black San Franciscans experience overdose at 6x the rate of other races/ethnicities

Black San Franciscans access MOUD Treatment at 5x the rate of other races/ethnicities

Figure 2: Rate-ratios of MOUD utilization and opioid overdose mortality by race/ethnicity, CCSF 2023



*Buprenorphine includes only SFHN providers and outpatient dispensing. Rates not shown for groups with fewer than 10 events. NH = Non-Hispanic. See Appendix for data sources.



How we are tackling overdoses

1. Build on nationally leading innovations in SF to **significantly increase uptake and retention for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (buprenorphine and methadone)**
2. Implement targeted overdose prevention efforts in **high-risk communities**
3. Rapidly implement Breaking the Cycle initiatives – **more proactive push and expanded / increased focus on treatment and recovery**



Bringing Expanded Access to Medication (BEAM)

On-Demand Telehealth Treatment For People Who Use Drugs

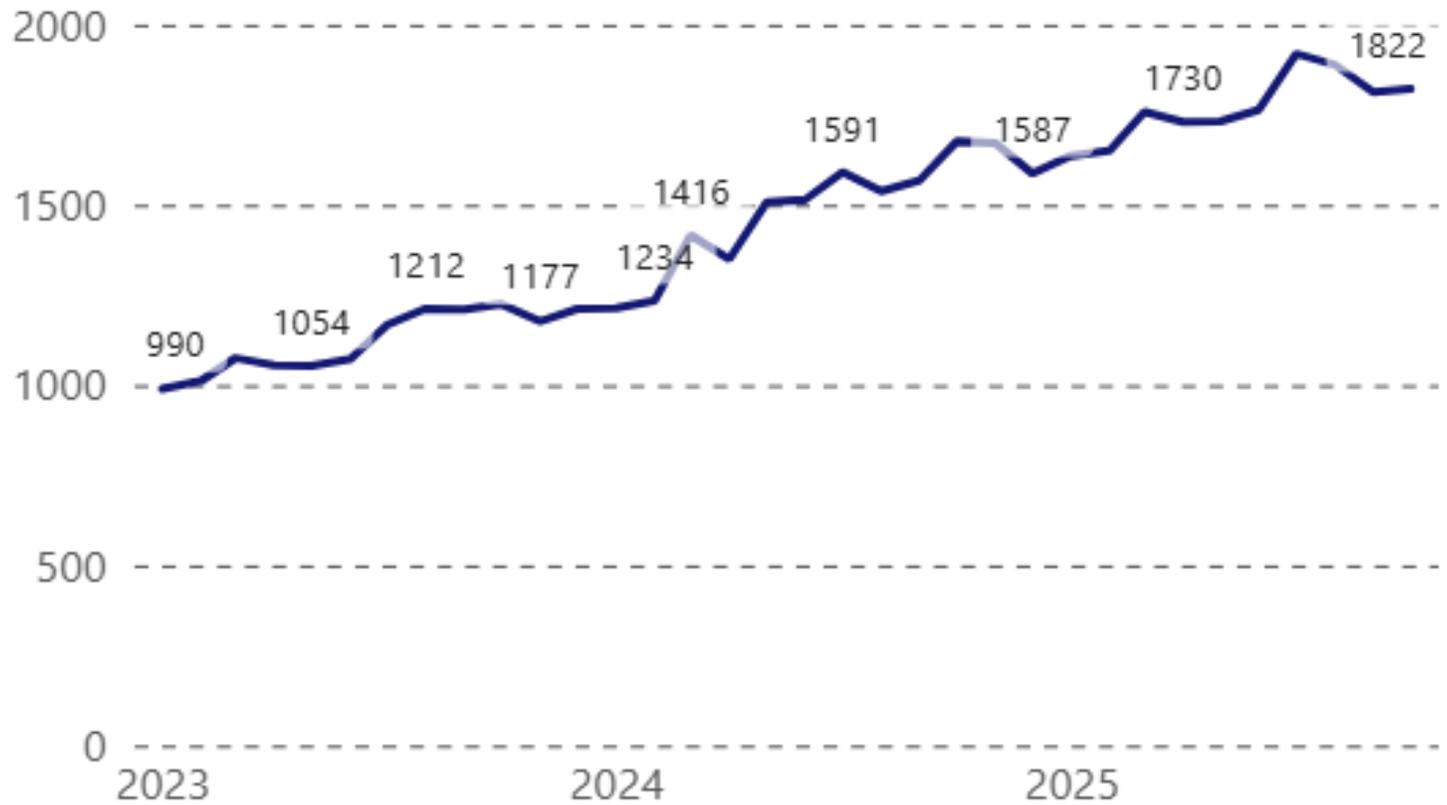
Daily 8 a.m. – midnight

Call the SFDPH
Behavioral Health Access Line at
888-246-3333
and press “1” to be connected
to a medical professional.



MOUD: we have dramatically increased the number of people on gold-standard buprenorphine

Count of total clients prescribed buprenorphine by month



Growth in clients on buprenorphine:

- **+32% in 2024 v. 2023**
- **+21% in 2025 v. 2024 (Jan-Oct)**

While we are highly successful at initiating treatment, we are focused on increasing the % of people the stay on buprenorphine over time

30%

All patients
taking buprenorphine

vs

5%

6-month retention of
patients newly
starting buprenorphine

**First month of treatment is
the most challenging and
when most patients stop
buprenorphine treatment**

Our interventions focus on engagement and early retention

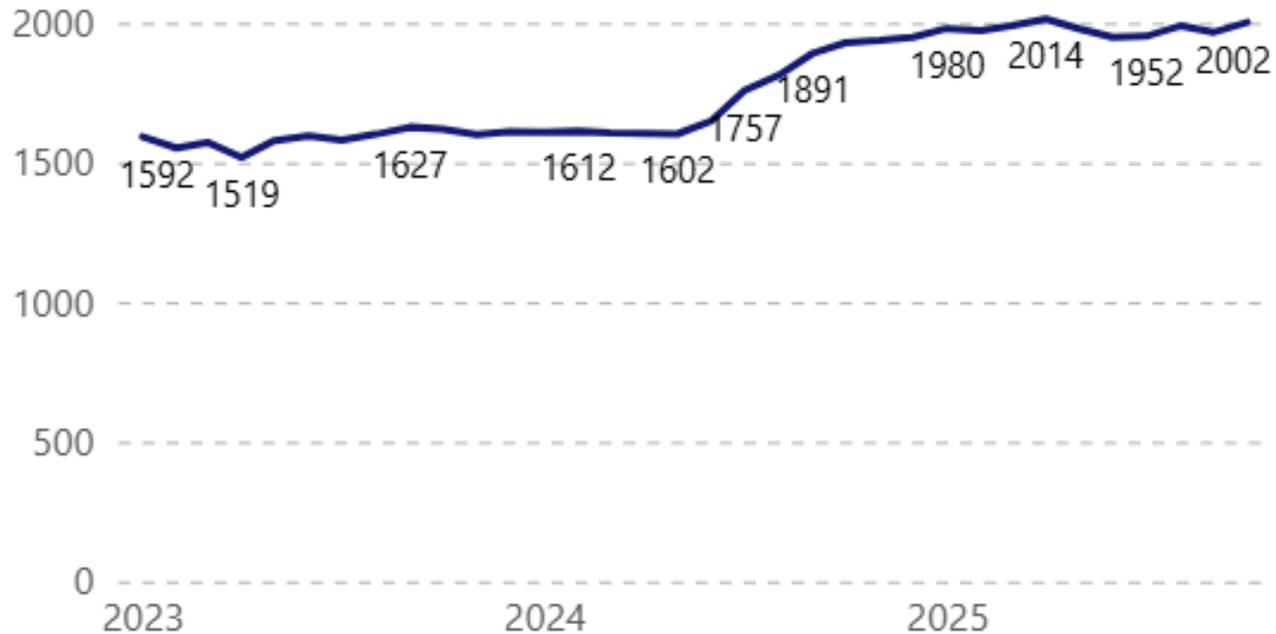
Multiple initiatives to increase retention on treatment, including:

- Expanding access to **long-acting injectable buprenorphine** – Easier to start and provides another option to meet patient needs
- Shelter beds to support people starting treatment – **Expanding RESTORE**
- Pilot **incentive program** for people to stay on buprenorphine treatment

Goal: What would it take to double to triple 6-month retention rates for buprenorphine

More people are starting methadone treatment and staying on it

Count of total unique clients by month



Patients are **more likely to stay on methadone treatment** than buprenorphine

Multiple initiatives to make methadone treatment more accessible, including:

- Expanding access by starting people on **methadone treatment in jail**
- Utilizing new **state flexibilities** that adapt treatment to the needs of people who use fentanyl
- Piloting **contingency management** to support medication retention
- Increasing **navigation support** to get more people in to methadone treatment citywide with a special focus on the Bayview
- **Clubhouse model** for people on methadone

Code Tenderloin Bayview Navigation: Connecting People to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and Supporting Treatment Retention

Launched in September 2025 by DPH and Code Tenderloin

- In the first 3 months of the program (Sept-Nov), Code Tenderloin connected 170 individuals to MOUD services.
- Partnered with OTOP's Bayview Van and Bayview Hunters Point Foundation for methadone services.
- Utilizes DPH Telehealth MOUD program.
- Engages with clients on street-based outreach and at community sites (e.g. Mother Brown's Kitchen and the Bayview Navigation Center).



Glide's The SHOP

Launching March 5th by DPH and Glide

- A barbershop located in the TL, serving as a safe, therapeutic space for older Black/African American men, providing professional grooming services with health education, active listening, and direct linkages to care.

Details

- 330 Ellis Street, 1st Floor
- Hours of Operation:
 - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat 9-5p
 - Wed 9a-7p
 - Grooming services, counseling, case management, and support groups.



Contingency Management (CM) Expansion

DPH and partners launched three new contingency management programs since July 2025. Focus is on Black/African Americans and people whose primary language is Spanish.

Gubbio Project

In partnership with **SFAF** and DPH, completed the first cycle of Spanish language CM in Dec 2025. The second cycle launches in early 2026.

San Francisco

AIDS Foundation (SFAF)

In Oct 2025, launched PROP Empowerment, focused on providing culturally congruent CM services for Black/African Americans.

Glide Foundation

In Oct 2025, launched a new CM program focused on providing low-barrier access to CM services.



Stabilization Unit at 822 Geary Update

- **543** admissions since launch (April 28) through November 30.
- Can currently serve up to **16 clients** at a time. Clients are actively in a behavioral health crisis and can stabilize at the CSU.
- Since July, expanded referrals to **hospitals** (via IP Psych and Psychiatric Emergency Services).
- Providers work to **refer clients to ongoing care** before discharge.

Referrals and Discharges (5/1/25-11/30/25)

Referral Source	Number	% (N=543)
Street Crisis Response Team	284	52%
Self/Family	181	33%
DPH or CBO staff	61	11%
Other (EMS, Hospital)	17	4%

Discharge Disposition	Number	% (N=557)
Home (own or family)	137	25%
Crisis Residential Treatment	134	24%
Shelter	82	15%
Self-Discharge (Cleared for discharge but declined to share destination)	76	14%
Hospital Care (ED, 5150)	64	11%
Other (Discharge to Treating Provider, Sobering, AWOL)	33	6%
Left Against Medical Advice	31	6%

Progress Under Key Residential Treatment Initiatives

At the beginning of 2025, SFDPH managed ~2,600 behavioral health residential treatment and care beds. Throughout the year, we have expanded capacity by adding **more than 200 new beds** across key programs, strengthening the continuum of care and enhancing access to critical services.

- **16 bed, 24/7 stabilization center at 822 Geary Street** opened in April 2025 as an alternative to ERs for first responders and law enforcement to connect people in crisis to urgent care.
- **21 withdrawal management and substance use treatment** beds at Harbor Light in partnership with Salvation Army.
- **72 non-congregate respite** beds opened at the Eleanora Fagan Center in August 2025 for people exiting street homelessness with 24/7 staffing, nursing, behavioral health care, and structured transitions.
- **62 recovery housing** beds opened at Wells Place in September 2025 for drug-and alcohol-free transitional living with on-site case management and wraparound support.
- **27 emergency stabilization unit** beds opened in December 2025 to provide short-term stays for client stability and service connection.
- **20+ out-of-county** beds available at Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers, Psychiatric Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Adult Residential Facilities.



Planned Beds for 2026 and Beyond

SFDPH plans to add 200+ beds from 2026 to 2028, including:

- **Locked subacute treatment beds** to provide highly specialized, medically supervised care for individuals with the most complex behavioral health needs.
- **Dual diagnosis treatment beds** to help people with both mental health and substance use challenges.
- **Substance use residential step-down beds** to support individuals who are transitioning from substance use treatment to independent living.



Thank you