



Illicit Drugs in VADOC Facilities: Addressing the Challenges

VADOC Research Unit

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Introduction/Background

While much attention is placed on criminal behavior associated with addiction and substance use, the destructive influence of substance use does not end at sentencing or with incarceration. The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) actively addresses addiction and substance use for the population housed in facilities under department supervision using security measures, substance use treatment, and education strategies. This includes the use of risk and needs assessments that help the agency identify and direct inmates with needs to appropriate programming and treatment as well as security measures aimed to keep inmates, staff, and visitors safe in VADOC facilities and districts. Despite traditional security and treatment efforts, illicit drugs continue to be introduced into VADOC facilities, resulting in inmate overdoses and deaths. VADOC updates security procedures to counter these efforts and keep inmates in our care and staff safe. In addition to existing SUD programs and treatment methods available in VADOC facilities, new programs have been implemented to address threats from illicit use of drugs such as fentanyl and other opioids. Despite the efforts of the VADOC and other correctional organizations, the introduction and use of illicit drugs are ongoing and escalating challenges in correctional facilities across the country. This report summarizes these challenges and the efforts being made to combat this problem in the VADOC.

The Presence of Drugs

Inmate Deaths Due to Drug Overdoses

If an inmate dies while in VADOC custody, the agency categorizes the death based on the cause of death (COD) listed on the official autopsy report as determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). Between CY2015 and CY2020 VADOC averaged 4.3 inmate deaths in custody each year whose COD was listed as a drug overdose (median=3.5). Fentanyl was involved in more than two-thirds of those deaths. Inmate deaths due to a drug overdose increased each year from CY2021 through CY2023, and Fentanyl was involved in 88% of these deaths. There was one Female death in CY2019 which did not involve Fentanyl; all other drug overdose deaths were among Male inmates. See Figure A for more detailed information.

Figure A - Inmate Deaths in VADOC Custody due to Confirmed Drug Overdose¹

Year of Death	Fentanyl Listed as COD ²	Fentanyl Not Listed as COD	Total Confirmed Drug Overdose Deaths
CY15	3	2	5
CY16	4	0	4
CY17	3	0	3
CY18	2	1	3
CY19	3	5	8
CY20	3	0	3
CY21	11	0	11
CY22	10	5	15
CY23*	22	1	23
CY24YTD*	3	1	4
Total	64	15	79

¹ Inmates who died in VADOC custody whose cause of death was listed as a drug overdose on the autopsy report received from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME); all cause of death information received through July 9, 2024; data for CY24 reported through July 9, 2024; excludes 3 deaths in CY23 and 22 deaths in CY24 for which a confirmed cause of death has not yet been received by OCME; not all of these pending deaths are suspected to be drug-related.

² Fentanyl listed as COD on autopsy report received from OCME; Fentanyl could have been the only cause listed or it could have been listed along with other drug(s) and/or other cause(s).

Drug Overdoses Among Inmates

VADOC DOP [038.1 Reporting Serious or Unusual Incidents](#) establishes guidelines for reporting suspected overdoses. It requires that all suspected overdoses be reported in CORIS. Suspected drug overdoses are incidents submitted with a ‘Suspected Drug/Alcohol Overdose’ incident report nature. There have been 592 drug overdose incidents reported among inmates in VADOC facilities since CY2016, averaging 66 such incidents per year, but this number varies from year to year. Since reaching 81 in CY2019, the number of drug overdose incidents decreased to 46 in CY2020 and 51 in CY2021. This decrease corresponds with the suspension of in-person visitation for inmates in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, by CY2022, the number of overdose incidents increased to 85. This corresponds to the resumption of in-person visitation for inmates. In CY2023, there were 122 overdose incidents. As of 2024 (January-May), there have been 53 overdose incidents.

CY2016	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022	CY2023	CY2024*
39	68	47	81	46	51	85	122	53

*Data reported through May 2024.

Substance Abuse Needs

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, research indicates that in the United States an estimated 65% of incarcerated individuals have an active Substance Use Disorder (SUD), while another 20% do not meet the official criteria for having an SUD but were under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the commission of the crime that led to their incarceration ([Criminal Justice DrugFacts | National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) \(nih.gov\)](#)). The challenge faced by the VADOC in providing treatment and services to inmates demonstrating a need for substance abuse treatment is in line with these national statistics; in CY2023 67% of all inmates housed in a VADOC facility showed a need for SA treatment based on their most recent assessment using the COMPAS (Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions) screening tool. Female inmates were more likely to show a need for treatment than males and outpaced the average, with 72% of women compared to 67% of men scoring ‘Probable’ or ‘Highly Probable’ on their most recent assessment. In addition to regular risk assessments, the VADOC utilizes additional determinants for identifying an inmate’s need for SUD treatment or programming, such as positive drug screen tests.

	Female %	Male %	Total %
Highly Probable	42.4	43.2	43.2
Probable	29.7	23.3	23.7
Unlikely	27.9	33.5	33.1

Of the 64 confirmed overdose deaths between CY2019-CY2024YTD³, two-thirds (n=48) had a COMPAS SA score of ‘Highly Probable’ or ‘Probable’. Of these 48 inmates, 34 assessed as ‘Highly Probable’ (71%). Among the 16 inmates who scored ‘Unlikely’, 13 had a negative drug test result on the most recent drug test administered that preceded their death, two inmates had a positive drug test result, and one inmate had never had a drug test administered. For the two inmates with a positive drug test result, one tested positive (for Buprenorphine and Marijuana) two months prior to their death, while the other inmate’s positive result (for Opiates) was five years prior to their death. Among the 13 inmates whose preceding drug test was negative, 11 had no history of positive results, and two inmates had positive drug test results in their history.

	Female	Male	Total %
Highly Probable	1	33	53%
Probable	0	14	22%
Unlikely	0	16	25%

³ Inmates who died in VADOC custody whose cause of death was listed as a drug overdose on the autopsy report received from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME); all cause of death information received through July 9, 2024; data for CY24 reported through July 9, 2024; excludes 3 deaths in CY23 and 22 deaths in CY24 for which a confirmed cause of death has not yet been received by OCME; not all of these pending deaths are suspected to be drug-related.

Inmate Drug Testing

VADOC DOP [841.5 Substance Use Testing and Treatment Services](#) establishes guidelines for conducting inmate and probationer/parolee alcohol and other drug testing and for imposing appropriate sanctions and treatment interventions for inmates and probationers/parolees who test positive for or have documented substance use disorder. VADOC administered 34,284 drug tests to 17,318 inmates during CY2023, with 260 inmates testing positive at least one time (1.5% positivity rate). As shown in Table D, the 34,284 drug tests administered during CY2023 were more than the number of drug tests administered in each of the three preceding years⁴ but lower than the number administered in earlier years.

Table D - VADOC Inmate Drug Testing

Drug Test Year	# of Drug Tests Administered	# of Unique Inmates Tested at least one time during CY	# of Unique Inmates with 1+ Positive Result during CY	% of Unique Inmates Tested with 1+ Positive Result
CY15	38,995	17,487	431	2.5%
CY16	65,594	31,849	519	1.6%
CY17	52,279	21,431	373	1.7%
CY18	50,332	21,860	387	1.8%
CY19	50,506	21,017	425	2.0%
CY15-CY19 Average	51,541	22,729	427	1.9%
CY20*	20,309	11,462	226	2.0%
CY21*	11,884	8,010	223	2.8%
CY22*	13,229	9,554	364	3.8%
CY23	34,284	17,318	260	1.5%

*Fewer drug tests were administered during CY2020-CY2022 for the following reasons: 1) inmate drug testing was reduced in CY2020 and CY2021 in order to facilitate physical distancing in VADOC facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) the VADOC Facility population decreased 17% from the end of February 2020 to the end of December 2021 due to a combination of COVID Early Release Authorization and fewer inmates being sentenced to SR incarceration during that time; and 3) the VADOC Facility population decreased 10% from the end of June 2022 to the end of December 2022 due to the implementation of Enhanced Earned Sentence Credits (ESC) effective July 1, 2022 that were applied retroactively.

The variation in the number of drug tests administered combined with changes in the size of the VADOC Facility population impact the positivity rates discussed later in this section. Additionally, there were changes in the gender composition of the VADOC Facility population and the drug testing information. When a drug test is administered to an inmate, the test sample can be screened for multiple drugs, and the sample can be positive for multiple drugs. The information that follows discusses the number of positive drug screening results rather than number of drug tests administered. Female inmates accounted for increasing proportion of the positive drug screening results (from 0.4% to 4.8%) even as their proportion of the VADOC Facility population decreased (from 7.8% to 5.8%). See Charts E-G on the next page.

⁴ Fewer drug tests were administered during CY2020-CY2022 for the following reasons: 1) inmate drug testing was reduced in CY2020 and CY2021 in order to facilitate physical distancing in VADOC facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) the VADOC Facility population decreased 17% from the end of February 2020 to the end of December 2021 due to a combination of COVID Early Release Authorization and fewer inmates being sentenced to SR incarceration during that time; and 3) the VADOC Facility population decreased 10% from the end of June 2022 to the end of December 2022 due to the implementation of Enhanced Earned Sentence Credits (ESC) effective July 1, 2022 that were applied retroactively.

Figure E - VADOC Facility Positive Drug Test Results by Gender - CY15

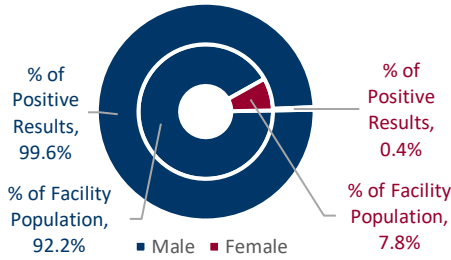


Figure F - VADOC Facility Positive Drug Test Results by Gender - CY19

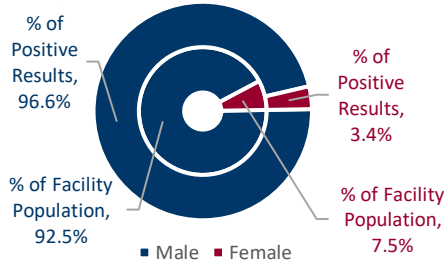
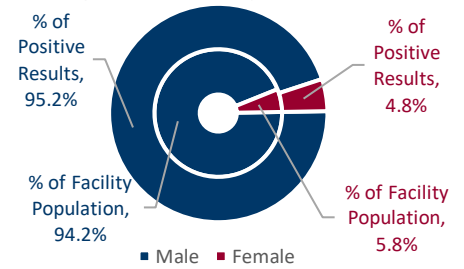


Figure G - VADOC Facility Positive Drug Test Results by Gender - CY23



As shown by the red line in Figure H, the positivity rate for Male inmates increased each year from CY2016 through CY2022. Additionally, CY2023 was the year with the most positive drug screen results for Male inmates (n=5,678). The positivity rate for Female inmates, however, was less than 1% each year through CY2019 before more than doubling in CY2020 and increasing again in CY2021. Similar to the Male inmates, CY2023 was the year with the most positive drug screen results for Female inmates (n=284).

Figure H - VADOC Facility Positive Drug Screen Results - Male Inmates

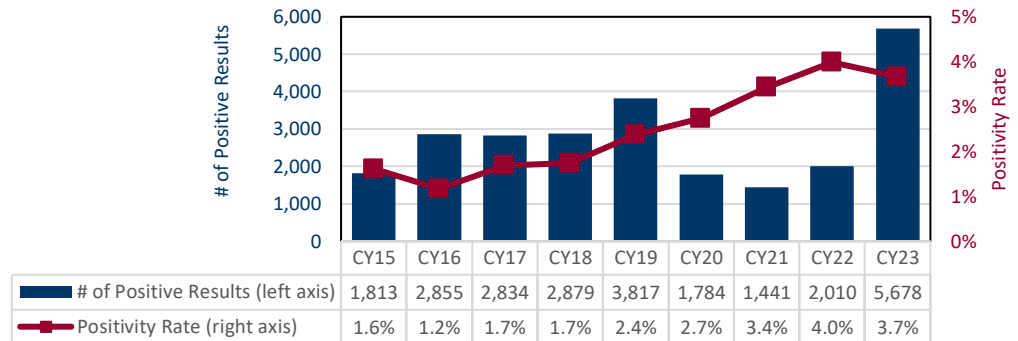
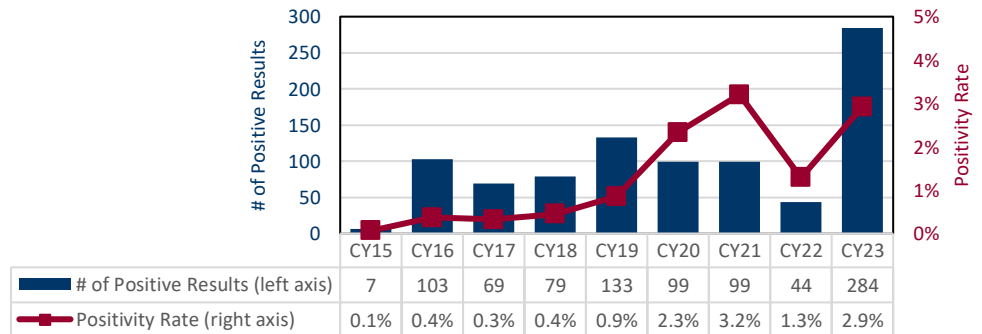


Figure I - VADOC Facility Positive Drug Screen Results - Female Inmates



During CY2023, most of the positive drug screening results (62%) were positive for Buprenorphine, but there were differences by gender. For Male inmates, 61% of the positive drug screening results were positive for Buprenorphine, followed by Amphetamines/Methamphetamine (13%), Fentanyl (11%), and Marijuana (10%). But for Female inmates, 86% were positive for Buprenorphine with no other single drug type accounting for more than 4% of the positive drug screening results.

Figure J - VADOC Facility Drug Screen Results by Drug Type & Gender - CY23

Drug Type	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Col %	Number	Col %	Number	Col %
Buprenorphine	3,439	61%	245	86%	3,684	62%
Amphetamines/Methamphetamines	749	13%	9	3%	758	13%
Fentanyl	616	11%	6	2%	622	10%
Marijuana	562	10%	11	4%	573	10%
All Other Drug Types*	312	5%	13	5%	325	5%
Total Positive Results	5,678		284		5,962	

*Includes Cocaine, Other Opiates/Opioids (excl. Buprenorphine and Fentanyl), Synthetic Marijuana (K2, K3, Spice), Hallucinogens, and other drug types.

During CY2023, 3,414 individual inmates in VADOC Facilities had at least one positive drug test result. On average, these inmates had 1.5 positive drug test results (median=1.0). While more Male inmates had at least one positive drug test result (n=3,231) compared to Female inmates (n=183), there was not a difference in the number of times these inmates tested positive, with each gender having an average of 1.5 positive drug tests (median=1.0).

Security Response

Drug Contraband Seizures

From CY2019 to CY2023, seizures of drug contraband in VADOC facilities increased by almost 31%. Seizures of drug contraband decreased from CY2019 to CY2021 before increasing post-COVID. Drug contraband seizures increased by 38% from CY2022 to CY2023.

In July 2022, the Centralized Mail Unit began processing all incoming inmate and CCAP probationer/parolee legal correspondence. In CY2022, the Centralized Mail Unit reported 80 drug alerts and 3 lab confirmations of drugs. In CY2023, the Centralized Mail Unit reported 82 drug alerts. Facilities also reported an additional 85 incidents of seizures of suspected drugs from the mail. In CY2023, incidents of drug seizures from visitors decreased to 14 from the 16 reported in CY2022, while seizures of drugs from staff increased from 5 to 8. Seizures of suspected drugs in inmate or CCAP probationer/parolee possession increased by 49% in CY2023, while seizures of suspected drugs from common areas decreased by 19%.

Drug Interdiction Activities

In addition to employing metal scanners, canine detection, and body searches,

VADOC implements procedures that follow from evidence of how drugs are introduced into facilities. The following procedures aim to reduce/eliminate the introduction of drugs and other contraband into VADOC facilities:

- VADOC has ADANI millimeter wave body scanners at 14 facilities (plus one mobile unit) to detect contraband on persons wishing to enter one of these facilities; these body scanners are used along with metal detectors and x-ray machines already in place.⁵

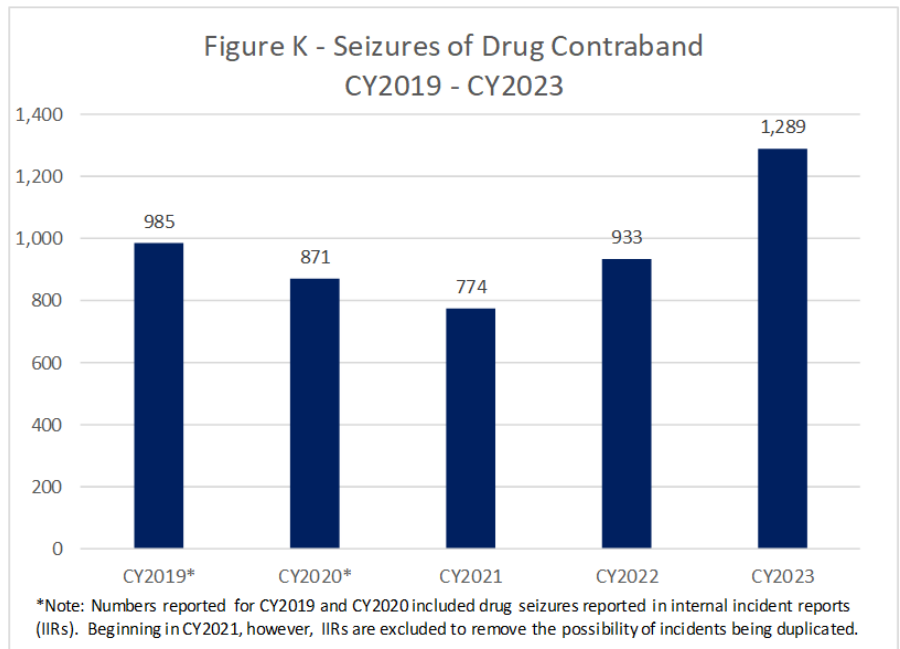


Figure L - Seizures of Drug Contraband: Incident Natures
CY2019 - CY2023

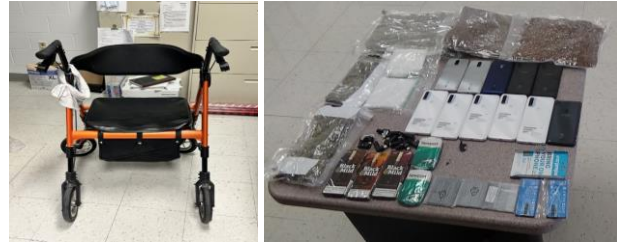
Incident Nature	CY2019	CY2020	CY2021	CY2022	CY2023
Seizure of Suspected Drug: In Common Area	232	226	274	204	165
Seizure of Suspected Drug: In inmate or CCAP probationer/parolee possession	615	502	345	567	846
Seizure of Drug Paraphernalia: In inmate or CCAP probationer/parolee possession	90	105	118	111	205
Seizure of Drug Paraphernalia: In Common Area	31	46	45	54	34
Seizure of Suspected Drug: In Visitor Possession	28	3	3	10	8
Seizure of Drug Paraphernalia: In Visitor Possession	3	0	4	6	6
Seizure of Suspected Drug: In Staff, Contractor, or Volunteer Possession	3	4	2	5	7
Seizure of Drug Paraphernalia: In Staff, Contractor, or Volunteer Possession	0	1	2	0	1
Seizure of Suspected Drugs from Mail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85
Grand Total	1,002	887	793	957	1,357

Note: The numbers reported in this table are the total incidents with the respective nature listed. This does not reflect the total number of unique drug seizure incidents as one incident may have multiple drug seizure natures.

⁵ For a visitor caught bringing in contraband to be identified in VACORIS, either: 1) the visitor was listed as a participant on an incident report; or 2) the incident report had one of the following incident natures: "Any activity which requires intervention of outside law enforcement (other than routine P&P arrests)"; "Possible felonies committed by volunteers, visitors, or inmates on DOC Grounds;" or "Seizure of Suspected Drug: In Visitor Possession." The incidents were cross-referenced with information provided by OLU's weekly Institutions Visitation Data Report and Drug Related Incidents. Incidents were then flagged using a drug index search and unduplicated by the location and visitor involved. Visitors found with other contraband that is legal or suspected to be passing drugs to an inmate during visitation were not included in the total number of visitors found with drugs.

- VADOC’s centralized mail distribution center receives, screens, and inspects all legal correspondence, books, and magazines mailed to inmates and probationers/parolees housed in a DOC facility. All incoming general inmate correspondence at Security Level 2 (SL-2) and higher facilities is photocopied; these photocopies go to inmates in place of the originals to prevent drugs being embedded in them (see DOP [803.1 Inmate Correspondence](#) for more information).
- The VADOC Operations Logistics Unit (OLU) and the Office of Law Enforcement Services (LES) conducts targeted drug interdictions at its facilities.
- The VADOC Drug Taskforce opened 239 drug-related investigations in CY2022, 491 in CY2023, and 86 through April of CY2024.
- According to LES, from CY2021 to CY2023, drug-related allegations increased, in which VADOC investigators intercepted employees attempting to introduce or bringing drugs into facilities; 64 total drug-related⁶

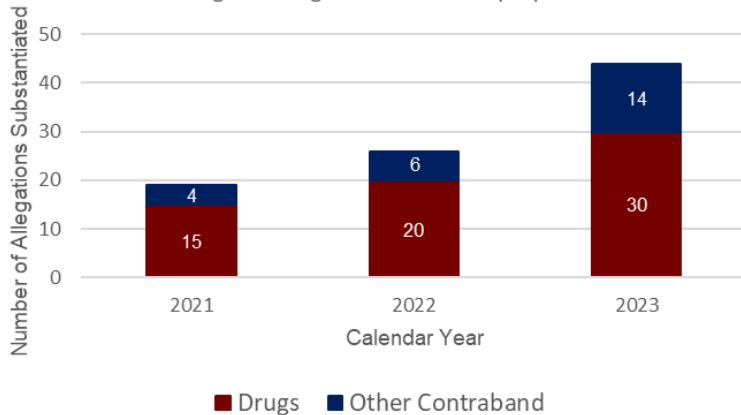
Careful examinations of inmate property and incoming mail help maintain safety and security. In November 2023, facility staff discovered a large amount of contraband in the seat cushion of a newly delivered wheel rollator walker that had been intended for an inmate. Contraband discovered included 11 cellphones, marijuana, and methamphetamine.



In April 2024, during a search at Greenville Correctional Center, a visitor was asked to remove a hair scrunchie, which seemed unusually heavy. An X-ray scan revealed three anomalies inside the scrunchie. Two objects contained Suboxone strips, and the third object was a rolled-up paper that was dipped in a substance. State Police were notified and arrested the visitor.



Figure M - Substantiated Drug and Other Contraband Allegations against VADOC Employees



⁶ CY2023 figures on substantiated employee allegations are preliminary based on multiple pending LES investigations. Other contraband includes items that are legal in the general public, such as cellphones, alcohol, and tobacco.

Treatment & Programming Response

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), conducted in 2022, 48.7 million people aged 12 or older reported having a substance use disorder (SAMHSA, 2023). Substance use disorder (SUD) is defined as "a chronic relapsing medical illness with relapses, remissions, and a strong genetic component, similar to type II diabetes and hypertension" (Maqbool et al., 2019, pp. 5–6). This comparison underscores that, like these other chronic conditions, SUD has no definitive cure. Effective management of SUD involves a combination of treatment, medication, and long-term self-management strategies (DuPont et al., 2015, p.2). It is important to recognize that relapse is a common part of the treatment process, not a sign of failure but an indication that treatment needs to be adjusted or intensified. This understanding is crucial in shaping compassionate and effective responses to SUD within our community (NIDA. 2023, September 25. Treatment and Recovery).

Participating in SUD programming offers significant benefits to the participant and the community. Research indicates that individuals mandated to participate in these programs are more likely to achieve abstinence and remission one year after treatment compared to those who are not mandated or those without justice system involvement. Moreover, both mandated and non-mandated participants reported lower arrest rates five years post-treatment. Non-mandated justice-involved individuals were more likely to be employed one year after treatment compared to their non-justice-involved and mandated counterparts. However, mandated participants were more likely to be employed five years post-treatment than non-justice-involved and non-mandated participants (Kelly et al., 2005, p. 9).

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programs

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) offers evidence-based substance use disorder (SUD) programs for those under our care to support their recovery. The Department offers a variety of programs and services based upon the risk and needs of the participants which includes gender-specific programming designed for the unique needs of our female population. The VADOC assesses inmate and supervisee substance abuse treatment needs using the COMPAS assessment; inmates are assessed upon their reception into a VADOC facility and then reassessed at regularly scheduled intervals to determine the best programs suited to the individual's needs. Programming enrollment is prioritized based on need and the amount of time remaining before release. Additionally, active volunteer-led programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) are approved and available in most VADOC facilities. As of May 31, 2024, there were 2,013 active enrollments in 17 different SUD programs in progress in the VADOC (excluding volunteer-led programs). Highlights of some of the SUD programs provided by the VADOC are included below:

Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions

Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions for Substance Use Adult (CBI-SUA) is a program designed for people involved within the criminal justice system who are at moderate to high risk need in substance abuse. The use of the terms "risk, risky or high risk" within this program refers to the propensity to reoffend. CBI-SUA curriculum is facilitated as a stand-alone substance abuse intervention or incorporated into larger programs, particularly those designed for people in the corrections system. This program relies on a cognitive-behavioral approach to teach people strategies for identifying and managing risk factors related to substance abuse. The CBI-SUA program places heavy emphasis on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. In CY2023 the program had 666 total enrollments with 482 of those participants successfully completing the program (72.4%).

Recovery Route

This program is based on information that has had better than average results in treating inmates with substance use disorders. This information is called relapse prevention therapy. Relapse prevention therapy is based on experience with participants who generally fail in traditional treatment. In CY2023 there were 286 total enrollments into the Recovery Route program, with 202 of these participants successfully completing the program (70.6%).

Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) Services/Training

Voluntary engagement with a person with lived experience hosting support groups and/or individual sessions. Inmate PRS completes 72 Hour Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) training plus staff supervision and coaching; agrees to support VADOC SUD services for a minimum of 12 months. As a newer program in CY2023, there were 30 enrollments and 31 completions by the end of the year in this program (96.8%).

Helping Women Recover

An evidence-based program designed to meet the unique substance abuse treatment needs of female incarcerated individuals. In CY2023, there were 19 total enrollments in this program, with 14 completions (73.7%).

Figure N - CY2023 VADOC SA

Programs	Enrollments	Completions	Completion %
CBI-SA / CBI-SUA	666	482	72.4
Recovery Route	286	202	70.6
Peer Recovery Specialist Training	31	30	96.8
Helping Women Recover	19	14	73.7

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is available at all VADOC locations as prescribed and supervised by a physician. Medication Assisted Treatment services and substance use disorder programs are available throughout the Department based on the level of care needed. Recovery Navigator support is available for specialized programs and includes 12 months post release support. As of May 31, 2024, there have been 401 inmates prescribed medication under the MAT program, with a total of almost 19,000 doses administered since the program's inception.

Naloxone Education/Take Home Program

Naloxone education is provided to all inmates as part of the Reentry Release Packet; the educational component is also available on the VADOC public webpage. Naloxone Take Home Kits include two doses of Narcan. The proper use of Naloxone can be critical in preventing overdose deaths. VADOC staff are also provided training in naloxone use, and doses are kept readily available to be administered if needed in facilities.

Intensive Targeted SUD Programming

Recognizing the need for additional, intensive treatment programs designed to help combat the opioid epidemic, the VADOC has recently implemented new programming to address this need; some examples of this more targeted, intensive programming are highlighted below:

Residential Illicit Drug Use Program (RIDUP)

The RIDUP program is a mandatory, intensive substance use disorder intervention program that will provide structure, education, peer support, and SUD programming to inmates who struggle with illicit substance use and overdose while incarcerated to reduce the likelihood of additional overdose or other negative impacts due to illicit substance use. This SUD program is a Therapeutic Intervention Program whose primary purpose is for inmate treatment in a secure setting. It creates a robust, SUD-targeted environment that is safe, secure, impactful and supports the mental, emotional, social, and criminogenic needs of those screened into program participation. As of May 31, 2024 there were 13 active enrollments, and 20 inmates had already completed this program.

Fentanyl Response Program (FRP)

The FRP program was designed for inmates who have had one (or more) positive drug tests for fentanyl and is available in both a lower and higher security setting. It is an intensive program designed to educate participants about the dangers of fentanyl and to help inmates to make different behavioral choices. This four-month program is based on individual behavior and participation, which can be extended based on participation. Every inmate will have opportunities to be involved in their treatment through meetings with the multi-disciplinary team (MDT). The inmates can obtain numerous incentives that they earn through participation and compliance with the expectations of the FRP. As of May 31, 2024

there were 131 active participants in the program (across both security levels), while 23 individuals had completed the program to date.

Voluntary Substance Use Disorder Programs

These programs are available at Mild, Intermediate, and Severe levels and inmates self-report for enrollment. These programs utilize social learning and cognitive-behavioral/restructuring techniques inside of a highly structured Cognitive Community environment.

These programs do not have a set timetable for conclusion, and at the end of CY2023 there were 125 participants actively enrolled across the 3 levels.

Figure O - Q1 2024 VADOC SA Programs (Selected Intensive & Targeted)	Active Enrollments	Completions
Fentanyl Response Program (FRP)	131	23
Residential Illicit Drug Use Program (RIDUP)	13	20
SA Voluntary Substance Use Disorder Program (3 levels)	150	53

Summary

- Inmate deaths due to a drug overdose doubled from CY2021 to CY2023, increasing from 11 to 22.
- Fentanyl was involved in 88% of these deaths.
- Inmate overdoses (including non-lethal overdoses) more than doubled from CY2021 to CY2023, increasing from 51 to 122.
- VADOC uses comprehensive risk/need assessments and determinants such as positive drug screen testing to determine substance use programming needs for all newly received and current inmates.
 - Two-thirds of inmates in VADOC facilities show a need for substance use programming.
- 3,414 inmates had at least one positive drug test result during CY2023, with most testing positive for Buprenorphine.
- Drug contraband seizures increased by 38% from CY2022 to CY2023.
- During CY2023, there were 29 substantiated allegations of VADOC staff attempting to bring drugs into facilities.
- VADOC offers numerous evidence-based programs for substance use treatment and education for inmates determined to need program enrollment.
 - At the end of May 2024, there were more than 2,000 active enrollments in 17 different programs.
- Some of the substance use programs offered by the VADOC are designed to be intensive and targeted to inmates demonstrating specific needs such as the use of fentanyl and other opioids.
 - Intensive programs include mandatory and voluntary options.

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