



# **Battling WV's Substance Use Disorder Crisis Through**

# **Jobs & Hope WV**



# National Statistics

In 2016, there were 42,249 opioid related overdose deaths in the US, a 28% increase over 2015.

2.1 million Americans misuse or are dependent on opioids.

The United States makes up only 4.6 percent of the world's population, but consumes 80 percent of its opioids.

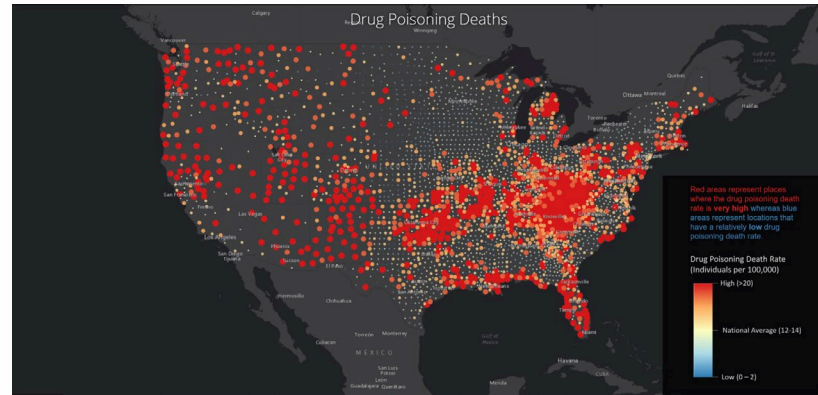


# State Statistics

2019 Census reports the current population for WV is **1.79 million**.

2017 WV was listed as having the highest rate of overdose in the country with 49.6 per 100,000 people. The national rate is 14.9 per 100,000.

- 2015 – 735
- 2016 – 890
- 2017 – 1,016
- 2018 – TBD



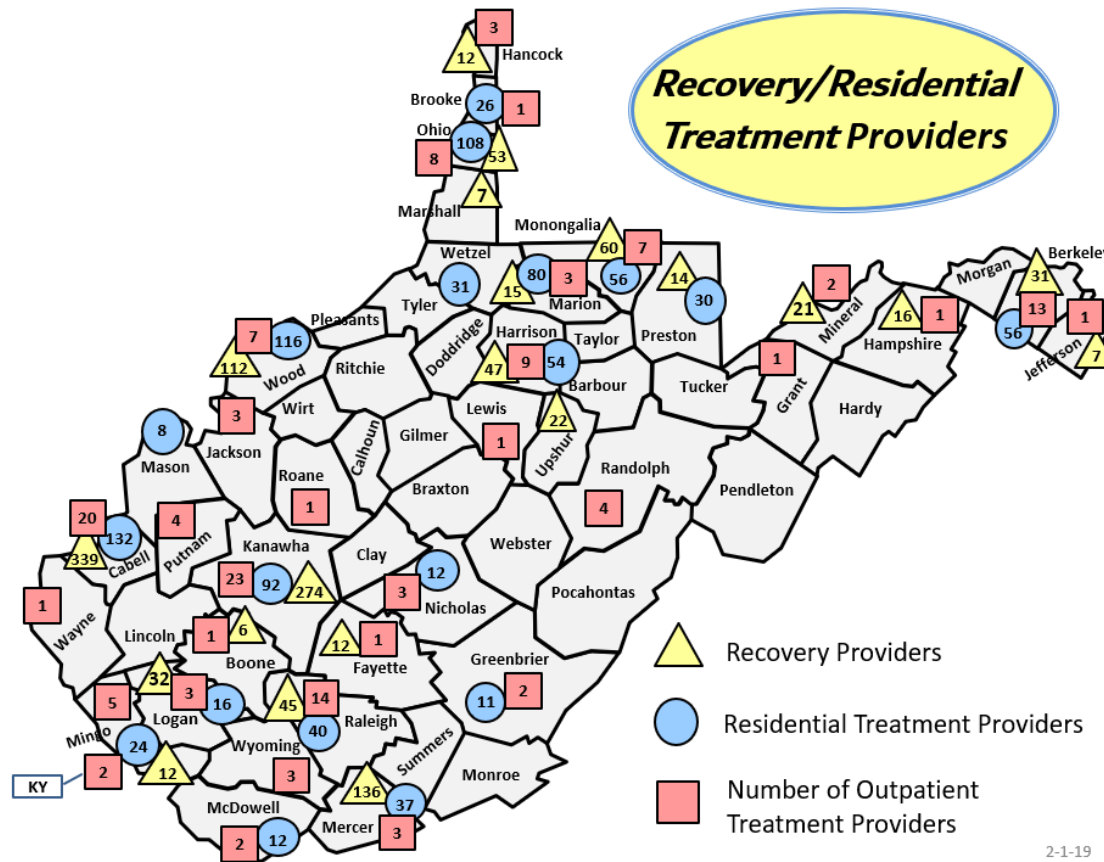
Another number important to note is our current labor participation rate. It is staggeringly low at **754,000** people employed in WV. That is a **42%** employment rate. (WorkForce WV, June 2019)

# Solutions



- There are over 14,500 specialized substance use treatment facilities in the United States.
- The return to use rate for substance use disorders is estimated to be between 40% and 60%.
- Substance Use Disorder is considered a highly treatable disease, and recovery is attainable.

# Treatment and Recovery Providers



2-1-19



**One of the sustaining components of a successful recovery, according to experts in the field, is gainful employment.**



# What is Jobs & Hope?

Established by Governor Justice and the West Virginia Legislature to address the Substance Use Disorder Crisis through a statewide collaboration of agencies to provide linked services to participants.

**Primary goal: Putting West Virginians to work.**

## So what does that mean?

We recognize that this is going to take everyone here in this room, in this community, in this county, in this state working together to make a meaningful impact. None of us can do it alone.



# What is Jobs & Hope?

The idea for Jobs & Hope WV is to have Transition Agents in place to connect participants to the many resources available in our state. Our role is to help navigate the processes and give guidance to people in recovery who are transitioning back into society and the workforce. While our target population will be individuals in recovery, Jobs & Hope WV is open to any eligible participant who wishes to eliminate barriers to employment.

# Vision Statement

Providing West Virginians in recovery the opportunity to overcome obstacles to enable them to lead successful lives with employment, families, and communities. Empowering individuals in recovery to live up to their aspirations.

Our Transition Agents provide participants the opportunity to overcome obstacles/barriers to employment, so they feel empowered to move forward.



## How is it funded?

Funding for Jobs & Hope WV comes annually through the State Legislative budget process allocating state tax dollars. Each agency has a piece of funding in order to maximize statewide support.

Transition Agent employment falls under the West Virginia Department of Education.

# Where does the money go?

**Workforce WV** to provide paid work experience for people who do not qualify for the WorkForce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) that reimburses 100% of the participant's wages.

**DHHR** to provide transportation and drug screening services.

**National Guard** to provide training programs similar to the pilot course held this past April and May.

**Pilot Course-** designed to train participants on heavy construction equipment.

These took place at Camp Dawson where participants were housed and fed on site.

Eight participants graduated with 224 total hours of hands-on training.

**Future Endeavors:** The State is currently working with the Recovery Point WV program to get students for the upcoming class. The idea is to provide participants with valuable skills in heavy equipment operations. They work with the Contractors Association to interview students toward the end of the course and hopefully hire on the spot.

# Where does the money go?

**WV Community and Technical Colleges and Career and Technical Education** to expand the number of training and certifications needed to fulfill high need areas in the state. Expansions include Welding, Heavy Equipment Operations, and FANUC Manufacturing Arm training sites.



# Target Population

- Individuals who are in recovery from a substance use disorder.
- More specifically, those who have completed or are in the process of completing a recovery and/or treatment program.




# Eligibility

- 18 years of age and older
- Resident of WV
- Employment as long term goal
- Barrier to employment
- Have been identified as ready for career training or job placement
- Committed to maintaining recovery
- Negative drug screens

# Drug Screening

- Agrees to random drug testing throughout the program and will provide results to the Transition Agent.
- Frequency-
  - Upon initial intake, if actively participating in a recovery program, participant will submit current (within 7-14 days) negative drug screen.
  - If not in a recovery program, the participant will report to an approved site and submit to an initial drug screen. **\*\*Paid for through a partnership with DHHR\*\***
  - Throughout the program, subject to random screenings which would occur a minimum of once or as frequent as twice per month.
  - Positive Result- participant must be willing to participate in or re-enter a treatment/recovery program.
  - Screening ends when participant is successful at securing career employment.



DRUG  
SCREEN



# Referrals

Referral in and referral out- Partnerships are very important to the success of this program.



Referral In:

Key Agencies: Residential Treatment Providers, Residential Recovery Providers, Mental Health and Outpatient Treatment Providers (MAT), Recovery Providers/Support Providers, Halfway Houses, Drug Court, Day Report

# Assessment & Planning

## Needs Assessment

**Obstacles:** fees/fines, identifying documentation, expungement, transportation, housing, childcare

**Participant Request:** what does the participant want out of the program

**Employment Goal:** transferrable skills, work experience, training needs

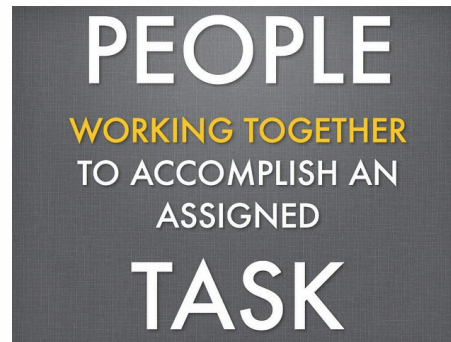
## Plan Development

Information gathered will be compiled into a plan with specific goals and action steps.

# Referral Out

**Addressing obstacles and needs including educational/vocational training, if needed**

**Key Agencies:** Workforce WV, WIOA A/DW (Adult/Dislocated Worker) program, DHHR, Legal Aid, Corrections, Housing Authority, Adult Education, DMV, WVCTCS, Division of Rehabilitation, National Guard, and other community resources



# Job Placement



- Identify second chance employers
- Paid Work Experience (PWE) - Workforce WV - 100% wage reimbursement
- Transitional Worker, On the job training (OJT) - WIOA

# Other Program Incentives

Ongoing Support from a Transition Agent

Opportunities for Transportation Assistance

Opportunities for Child Care Assistance

Assistance with expungement process (if applicable) -

A new law, effective June 7, 2019, changes a participant may be eligible to remove certain state criminal convictions from their record AND if they complete an approved Substance Use Disorder Treatment or Adult Training Program, the waiting period **COULD BE REDUCED.**

# Incentives for Employers

Work Opportunity Tax Credit - some employers may be eligible for a tax credit when hiring Jobs & Hope WV participants.

Paid Work Experience - Workforce WV - 100% wage reimbursement.

Opportunity to give second chances.

Be a part of the solution.

# Closure

Participant has achieved career employment for at least six months, declines services, refuses services, or is not available for participation.

Re-entry is permitted along with re-evaluation.



# Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Health Statistics Center

[www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hsc/statserv/](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hsc/statserv/)

WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Behavioral Health

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/bhhf/data/Pages/WV-Health-Statistics-Center-Data.aspx>



# Contact Information

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