

NEVADA'S UNDERFUNDED OPIOID TREATMENT CENTERS AREN'T READY FOR A SPIKE IN OPIOID CASES



A survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that as many as **90 percent** of people who most need drug rehab do not receive it. ³



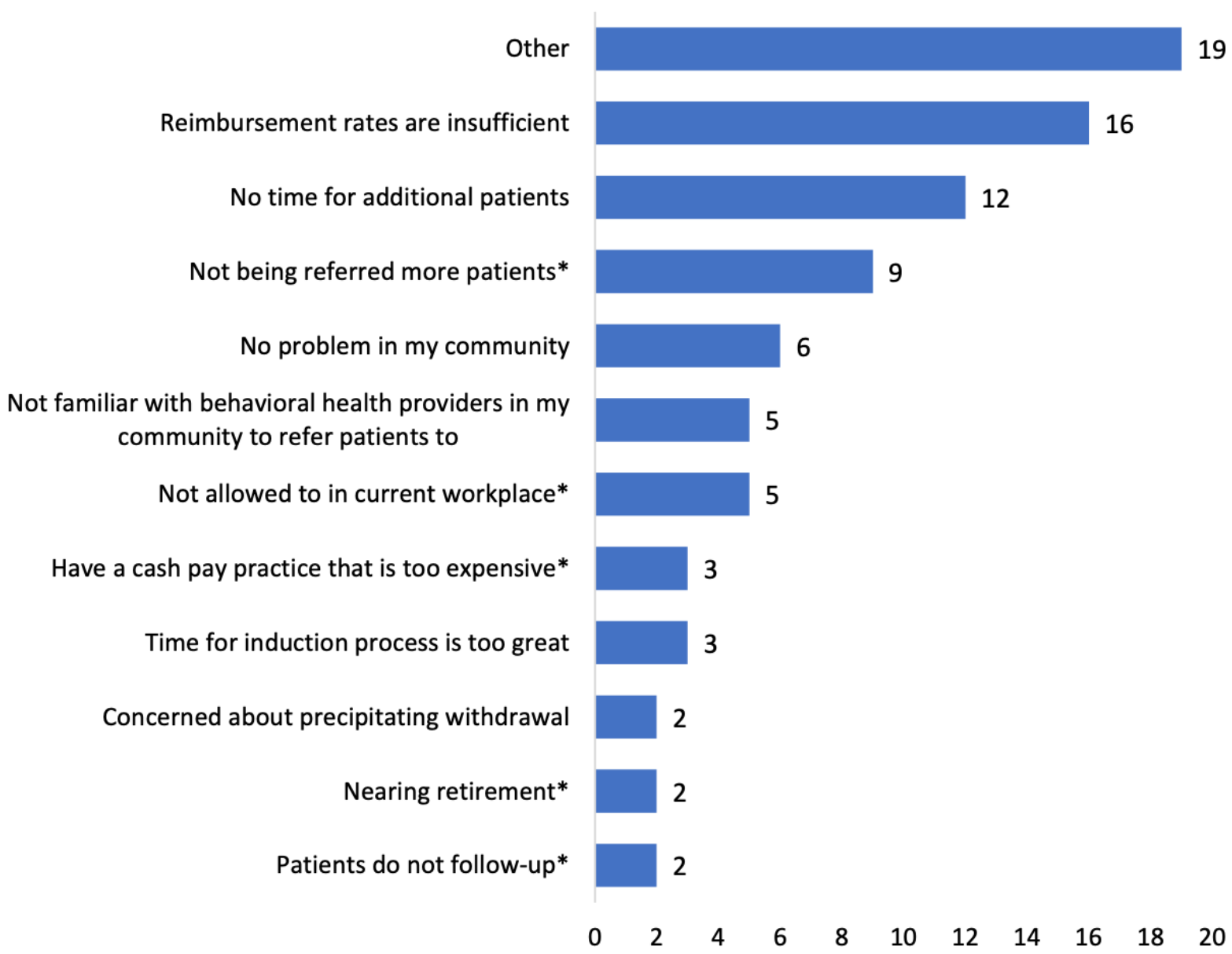
With Nevada's Opioid Centers not working at full capacity or being covered by Federal Grants, many patients affected by the Nevada opioid crisis cannot **afford to seek proper treatment**.



- There is a frequent trend of miss-allocating federal funds to opioid treatment centers. In order to comprehensively address this epidemic, Nevada must have adequate treatment centers to prevent future overdoses.
- This makes it extremely difficult for patients to receive proper treatment that's also affordable. Resulting in countless lives **lost** because patients cannot seek accessible and affordable treatment.
- According to a 2018 US Department of Health and Human Services study, "**poverty and unemployment are highly correlated with opioid use disorder**". With opioid cases on the rise, it's imperative that Nevada begins to readdress this crucial policy problem. ⁴
- According to a Brookings Institute study, if these treatment centers aren't ready for the next spike in opioid cases due to high levels of unemployment from the *coronavirus*, the Nevada opioid crisis will worsen. ¹

NEVADA OTP CENTER SURVEY: PRESCRIBING REASONS

Figure 13. Reasons for Not Prescribing at Capacity



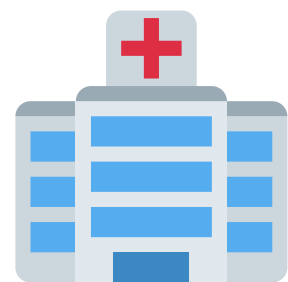
As shown in the survey on the left presented by the **Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health (NDPBH)**, the main reason why OTP centers in Nevada do not want to prescribe and house patients at capacity is mainly because "**reimbursement rates are insufficient**".



- Only one OTP location, Life Change Center Sparks, is at capacity. And only **three out of the fifteen** OTP's in the State of Nevada receive funding from SAPTA through the Federal Block grant.
- Conclusion: Providing federal grants will make all OTP centers prescribe and host at capacity while supporting their counseling programs.



ACCESSING NEVADA'S OPIOID DEATH RATES



- According to the live Nevada Opioid Surveillance Dashboard, there were 11 opioid-involved deaths per 100k in 2018. ²
- While Nevada opioid deaths have started a slow decline in the last two years, data from the NDPBH shows that there has been a rise in illicit opioid use.
- In 2018, **356 deaths** resulted across the entire state of Nevada.
- Seeing that this process is resulting in more chain effects, providing treatment will help those who already have opioid addictions as well as those who may develop them in the future.

NEVADA'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC AT A GLANCE

In 2018, Nevada's opioid epidemic resulted in:



356
overdose deaths



76
deaths from synthetic drugs like fentanyl—more than double the number in 2015



52
opioid prescriptions per 100 residents, down from 87.5 in 2016



6,530
hospital emergency department encounters

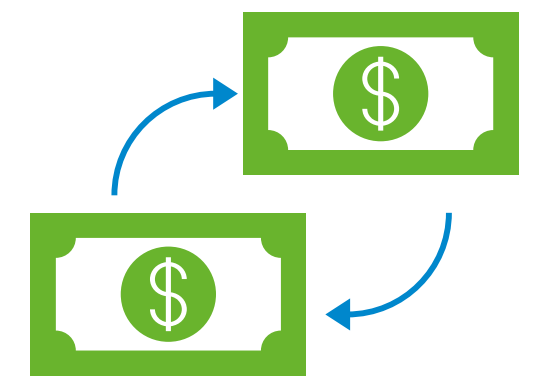


9,616
hospital admissions

Sources:
Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services
Nevada Prescription Monitoring Program



A BREAKDOWN OF NDPBH FUNDING FORMULA



State of Nevada Behavioral Health Funding Allocations		
Opioid STR Award Only		
	Year 1	Year 2
Treatment	CAT 20 - Opioid STR	CAT 20 - Opioid STR
Ridge House	\$ -	\$ 96,023.00
The Empowerment Center	\$ -	\$ 24,963.20
Vitality Unlimited	\$ 553,235.00	\$ 711,070.00
Life Change Center	\$ 667,080.60	\$ 926,808.00
Board of Regents : NSHE: obo: UNR CASAT	\$ 993,528.87	\$ -
Foundation For Recovery	\$ -	\$ 262,861.00
8th Judicial Court	\$ -	\$ 342,526.72
National Judicial College	\$ 33,356.00	
Center For Behavioral Health	\$ 623,702.00	\$ 952,243.91
Dignity Health	\$ 54,882.00	\$ 301,849.70
Trac-B	\$ 18,228.00	\$ 65,703.51
Northern Nevada Hopes	\$ 13,538.00	\$ 85,116.10
Health Insight		\$ 248,877.26
Total:	\$ 2,957,550.47	\$ 4,018,042.40
NOTE: These figures do not include any work orders, contracts, MOU's, amendments, or awards pending negotiation as of 11/29/2018.		

- This graph presented by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services displays the breakdown of federal fund allocations to opioid treatment centers across the state of Nevada. ²
- It can be seen that there is a significant inequality in how federal funds are being allocated state-wide.
- Regardless, if not all OTP treatment centers are being allocated their fair share of money, then the rate of successfully curing those with preexisting opioid addictions will significantly fall. While the death rate of opioid overdoses will rise.
- The viable solution is that government officials need to **ensure that all OTP centers state-wide are being federally funded.**
- In addition, special narcotics to cure opioid addictions should **be covered by those federal funds.** There is currently no dedicated state funding for MAT programs or naloxone besides the one center in Nevada that is covered by federal funds.
- If it's seen that there aren't enough federal funds to allocate to the given treatment centers, then Nevada must request a **larger federal grant from SAPTA to fix these inequities.**

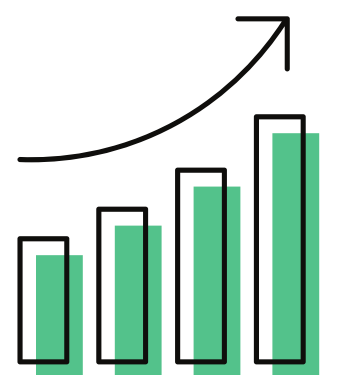


WHY TREATMENT CENTERS WORK



Photo provided by Cindy Shebley

- According to the Brookings Institute in 2018, "**Broader access to substance abuse treatment may help individuals manage their addiction and reduce the negative consequences of opioid use**". ¹
- Opioid treatment centers are a viable solution because they intervene in the multilateral opioid crisis process and provide fast results. The goal is to save lives in this crisis and while there are other ways to address this problem, they are unfortunately long term.
- With the coronavirus increasing levels of unemployment and poverty, Nevada and the rest of the United States will see a major spike in opioid cases. It's crucial that officials support accessible and affordable treatment before the opioid crisis hits families and loved ones.



- If opioid treatment centers choose to prescribe at full capacity, that means they can provide MAT programs, narcotics, counseling services, career-building opportunities, and other services to their patients. These services, if given to every patient seeking treatment, will likely increase their chance to recover from their current opioid addiction.

1. Doleac, Jennifer. (2018, December 7). Brookings Institute: *Research Roundup: What does the evidence say about how to fight the opioid epidemic?* From <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/12/07/research-roundup-what-does-the-evidence-say-about-how-to-fight-the-opioid-epidemic/> Brookings Institute article discusses opioid epidemic and effective treatment.
2. Division of Public and Behavioral Health.(2018, June). Opioid State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant Program. *Nevada Opioid Crisis Needs Assessment* . From https://casat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Nevada-Opioid-Crisis-Needs-Assessment-6.18.18_Approved_updated.pdf Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health provide statistics regarding OTP centers and federal funds.
3. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2020, January 31). *Rehab Success Rates and Statistics*. From <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/rehab-guide/success-rates-and-statistics> American Addiction Centers discusses opioid death statistics.
4. US Department of Health and Human Services. (2018, September 11). *The Opioid Crisis and Economic Opportunity: Geographic and Economic Trends*. From <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/259261/ASPEEconomicOpportunityOpioidCrisis.pdf> US Department of Health and Human Services displays allocation of federal funds to Nevada opioid crisis.