

# San Francisco Department of Public Health

Behavioral Health Services Director's Update

January 15, 2026

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San Francisco Department of Public Health



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# Agenda

- Budget Update
- Residential Treatment Bed Expansion
- Client Flow Improvements
- Overdose Response

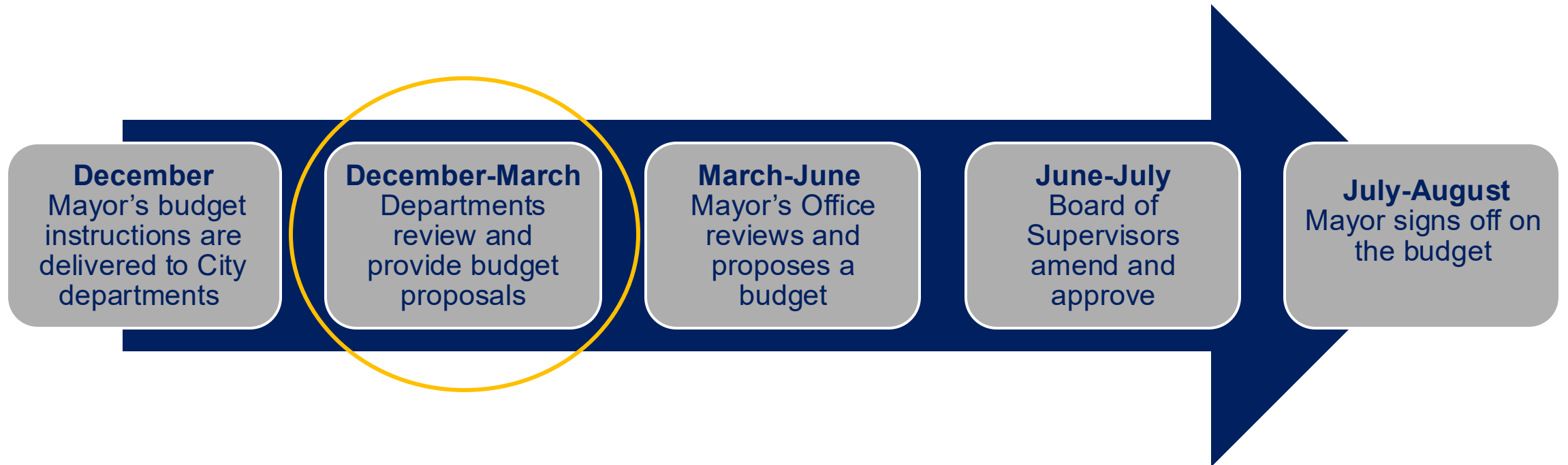


# Budget Update



**San Francisco**  
**Department of Public Health**

# Budget Timeline Overview



# City Budget Outlook and Mayor's Budget Instructions

- Adopted budget made progress toward the City's budget gap, but changes in State and Federal funding will result in continued, large shortfalls during the forecast period.
- The City is facing a projected **\$936M deficit** over the next two fiscal years (\$296M in FY26-27 and \$640M in FY27-28.)
  - This is driven by costs that significantly outpace revenue increases and the impacts of HR1.
- Over the next five years, costs are expected to grow by **\$1.8B**, while revenues are projected to increase by only **\$617M**.
- Reduce spending by **\$400M**.

# Budget Planning

- DPH divisions such as Behavioral Health Services are asked to identify **\$50M** in ongoing savings or new revenue proposals.
- No net new full-time exempt staff.
- DPH will also refine proposals for critical needs and investments included in previous budgets; savings can contribute to targets.
- This is in addition to already budgeted reductions including **\$17M** in community-based organization reductions.
  - DPH has undertaken a program review to balance spending to meet budget and stretch public dollars.
  - Review continues of 300+ contracted community-based organizations with a combined budget of approximately **\$215M**, with the \$17M reduction representing **~8%**.

# Key Upcoming Budget Milestones

## For FY26-27 reductions already budgeted:

- **Jan 16:** Draft cuts identified and shared with community-based organizations (CBOs)
- **Mid-Jan:** Community-based organization meeting
- **Feb 2:** Opportunity to provide public comment at SF Health Commission
- **Feb 4:** Deadline for comments via email ([dphbudgetideas@sfdph.org](mailto:dphbudgetideas@sfdph.org))
- **Mar 6:** Final community-based organization program reductions

## For next budget cycle projections FY26-27 & FY27-28

- **Early Dec:** Mayor and Controller prepared 5-year financial forecast
- **Mid-Dec:** Mayor's budget instructions were received
- **Jan 5 (Passed):** Review of DPH budget instructions at SF Health Commission
- **Feb 2:** Review of DPH budget submission at SF Health Commission
- **Feb 23:** Final Department budget submission
- **June:** Board of Supervisors Budget Committee hearings
- **July:** Budget considered at Board of Supervisors and passed



# Residential Treatment Bed Expansion





# Progress Under Key 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.



# 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%

# Wells Place (Marina Inn) Update

- For individuals completing substance use treatment, recovery housing for up to 24 months
- Empower participants to achieve lasting recovery with a supportive environment focused stability, financial independence, and personal growth.
- **45** admissions from September 15 (opening) through December 29.
- Can currently serve up to **62 people** at a time.
- Providers work to **refer to ongoing care** before discharge.



# Eleanora Fagan Center (Kean) Update

- One-stop stabilization center; provides wraparound services for people directly from street, with substance use and mental health treatment needs, including with complex psychiatric and medical needs.
- **79** admissions since from August 18 (soft launch) through December 24.
- Can currently serve up to **76 people** at a time.
- Clients self-present to Billie Holiday Center for intake (available 24/7) or by calling 415-361-4950 (available 24/7) and/or submitting referral via online portal.
- Providers work to **refer to ongoing care** before discharge.

# 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.
- **RESET Center**, a 24/7 law-enforcement drop-off and stabilization center, to provide a safe alternative to jail for public intoxication and offers safe sobering and rapid connections to treatment and ongoing care.
- **Substance use residential step-down beds** to support individuals who are transitioning from substance use treatment to independent living.



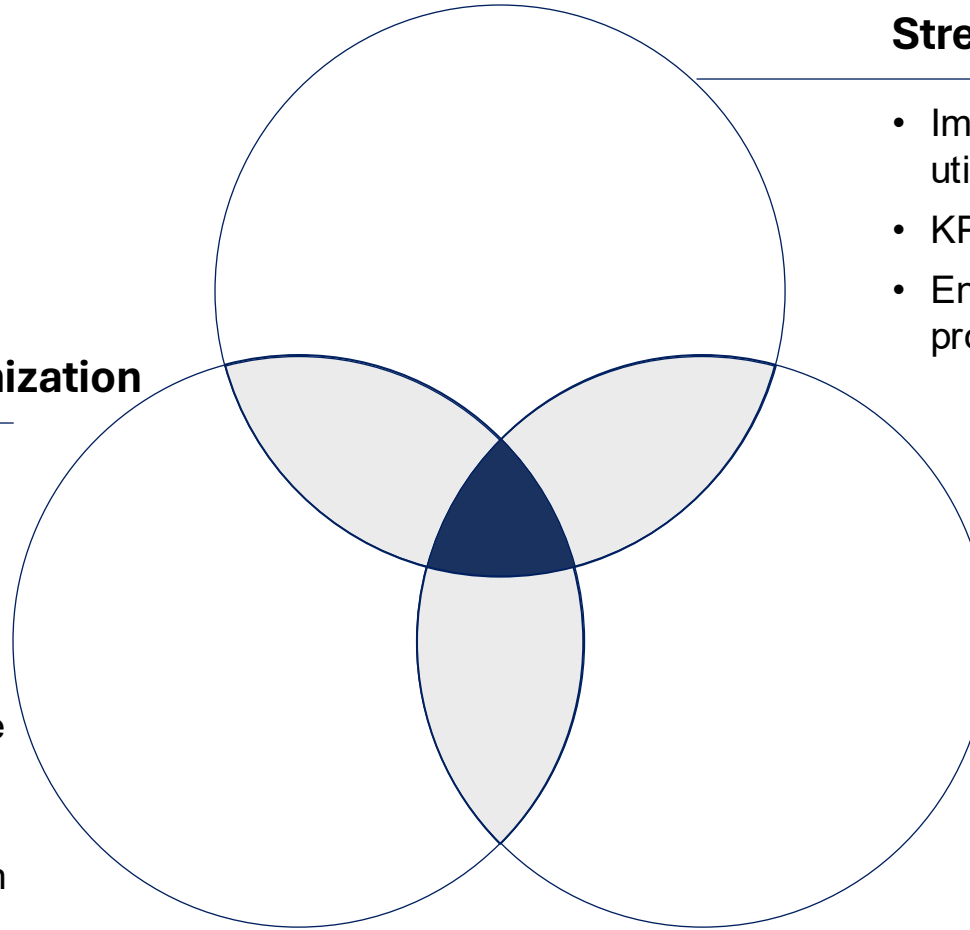
# Client Flow Improvements



# Street to Care: A three-pronged approach to enable excellence in our care delivery system

## System-Wide Performance Optimization

- Site-level operational improvements, starting with our drop-in and drop-off sites
- Track and improve client stickiness via seamless transitions of care
- Process standardization by level of care for referrals, discharges, and performance monitoring
- Enhanced relationship-building between providers and referring teams



## Street Health Team Enablement

- Improved knowledge on shared priority/high utilizers
- KPIs for team performance
- Enhanced relationship-building between provider and street teams

## Technology Infrastructure

Building the data systems and tech infrastructure to enable our teams and monitor progress

- CareConnect SF: Triage tool for the street teams bed availability and DIDO
- Middleware: Client triage and OCC-enabling tool

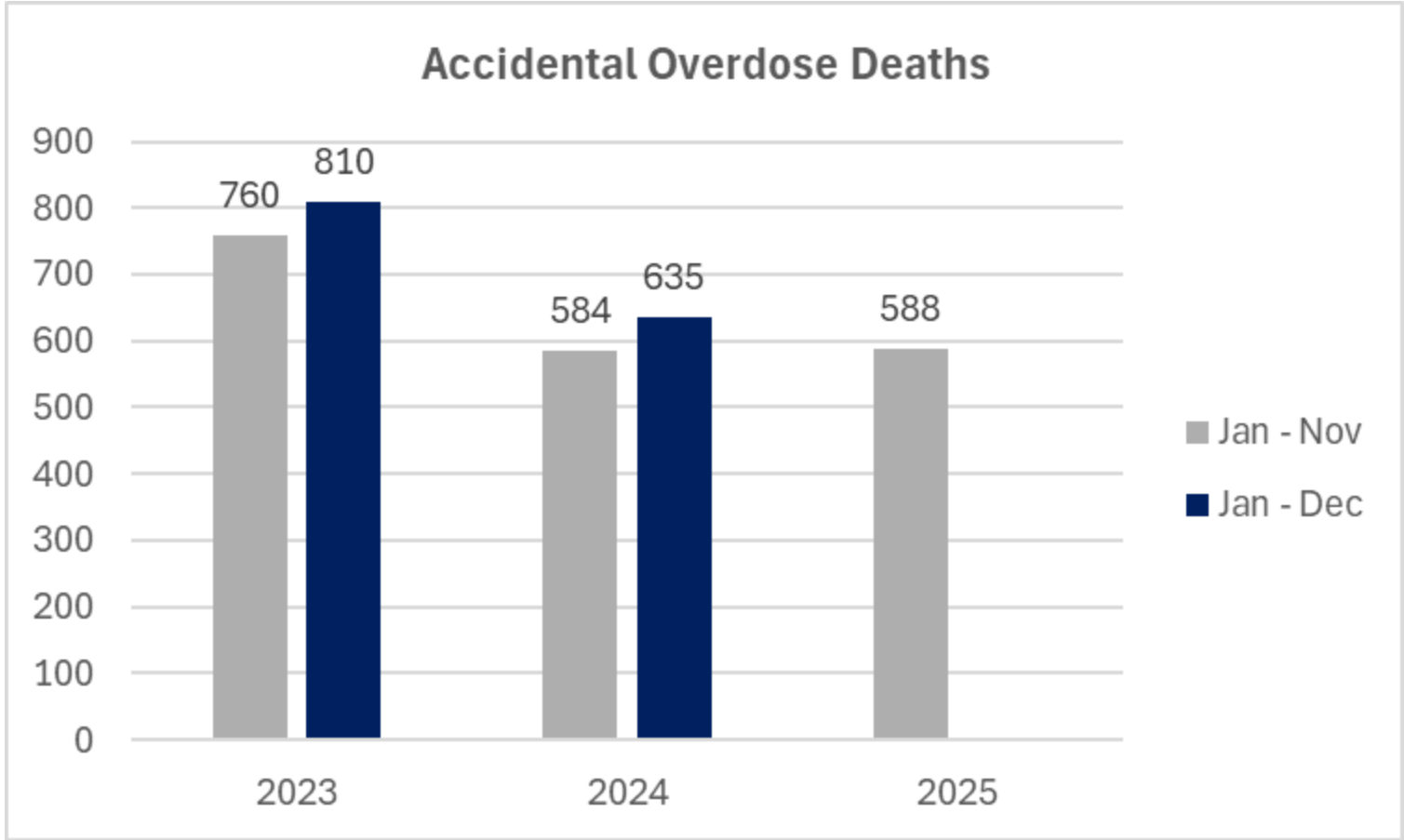


# Overdose Response





# 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	

**2025 is on track to have a similar number of overdose deaths as 2024.**

- This represents 22.6% reduction since 2023, our deadliest year. (Jan-Nov 2023 = 760; Jan-Nov 2025 = 588)



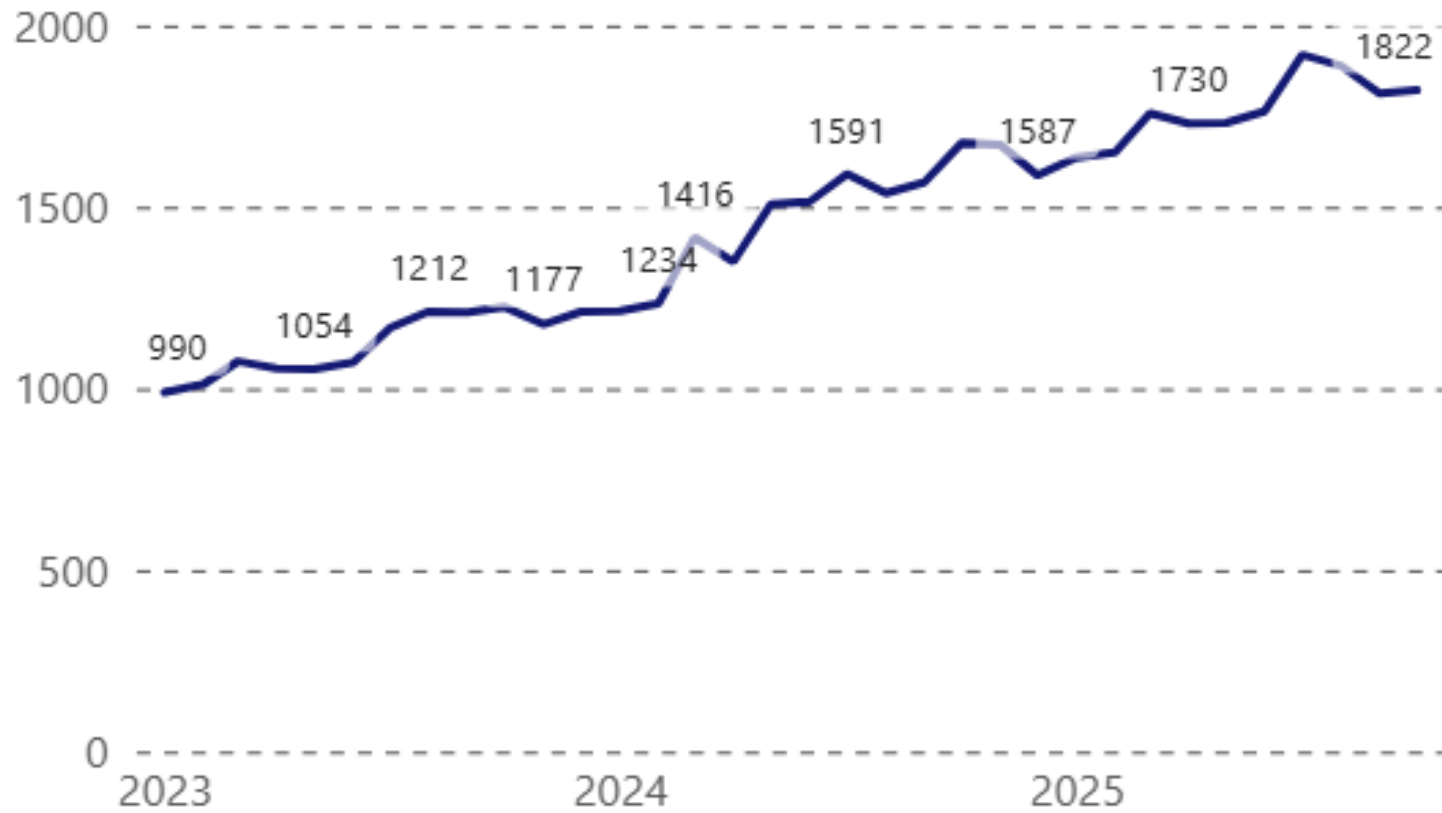
# How we are tackling overdoses

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



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

Count of total clients prescribed buprenorphine by month

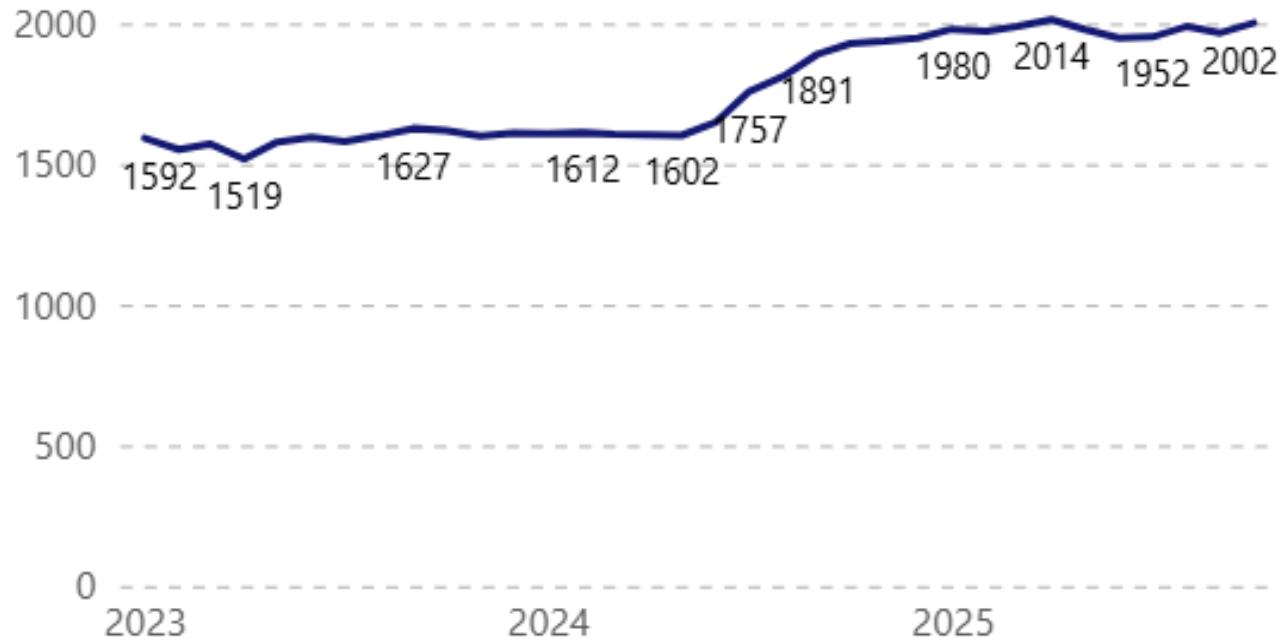


## Growth in clients on buprenorphine:

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

# 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).



# 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**

Completed the first cycle of Spanish language CM in Dec 2025. The second cycle launches in early 2025.

## **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.



**Thank you**