

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Behavioral Health Services Director's Update for the
Behavioral Health Commission

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Agenda

- Overdose Response Update
- Residential Beds Expansion Update



Overdose Response



Tackling SF'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

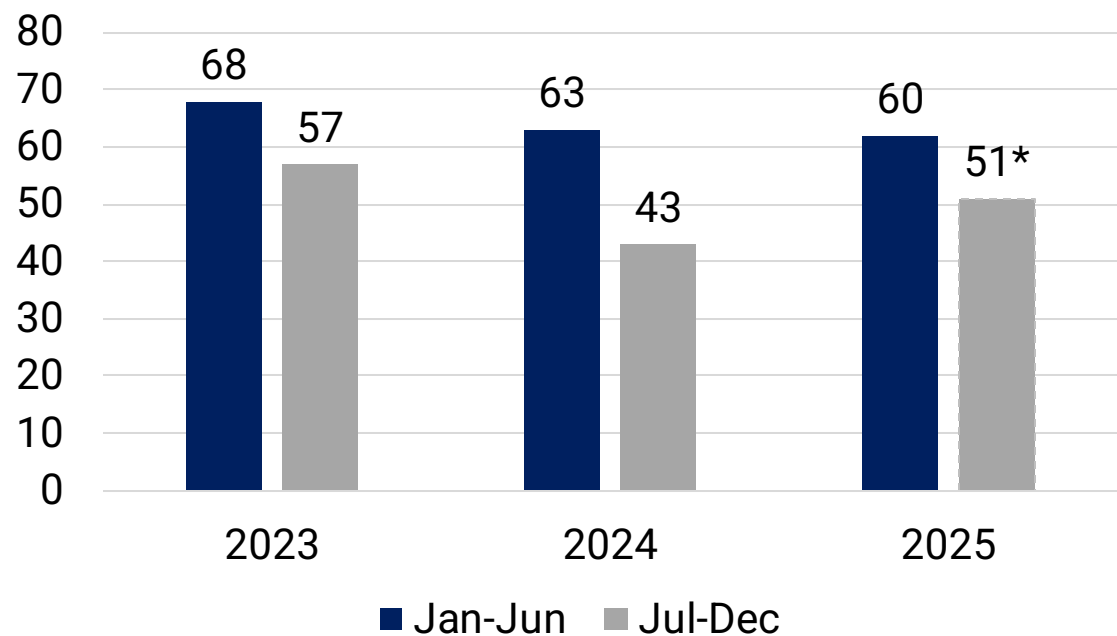
Reduce fatal overdoses and reduce disparities in overdose rates across the city

*Focus of
today's
discussion*



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

Overdose Deaths (Monthly Average)



Overdose Deaths by Month

	2024	2025
Jan	71	62
Feb	63	71
Mar	70	66
Apr	59	59
May	66	58
Jun	49	45
Jul	41	51
Aug	47	-
Sep	41	-
Oct	37	-
Nov	40	-
Dec	51	-

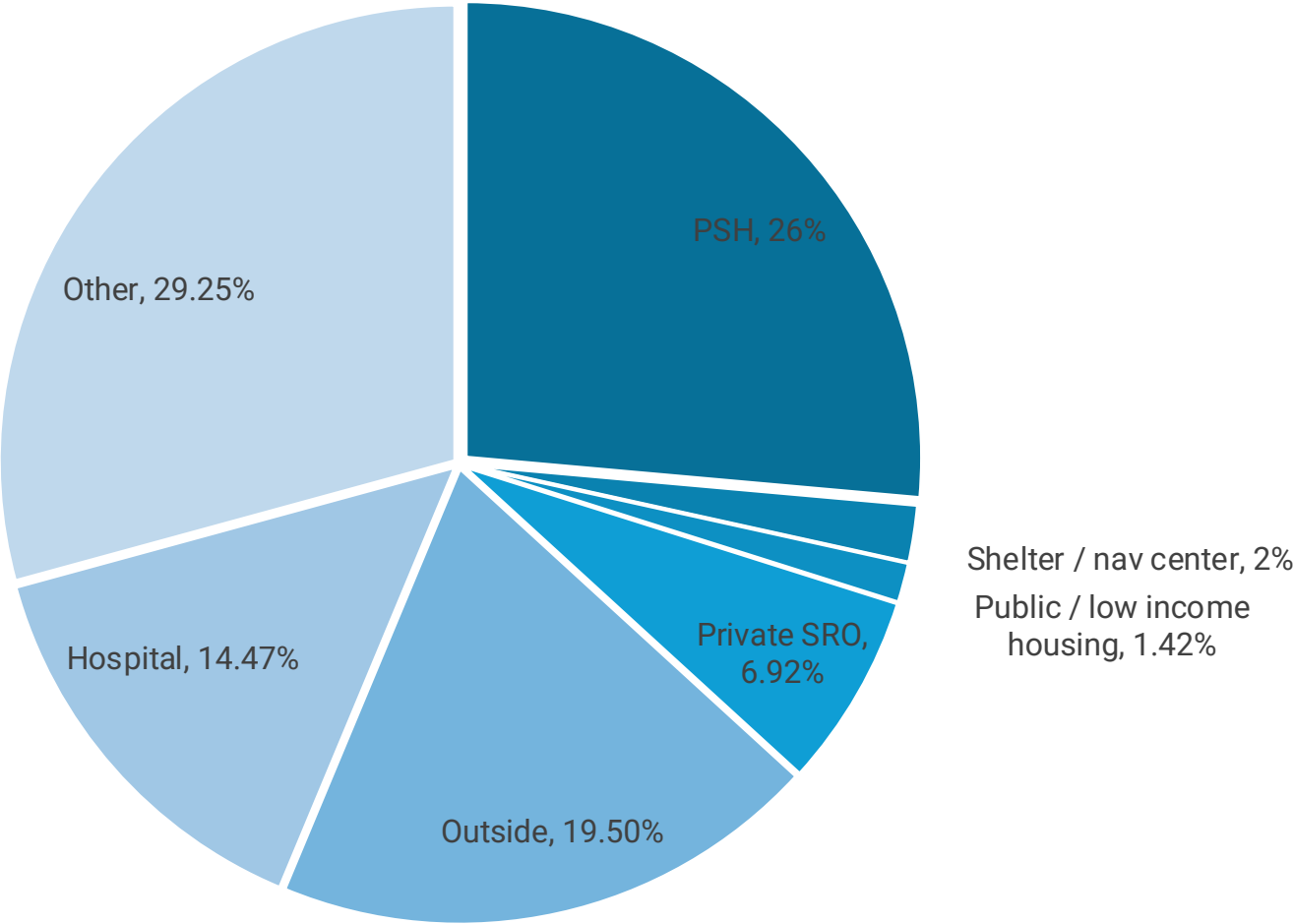
Overdose numbers will continue to fluctuate (up and down)

- Overdose deaths for 1st half of 2025 slightly lower than similar months in prior years.
- July 2025 is 24% higher than July 2024.

* Jan-Jul 2025 data
Source: OCME



26% of overdose deaths are in PSH settings



2024, based on address of where the individual deceased as reported to OCME

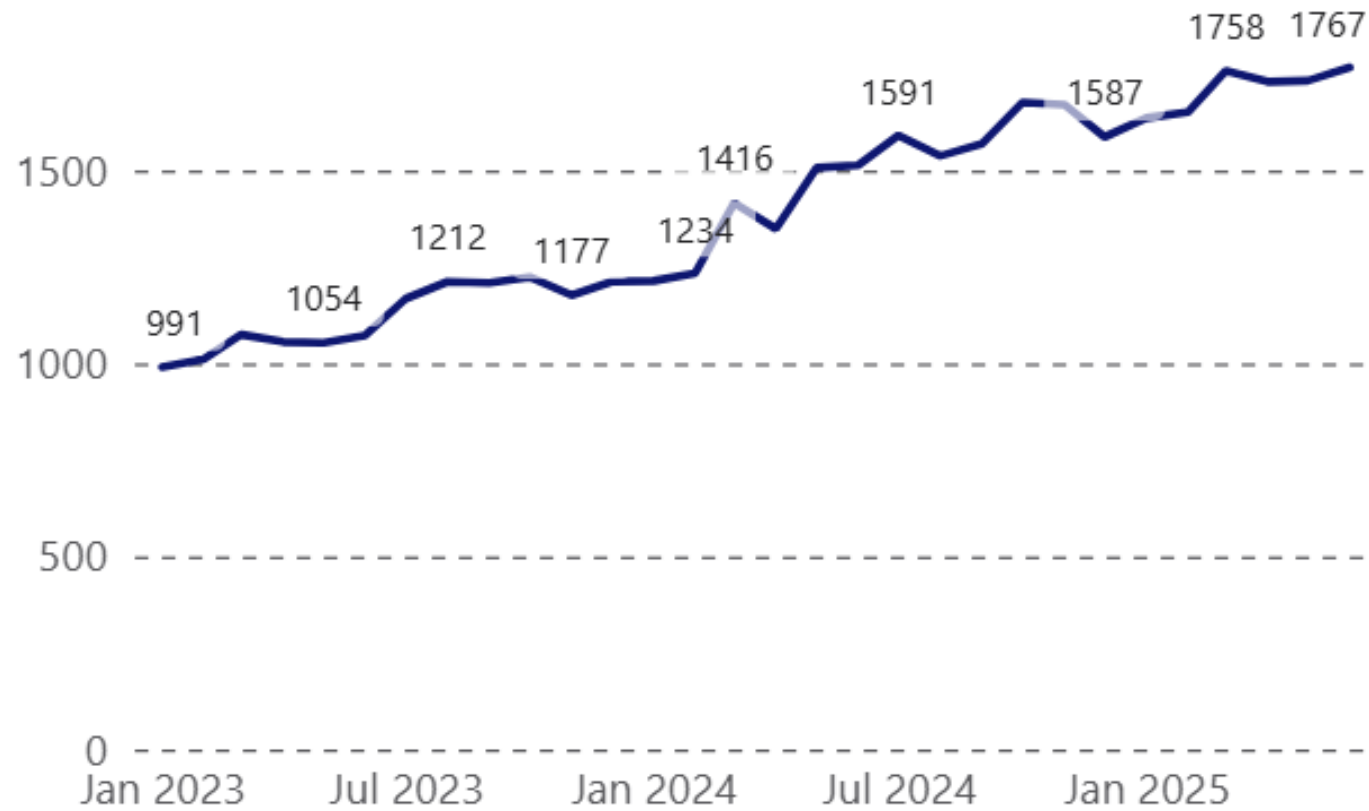
How we are tackling overdoses

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

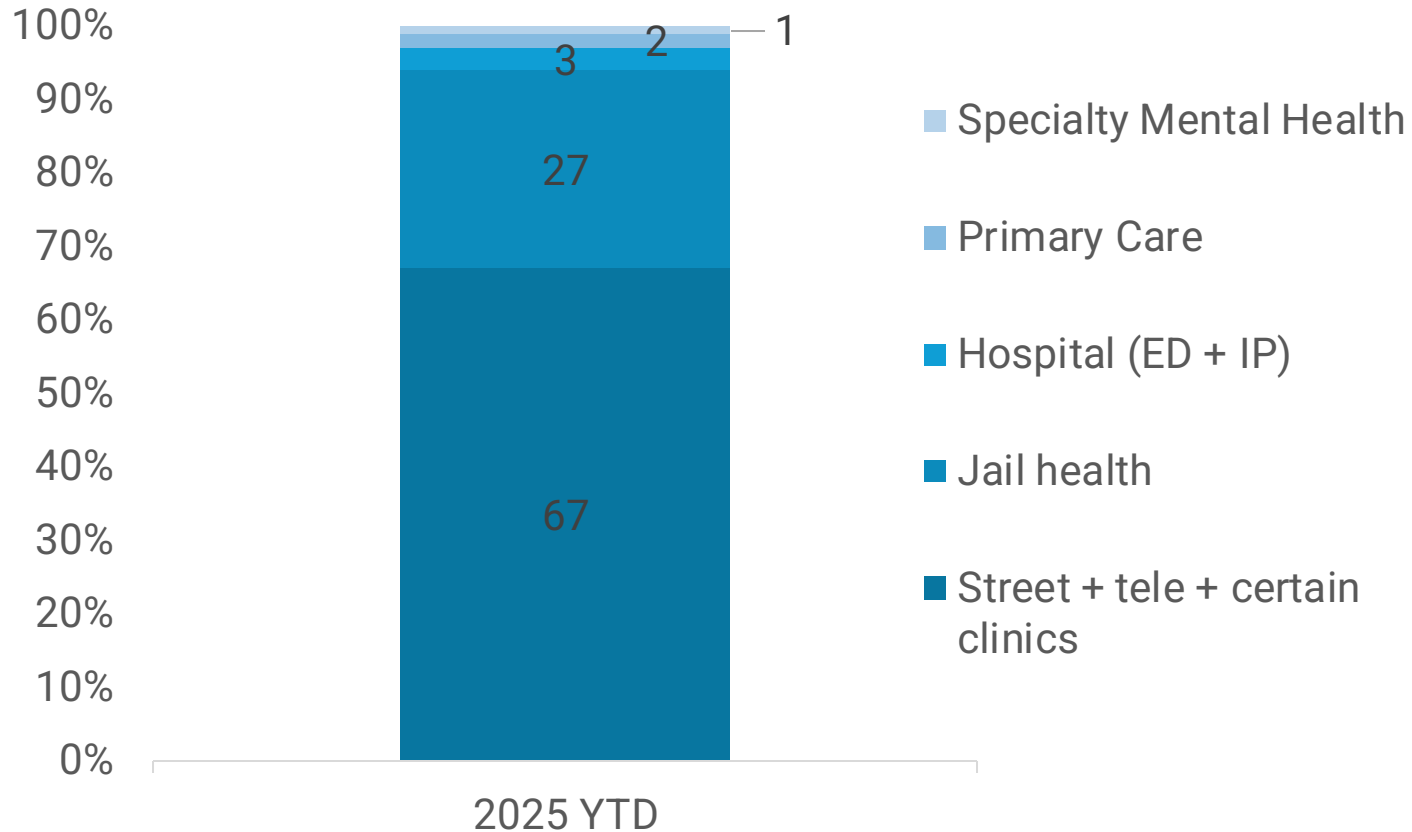


Growth in clients on buprenorphine:

- **+70% since Jan 2023**
- **+40% since Jan 2024**

Our growth in buprenorphine treatment has been the result of highly innovative initiatives on the street and with jail health

Where client is first prescribed buprenorphine
Percent



- **~67% of new patients on buprenorphine are started through highly innovative, nationally leading initiatives:**
 - BEAM (street telemedicine including at night)
 - Street teams / street medicine
 - Bridge and OBIC clinics
- **~27% of new patients started while in jail with jail health**
- More to be done in hospital settings

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

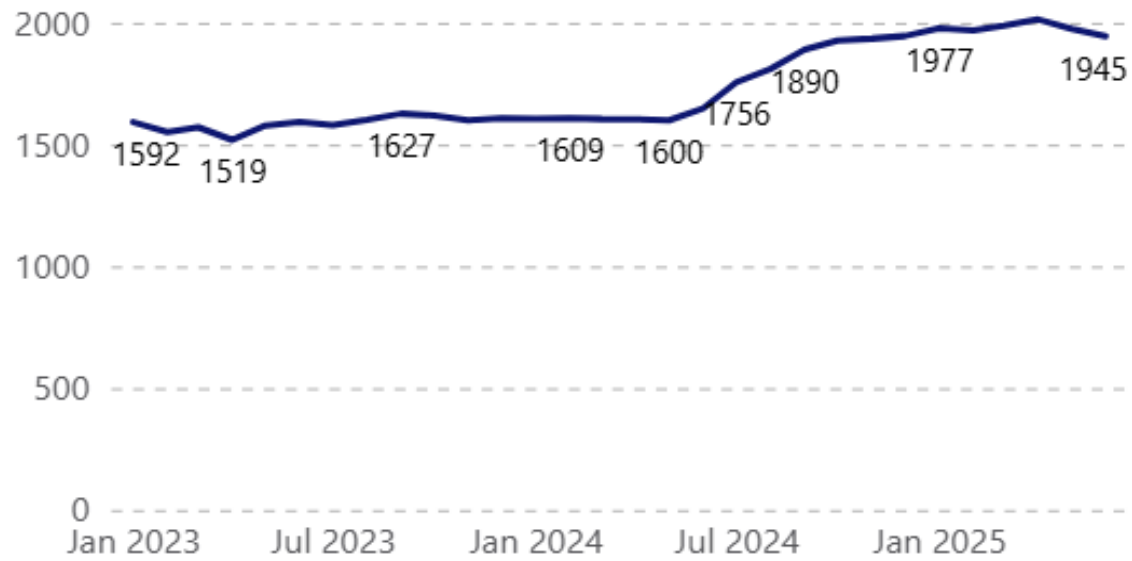
Multiple initiatives to increase retention on treatment, including:

- 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
- **New Patient 6-month Retention**
 - 26% methadone
 - vs
 - 5% buprenorphine

Multiple initiatives to make methadone treatment more accessible, including:

- Expanding access through 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

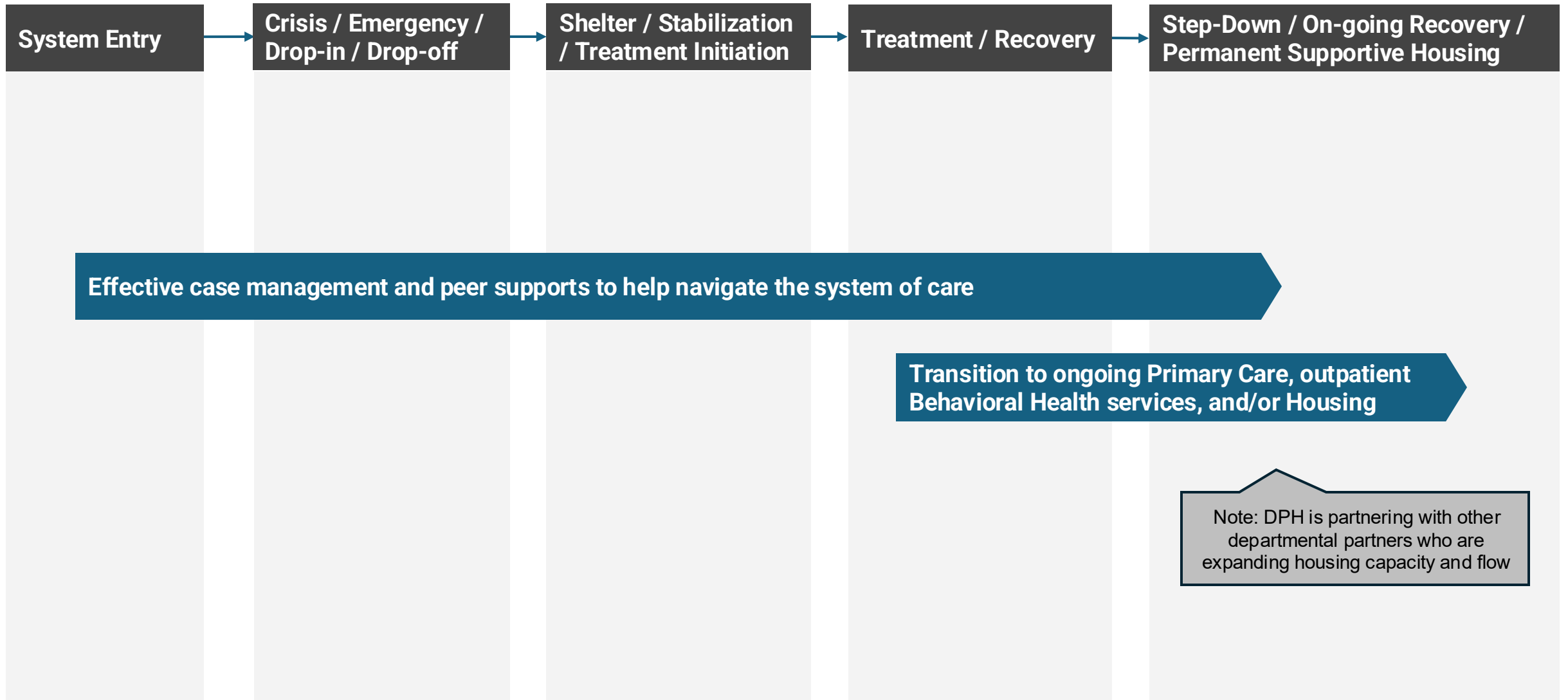
Residential Beds Expansion Update



SFDPH Roadmap for the Behavioral Health Crisis

1. **Expand Treatment Beds and Services** – We need to expand treatment beds and services, at the right levels of clinical intensity, including more clinical care in shelters
2. **Accelerate and Simplify Entry to Care** – We need to more quickly connect people to treatment and stabilization services, whenever someone needs or is ready for treatment
3. **Support People To Progress Through Care** – We need to do a better job being “sticky” – supporting people to engage and stay the course through evidence-based treatment and recovery – without falling through the cracks
4. **Pair Safer Use Supplies with Proactive Linkages to Care** – We are requiring that distribution of supplies be paired with counseling and connections to treatment, and piloting a new smoking supply policy for public spaces
5. **Build a Comprehensive Pathway to Recovery** – We need all the tools in the toolkit, ranging from low-barrier stabilization to recovery-oriented treatment and step-down services, to help everyone on the street move forward
6. **Prevent overdoses** – We need to continue overdose prevention efforts, especially in permanent supportive housing, through culturally congruent programs, and by moving upstream in care

Moving Into A Structured, Integrated System of Care



Crisis, Emergency, Drop-In/Drop-Off

~40 crisis and emergency in SFDPH expansion

Category	Project (Address)	Service Type	New Beds	Open Date
Crisis, Emergency, Drop-In/Drop-Off	Crisis Stabilization Unit 822 Geary St	Crisis Stabilization	16	2025
	Psychiatric Emergency Services Expansion ZSFG Campus	Psychiatric Emergency Services	6	2026
	Other Drop-In/Drop-Off	Sobering Center	16	2026



Stabilization, & Treatment Initiation

~220 stabilization, and treatment initiation in SFDPH expansion

Category	Project (Address)	Service Type	New Beds	Open Date
Stabilization, & Treatment Initiation	Emergency Stabilization Units (ESU) Expansion (BHBH Grant)	Short-Term Drop-In / Respite	15	2025
	Salvation Army – Harbor Light 1275 Harrison St	Withdrawal Management	10	2025
	Eleanora Fagan Center (Kean) 1018 Mission St	Stabilization Beds	72	2025
	RESTORE Expansion	Stabilization Beds	120	2025

Treatment & Recovery Expansion Beds

~190 treatment and recovery beds in SFDPH expansion

Category	Project (Address)	Service Type	New Beds	Open Date
Treatment & Recovery Residential Treatment	Salvation Army – Harbor Light <i>1275 Harrison St</i>	SUD Residential Treatment	11	2025
	Dual Diagnosis Facilities* <i>333 7th St & Contracted Community</i>	Dual Diagnosis Residential Treatment	20	2026
	Treasure Island Behavioral Health Building <i>TIDA Parcel E1.2</i>	SUD Residential Treatment & Residential Step-Down	40	2028
Treatment & Recovery Locked Acute & Subacute Treatment	Adolescent Psychiatric Unit <i>ZSFG Campus</i>	Acute Psychiatric Inpatient	12	2027
	Locked Subacute Treatment (MHRC) Expansion* <i>ZSFG Campus</i>	Locked Subacute Treatment (MHRC)	~90	2027
	MHRC/Psych SNF Out-of-County Capacity	Locked Subacute Treatment (MHRC/Psych SNF) as needed	21**	2025

* Awarded capital funding under Proposition 1 – Bond BHCIP Round 1
** estimated increase in as-needed out-of-county bed capacity 17

Step-Down & Ongoing Recovery Expansion Beds

~100 step-down and on-going recovery beds in SFDPH expansion

Category	Project (Address)	Service Type	New Beds	Open Date
Step-Down & Ongoing Recovery	Wells Places (Marina Inn) <i>3110 Octavia St</i>	Residential Step-Down	62	2025
	Rehabilitative Board & Care	Adult Residential Care Facility (ARF)	28	2025
	Residential Care Facility for the Elderly <i>624 Laguna St</i>	Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE)	56**	2025
	Adult Residential Care Facility <i>601 Laguna St</i>	Adult Residential Care Facility (ARF)	41**	2026

**** Relocation option for current BHC RCFE and ARF residents – excluded from total count of new beds to avoid double-counting**



Progress Under Key Initiatives

Key projects that have recently opened or are coming soon include:

- **16 beds 24/7 stabilization center at 822 Geary Street** (opened April 2025): Alternative to hospital emergency departments for first responders, street teams, and members of law enforcement connecting people in crisis to urgent care.
- **72 non-congregate respite beds at the Eleanora Fagan Center** (opened August 2025): A safe space for people exiting street homelessness with 24/7 staffing, on-site nursing and behavioral health treatment, case management, and structured transitions to longer-term care.
- **62 recovery housing beds at Wells Place** (opens September 2025): Abstinence-based transitional living program for individuals transitioning from substance use treatment to independent living. With on-site case management and wraparound support and recovery and treatment requirements.
- **15 new Emergency Stabilization Unit beds** opened as of August 2025 and **21 withdrawal management** and **substance use treatment beds** at Harbor Lights operated by Salvation Army harbor lights beds opened in July 2025.



One-time State Capital Funding

In May 2025, SFDPH was **awarded \$27.6 million** in the first round of state funding for behavioral health capital projects under Proposition 1:

- \$6.3 million to reopen 333 7th Street as a **16-bed enhanced dual diagnosis** (mental health + SUD) treatment facility
- \$21.3 million for **the expansion of locked subacute beds at the Behavioral Health Center at ZSFG**

SFDPH has been **awarded \$88 million** in state capital funding for behavioral health projects since 2022.



333 7th Street (formerly Jo Ruffin Place)



Thank you