

Task Force on Holistic & Effective Responses to Illicit Drug Use

Task Force legislation included in HF5216 (Moller)

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL SUMMARY

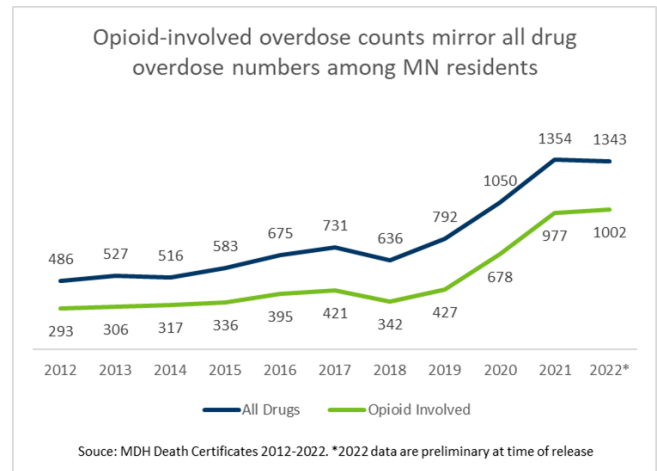
HF4959 (Pinto)/SF5129 (Oumou Verbeten) establishes a task force to meet, take public input and submit legislative recommendations to the legislature based on research authorized last session. The work of the task force will include development of a phased timeline for implementation of policy and funding recommendations made to the legislature. **This legislation is included in HF5216 (Moller), the House Public Safety Finance Omnibus bill.**

WHY DO WE NEED THIS TASK FORCE?

Minnesota is in need of new health solutions in addressing drug use. It is time to move away from marginalizing and criminalizing people who use drugs while making sure we have safe and healthy communities.

Here's some facts happening in Minnesota:

- Minnesota continues to experience unprecedented numbers of drug overdoses. Drug overdose killed 1,353 Minnesotans in 2022.
- American Indian Minnesotans are nine times as likely to die from a drug overdose than white Minnesotans. Black Minnesotans are more than three times as likely to die from drug overdose than white Minnesotans.
- Risk of overdose increases substantially after periods in jail or prison: an individual is more than nearly 12 times more likely to die from a fatal overdose within the first two weeks after release from incarceration than others in the general population.
- 126,000 Minnesotans reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.
- 11,605 Minnesotans are arrested on drug charges every year.



3 out of 4

Minnesota voters prefer approaching drug use as a public health issue with a focus on reducing the harms of addiction, rather than a criminal problem with a focus on arrests and incarceration. Majorities of Democrats (90%), Independents (73%), and Republicans (63%) in the state prefer the public health approach.

- Data for Progress Survey in Minnesota, 2023 (616 likely voters)

IT IS TIME FOR A NEW APPROACH.

SUPPORTERS:



MINNESOTA
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

