



CASE STUDY 1

Substance Use Disorder Response: Fighting the Opioid Crisis in Rural America

Arkansas Mobile Opioid Recovery (ARMOR)

The Problem:

The opioid crisis has hit rural America with devastating force. In Arkansas, entire communities have lost friends, neighbors, and loved ones to substance use disorder. For many, treatment is hours away, making it hard to keep appointments and stay on the path to recovery.

Barriers to Health:

- !**No nearby clinics:** One third of Arkansas counties have no addiction treatment providers. Treatment programs are concentrated in just four urban counties, and some residents must drive up to two hours for care.
- !**Daily medication requirements:** Standard opioid treatments require daily in-person visits, which is unrealistic for farm and shift workers.
- !**Stigma:** Communities are tight-knit and individuals fear being seen at an addiction clinic.
- !**Insurance:** Many in the communities have no insurance or gaps in coverage.

ARMOR shows how mobile health can bring life-saving addiction treatment directly to rural communities, removing barriers, reducing stigma, and creating hope.

The Mobile Solution:

Launched in 2021, ARMOR brings evidence-based addiction care directly to rural communities through two mobile units funded by state opioid settlement dollars, grants, and insurance reimbursement. They park at community hubs such as churches and parole offices to deliver:

- ✓ Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)
- ✓ Behavioral health and counseling
- ✓ Primary care for coexisting conditions
- ✓ Harm reduction tools (naloxone kits, safe disposal)
- ✓ Case management and referrals
- ✓ Peer recovery support from specialists with lived experience

This model removes the need for long-distance daily travel, making ongoing, life-saving care possible for remote patients.

Their Impact:

 **1,700+**
patients served
across 37 rural
counties in 2024

 **1,200+**
naloxone kits
distributed


**Increasing
repeat visits**
showing
retention
and recovery
progress

 **All
high-need
areas**
visited at least
biweekly

 **Patients
gain access**
to both
addiction treat-
ment and basic
healthcare for
previously
untreated
chronic
conditions

 **Peer
specialists**
build trust
and reduce
stigma, helping
patients
engage in long-
term recovery

Diversified Funding Ensures Sustainability:

ARMOR's model, using multiple funding streams, demonstrates how states can create financially stable mobile addiction treatment programs with proven outcomes.

