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(S.D.)-More SD Addicts Will Be Eligible For Treatment



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 04/16/2013 11:22 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - South Dakota officials say the state's substance abuse treatment system will be able to handle the influx of people who will become eligible for alcohol and substance addiction care under the federal health care overhaul.

An Associated Press analysis of government data shows that more than 6,500 addicts will become eligible for insurance beginning in January. That number would rise to more 13,500 if South Dakota expands its Medicaid system, but the state has delayed a decision on that.

State Social Services Deputy Secretary Amy Iverson Pollreisz says the expansion of insurance coverage is unlikely to swamp the addiction treatment system. She says most people who will get insurance coverage are likely getting treatment already under other funding sources.