

BRIEF: APPLYING THE EVIDENCE

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS OPIOID USE DISORDER IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CHILD WELFARE SETTINGS



KEY STRATEGY 1

ACCESS TO MEDICATION FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER IN JAILS AND PRISONS

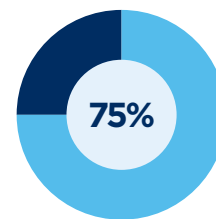
PEOPLE LEAVING JAILS AND PRISONS are between 10 and 40 times more likely to die of an opioid overdose than the general American population—with the risk of overdose greatest within a few weeks after release.¹

TO SAVE LIVES, correctional facilities can adopt evidence-based strategies to address substance use disorder, including ensuring access to methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, the three **medications** approved by the FDA and the standard of care for treating opioid use disorder.²

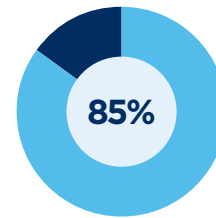
KEY PRINCIPLES TO ADVANCE EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT IN CORRECTIONS

1. **Access** to all three forms of medication to treat opioid use disorder in correctional facilities.
2. **Evidence-based** withdrawal management protocols for alcohol and substance use disorder.
3. **Educational programming** and technical assistance for correctional staff.
4. **Funding** sufficient to support treatment, programming and medications.
5. **Assessments**, individual treatment plans, and access to medication or withdrawal management services free of charge and without delay for incarcerated persons.
6. **Reentry plan** for persons who have participated in treatment to get care upon release.
7. **Reporting** on progress and outcomes to state and county leadership.
8. **Long term**, communities must adopt a systems approach to promote alternatives to incarceration that includes all components of the justice system from police to probation, parole, courts, and corrections.

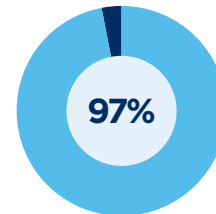
UPON RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION, PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER WHILE INCARCERATED



LESS LIKELY
TO DIE OF ANY
CAUSE



LESS LIKELY
TO DIE OF DRUG
POISONING IN FIRST
MONTH UPON
RELEASE.



CONTINUED
TREATMENT AFTER
RELEASE

LEGAL CASES across the country have clarified that people in correctional settings with opioid use disorder have a right to treatment using medications under: Americans with Disabilities Act; Eighth Amendment, Rehabilitation Act, Administrative Procedures Act.

MEDICATION FOR OUD in Rhode Island's correctional system contributed to a **61% decrease in post-incarceration deaths** a year following implementation and an overall **12% reduction in overdose deaths** in Rhode Island's general population.

“ I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN MEDICATION. BUT WE WERE CONVINCED TO TRY IT. IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS WE SAW A REDUCTION IN DIVERSION AND RECIDIVISM. AND IT WAS SAVING LIVES. IT'S A NO-BRAINER.” SHERIFF CRAIG APPLE — ALBANY COUNTY NEW YORK

1. Jon Berg, Breaking The Cycle: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) In The Criminal Justice System, SubStanceabUSeanDmentalHealth Serv. blog (March 15, 2019), <https://blog.samhsa.gov/2019/03/15/breaking-the-cycle-medication-assisted-treatment-mat-in-the-criminal-justice-system>.

2. THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE, MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER SAVE LIVES: CONCLUSIONS 2 (2019).