

Support Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Massachusetts Jails & Prisons

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an **evidence-based intervention** that improves substance use disorder treatment outcomes. The FDA has approved **three forms** of MAT to treat substance use disorder: methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

MAT in jails and prisons has saved lives in Rhode Island and New York, and can do the same in Massachusetts. **We urge amendment of the CARE Act to require the Department of Corrections and County Sheriffs to offer all three forms of MAT in Massachusetts jails and prisons.**

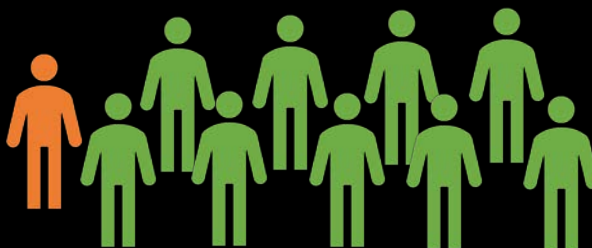
2 in 3

Incarcerated persons in the U.S. have a substance use disorder.¹



But only ~ 1 in 10

Incarcerated persons across the USA receive treatment.²



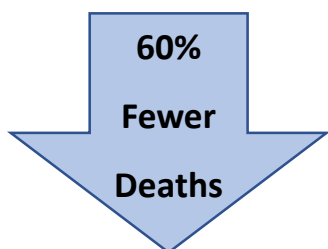
1 in 2

Deaths of recently incarcerated persons in Massachusetts were opioid-related.³

Individuals with a history of incarceration are 120 times more likely to die of an overdose.³

MAT Saves Lives and Money

Rhode Island currently provides access to all 3 forms of MAT for incarcerated individuals resulting in a **60% reduction in opioid overdose deaths** for recently incarcerated inmates on MAT.⁸



1-2 Years

The time that research shows patients need to receive MAT in order to achieve optimal rates of long-term success and recovery.⁷

Inmates on MAT in an Australian study had a **74% lower** hazard of dying in prison from suicide and other causes than those not on MAT.⁴

Costs for Australian inmates receiving MAT post-release were $\frac{1}{2}$ those for inmates who did not receive MAT post-release.⁵



New York's Riker's Island prison instituted an MAT program decades ago, which "has resulted in overall health care cost savings, reduced crime and recidivism, reduced HIV and hepatitis C transmission, and better than average rates of recovery from drug use."⁶

MAT is the recommended course of treatment for opioid use disorder.⁹

⁹Recommended by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, American Medical Association, The National Institute on Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
We urge amendment of the CARE Act to require all three forms of MAT in Massachusetts jails and prisons.



ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE



MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY



MASSACHUSETTS Health & Hospital ASSOCIATION



HEALTH CARE FOR ALL



American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc.



Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine
A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine



MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Questions? Want to get involved? Contact Mandy Gilman (agilman@abhmass.org) at the Association for Behavioral Healthcare or Brendan Abel (babel@mms.org) at the Massachusetts Medical Society.

References:

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice/behavioral-health-criminal-justice>
- NIDA. (2017, December 14). *Treating Opioid Addiction in Criminal Justice Settings*. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/treating-opioid-addiction-in-criminal-justice-settings> on 2018, May 30
- <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/08/31/legislative-report-chapter-55-aug-2017.pdf>
- Larney S, Burns L, Gisev N, Gibson A, Farrell M, Kimber J, Dobbins T, Degenhardt L. (2014). Opioid substitution therapy as a strategy to reduce deaths in prison: retrospective cohort study. *BMJ Open*, 5:e004666, 1-8.
- Gisev N, Shanahan M, Weatherburn DJ, Mattick RP, Larney S, Burns L & Degenhardt L. (2015). A cost-effectiveness analysis of opioid substitution therapy upon prison release in reducing mortality among people with a history of opioid dependence. *Addiction*, 110, 1975–1984.
- <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2016/05/23/at-rikers-island-a-legacy-of-medication-assisted-opioid-treatment>
- https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/MF_1_30.pdf
- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2671411>