

Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT)

What is opioid agonist treatment?

Opioid agonist treatment provides people who are addicted to opioids with a prescribed medicine such as methadone or buprenorphine (suboxone) in a supervised clinical setting.

What is an opioid?

Opioids are drugs that act on the nervous system to relieve pain.

They come in prescription and non-prescription forms, including:

- morphine
- Tylenol with codeine (T4s, T3s)
- Percocet
- oxycodone (OxyContin)
- heroin
- fentanyl
- Vicodin

How does the treatment work?

Opioid agonists suppress the debilitating symptoms of cravings and withdrawal, better enabling a person to engage in therapy, counselling and support.



Decreases cravings & withdrawal



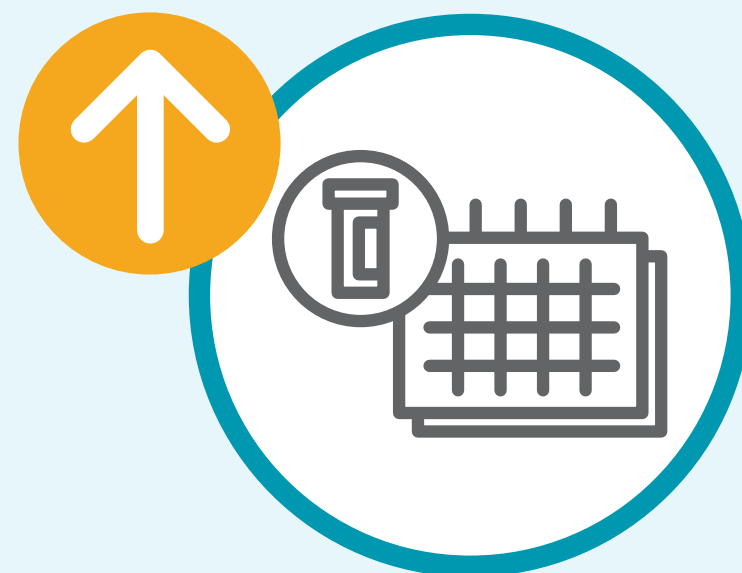
Enables a person to better engage in:

- Therapy
- Counselling
- Support

Evidence suggests that opioid agonist treatment will:



Increase entry into substance use treatment



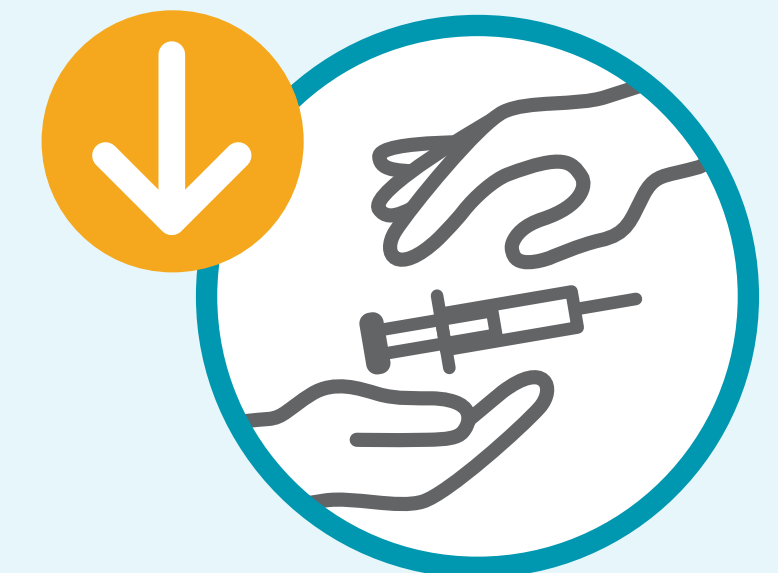
Increase medical adherence



Decrease death from overdose



Decrease illicit opioid use

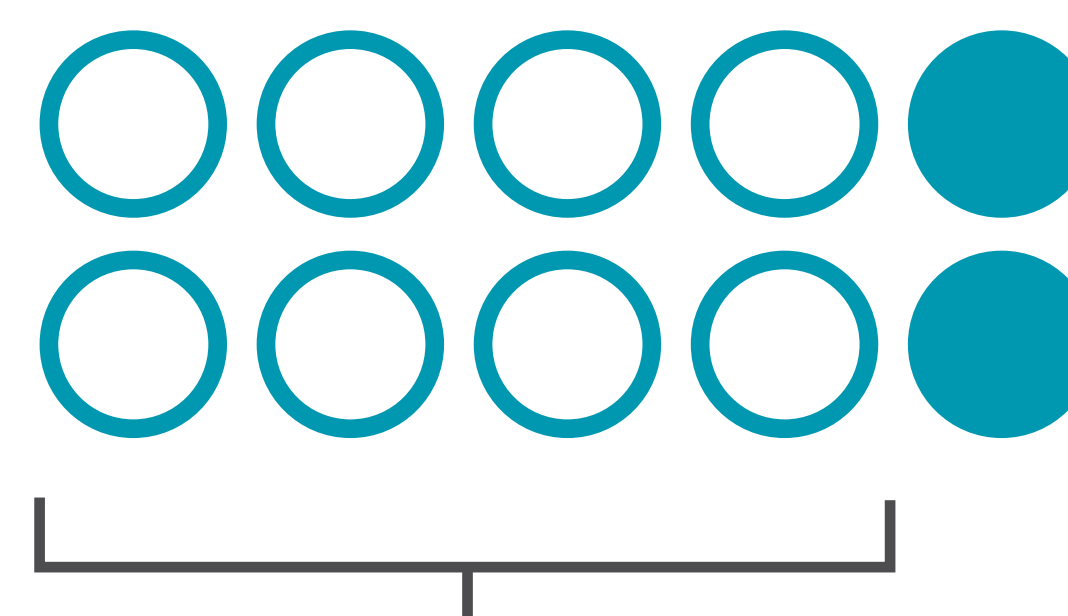


Decrease HIV risk behaviour

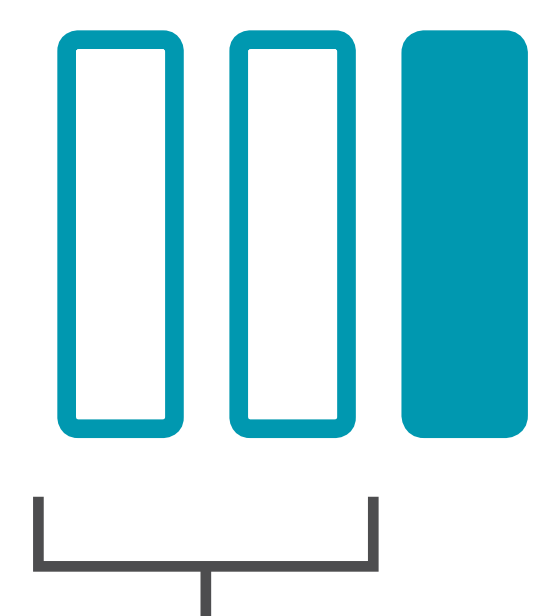
People who engage with services tend to get better.

- Engaging in treatment is the single most powerful predictor of positive outcomes among people addicted to opioids.
- Opioid agonist treatment is the first in this line of treatment.

After five years most people on opioid agonist treatment have:



Reduced their illicit opioid use by 80%



Reduced their sharing of needles by 66%