

# Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT)

## What is opioid agonist treatment?

Opioid agonist treatment provides people who are addicted to opioids with a prescribed daily medication to help with opioid withdrawal and cravings.

## 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
- hydromorphone

## How does the treatment work?

Opioid agonists decrease cravings for opioids and help with withdrawal symptoms. This helps a person with opioid addiction engage in counselling and therapy.



Decreases cravings & withdrawal



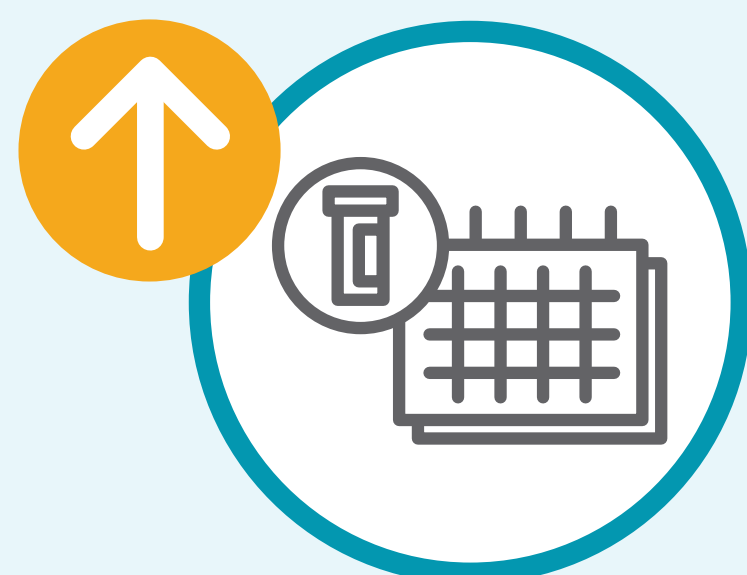
Enables a person to better engage in:

- Therapy
- Counselling
- Support

## Evidence suggests that opioid agonist treatment will:



Increase entry into substance use treatment



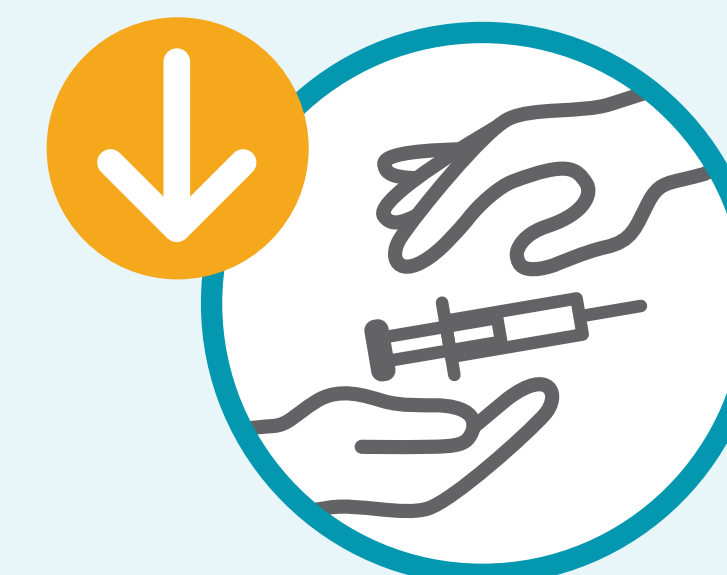
Improve ability to follow through with medical treatment



Decrease death from overdose



Decrease illicit opioid use

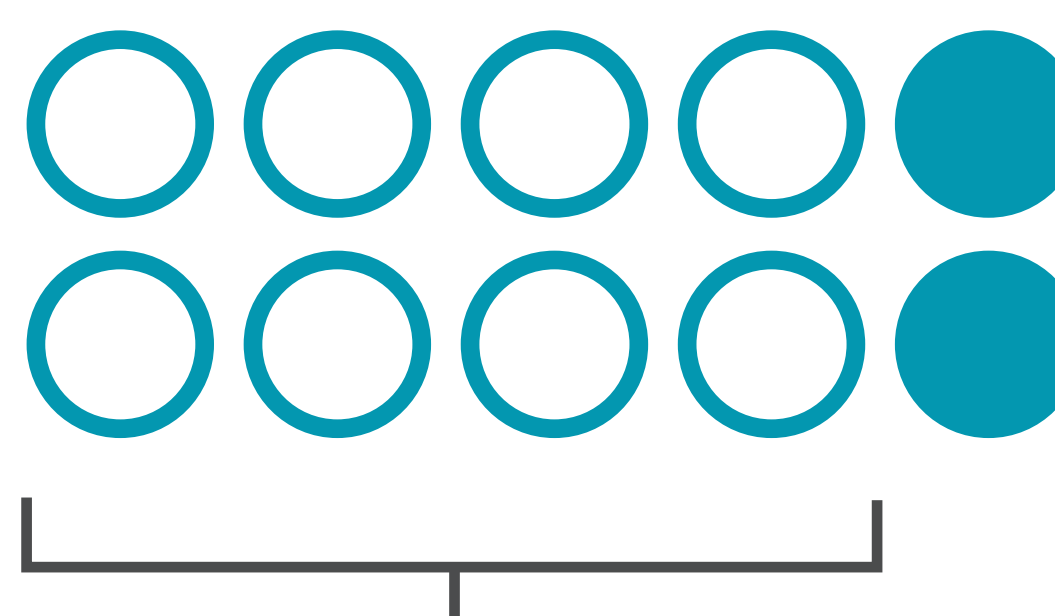


Decrease HIV risk behaviour

## People who engage with services tend to get better.

- Opioid agonist treatment is the best available treatment for opioid addiction.
- OAT is the best predictor of improved outcomes for people with opioid addiction.

## After five years most people on opioid agonist treatment have:



Reduced their illicit opioid use by 80%



Reduced their sharing of needles by 66%