

# UTILIZATION OF OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY AMONG INCARCERATED PERSONS WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER IN VANCOUVER, CANADA

## What was our study about?

The study investigated the levels and potential impacts of opioid agonist therapy (OAT) use among people who use opioids while being incarcerated.

## What did we do?

Between 2005 and 2016, we interviewed 597 individuals with opioid use disorder who reported being incarcerated in the past six months in Vancouver, Canada.

Continuation of OAT during and post-incarceration is important to prevent overdoses

## What we found?

Only **26%** reported OAT use while incarcerated.

Those who received OAT while incarcerated and continued on it post release were less likely to experience drug overdoses; however, such potential benefits were not observed when OAT was not continued post-incarceration.

## What's next?

There is an urgent need to improve OAT use for those who need it in correctional settings and ensure the linkages to community-based OAT programs upon release to prevent overdoses.

Bozinoff, N., DeBeck, K., Milloy, M.-J., Nosova, E., Fairbairn, N., Wood, E., & Hayashi, K. (2018). Utilization of opioid agonist therapy among incarcerated persons with opioid use disorder in Vancouver, Canada. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 193, 42–47. <https://bit.ly/3vcprPf>