

# Observational Provincial Evaluation of iOAT & TiOAT

## iOAT SUMMARY

Between 2018 and 2023, we conducted 600 interviews of adults across BC with a history of injection drug use who were clinically eligible for injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) or tablet-based iOAT (TiOAT). Our goal was to evaluate outcomes related to iOAT/TiOAT. This is what we learned:

Average age

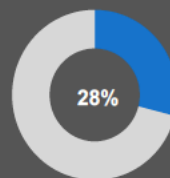
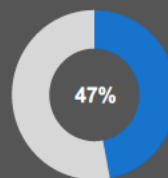
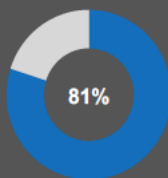
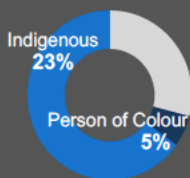
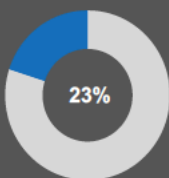
Women

BIPOC

History of overdose

Mental health condition

Homeless



### What were the iOAT program strengths?

- Medication type
- Positive relationships, individualized care
- Social connections
- Safe, friendly treatment environments
- Integrated services & referrals

### What are ways to improve iOAT programs?

- Wider variety of medication options
- Lower-threshold delivery
- Less crowded/more private treatment environments
- More locations

### What are positive impacts of iOAT?

- Reductions in drug use
- Improved health
- Reduction in precarious income generation
- Reduced overdoses
- Improved social connections
- Reduced interactions with police
- Decreased spending on drugs

*"It's life-changing. It's free. You know, you wake up in the morning and you're not worried about how you're going to get some dope to feel good today, because you know you're going to go get your shot and **you're going to be fine.**"*

[iOAT Participant]

*"I'm not sick all the time anymore. Like I used to be sick every fucking day ... I'd have to resort to crime to get my drugs, or what would happen to me, look at me; what options do I have left?"*

[iOAT Participant]

*"Yeah, I don't even use heroin anymore, right? [...] I go home. I cook dinner. I go to sleep at night. I wake up. I'm not going 24 hours a day anymore, where I used. I mean I do use it every day but I do lead somewhat of a normal life."*

[iOAT Participant]

*"I think the people are really friendly there that work there, so that's nice. And it's just a place where I feel comfortable and, you know, I don't have to worry about other patients or anything. It's just a safe, friendly place."*

[iOAT Participant]