

Medication Assisted Treatment

Office of Substance Abuse

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Issue in Maine:

- ❑ The primary drug for treatment admission in 2010 was 44% Opiates and 41% Alcohol.
- ❑ Every \$1 invested in addiction treatment yields a return of between \$4 and \$7 in reduced drug-related crime, theft, and criminal justice costs. When savings to health care are included the savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1.
- ❑ The average cost of 1 full year of methadone maintenance treatment is approximately \$4,700 per patient, whereas 1 full year of imprisonment costs approximately \$24,000 per person.
- ❑ Annual MAT data shows 89.60% were using drugs at admission, but only 5.52% were using at annual update. Arrests prior to admission - 16.88%; 6.79% arrested prior to annual update.



Tracy Weymouth, LADC
Treatment Specialist
41 Anthony Avenue
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Telephone: 207-287-2595
TTY: 207-287-4475
Fax: 207-287-4345
osa.ircosa@maine.gov

For more information: www.maineosa.org

The Office of Substance Abuse Treatment Team is responsible for assisting service providers with the coordination, planning, and implementation of alcohol and drug abuse programs. The role of the State Opioid Treatment Authority is to provide oversight and technical assistance to medication assisted treatment facilities and providers.

Medication Assisted Treatment

Treatment is the combination of the stabilizing effects of medication coupled with rehabilitation counseling to assist patients/clients in their recovery from addiction.

Benefits of Medication Assisted Treatment

Some forms of medication assisted treatment have been used successfully for more than 30 years to treat people addicted to Opioids. Medication improves quality of life in areas, such as employability and housing, and reunifies families, reduces crime, reduces infections, transmittable diseases, and aids in stabilizing behavioral disorders.

Program Goals:

- ❑ To increase access and retention to treatment
- ❑ To provide support for evidence based and best practices by providers
- ❑ To collaborate with state and federal programs in regards to all forms of medication assisted treatment
- ❑ To increase public and provider awareness of issues related to substance abuse and medication assisted treatment

Priority Populations:

Pregnant women and Injecting drug users.

State Opioid Treatment Role:

- ❑ Collaborate with federal and state agencies
- ❑ Monitor compliance with rules, licensing, and regulations at state and federal level
- ❑ Assess programs and determine whether they meet appropriate levels of quality and security
- ❑ Review and approve requests for take-home exceptions
- ❑ Routinely perform site visits as a tool to provide technical assistance and as a mechanism for patient and staff feedback
- ❑ Ensure provided services meet patient needs
- ❑ Develop and implement trainings for providers and general public education
- ❑ Partner with other stakeholders on strategies to prevent overdose-related deaths and risks associated with drug use.
- ❑ Involvement with committees and community organizations around substance abuse and medication assisted treatment.

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