

# Expanding Access to Treatment in Indiana

## Policy Recommendations

# The Pew Charitable Trusts

Pew is an independent nonprofit, nonpartisan research and policy organization.

## Activities:

- Research
- Partnerships
- Technical assistance



# Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative

Through its Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative, Pew works to advance state and federal policies that address the toll of substance misuse, including expanded access to evidence-based treatment.

# Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is Effective

**FDA-approved drugs  
+  
Behavioral therapy**

Medication-assisted treatment increases adherence and reduces:

- Illicit opioid use
- Overdose risk and fatalities
- Unplanned health care utilization
- Criminal activity

Mattick RP et al., 2009;3:CD002209; Comer SD et al. *JAMA Psych.* 2006;63:210-8; Fudala PJ et al., *NEJM.* 2003;10:949-58; Schwartz RP et al. *AJPH.* 2013;103,917-22;. Tsui JI et al. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2014;174:1974-81; Metzger DS et al., *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 1993;6:1049-56.

# Effective Treatment System



## Timely

Ensures that capacity exists to meet treatment demands through the availability of facilities, providers, and services



## Evidence-based

Utilizes and covers all Food and Drug Administration-approved medications for the treatment of substance use disorder (SUD) and behavioral health services



## Comprehensive

Provides coverage of the full spectrum of treatment by public (such as Medicaid) and private insurers



## Sustainable

Uses funding efficiently, optimizes federal funding resources, and collaborates with community-based partners to augment treatment services

**Substance use disorder workforce** A robust pipeline of clinical and nonclinical providers who deliver prevention, treatment, and recovery services to people with SUD



**Treatment system transformation** Models and approaches that affect the delivery of care in states



**Timely  
Comprehensive  
Evidence-based  
Sustainable**

**Underserved populations** People and communities requiring specialized care or services that have access to treatment



**Coverage and reimbursement** Insurance policies, payments, and benefits provided by payers that ensure access to care



# Technical Assistance in Indiana

- Understand Indiana's Treatment System
- Engage Stakeholders Statewide
- Conduct Focus Groups
- Build on Evidence-Based and Emerging Practices

# Pew's October 2017 Recommendations

## Treatment Availability

- Recommendation 1: Increase the number of OTPs in the state using a standards driven process

## Counselor Workforce

- Recommendation 2: Examine substance use disorder treatment counselor licensure standards in Indiana and licensure best practices in other states

## OUD Prevention

- Recommendation 3: Prescriber check of the PDMP prior to initial opioid or benzodiazepine prescriptions



# Policy Recommendations

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# Treatment System Transformation

- Develop an annual reporting structure to track the rollout and progress of opioid treatment programs (OTPs)
- Implement a regulatory approach to office-based opioid treatment (OBOT)
- Clarify definition of recovery housing to include individuals on MAT

# *Treatment System Transformation*

## **Problem**

The number of OTPs in the state is insufficient to meet the needs of Indiana residents with opioid use disorder (OUD), and there is currently no timeline to establish the new OTPs permitted under Public Law 195.

## **Recommendation**

Require new annual reporting by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to describe the progress made in establishing new OTPs and the adequacy of the state's OTP system.

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# *Treatment System Transformation*

## **Problem**

The number of providers eligible to prescribe buprenorphine is lower in Indiana than surrounding states and stakeholder conversations have revealed concerns about the quality of treatment available when delivering buprenorphine in office-based settings

## **Recommendation**

Develop a comprehensive approach to OBOTs in Indiana that minimizes diversion, increases quality, and does not deter patient access

## *Treatment System Transformation*

### **Problem**

Substance use disorder (SUD) patients on MAT experience exclusion or discrimination in Indiana's recovery housing infrastructure.

### **Recommendation**

Clarify the definition of “recovery residence” to include clear, affirmative language that allows the use of MAT and ensures the state is funding programs rooted in quality and evidence-based care.

# Substance Use Disorder Workforce

- Assess reimbursement rates for SUD counselors in community-based settings

## *Substance Use Disorder Workforce*

### **Problem**

Indiana does not have enough counselors to treat people with SUD in community-based settings.

### **Recommendation**

Assess the Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health professionals to determine whether changes are needed to increase access to counseling.

# Underserved Populations

- Develop MAT pilot in jails with all three FDA-approved medications and assess availability of MAT in all county jails
- Establish pilot program in jails to unsuspend Medicaid benefits for inmates re-entering the community



## *Underserved Populations*

### **Problem**

Provision of medications used to treat OUD in jails is at the discretion of local sheriffs, which often limits the availability of treatment for this vulnerable population.

### **Recommendation**

Study the availability of MAT in county jails and create a pilot with all three FDA-approved medications in one setting.

## *Underserved Populations*

# Problem

Persons with OUD reentering the community from jail are at increased risk for overdose and death, due in part to a lack of connection to OUD treatment in the community and lack of health insurance to cover the cost of treatment.

# Recommendation

Launch a pilot program for jails that ensures Medicaid-eligible inmates re-entering the community have their Medicaid benefits unsuspended and are connected to health care upon release

# Pew's Final Report



MENU

IN.gov



Know the facts.

DATA

INDIANA  
INITIATIVES

GET  
INVOLVED

ABOUT



## Resources

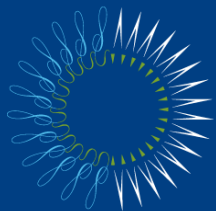
**Indiana provides a variety of tools and resources to get the help you need.**

**Pew Report: Substance Use Disorder Treatment Policy Recommendations for the State of Indiana**

- [Final Report, Sep. 2018](#)

**Agency Resources**

- [BitterPill IN](#)
- [Department Child Services \(DCS\): Drug Endangered Children](#)



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