Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an evidence-based intervention that improves substance use disorder treatment outcomes. The FDA has approved three forms of MAT to treat substance use disorder: methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

MAT in jails and prisons has saved lives in Rhode Island and New York, and can do the same in Massachusetts. We urge amendment of the CARE Act to require the Department of Corrections and County Sheriffs to offer all three forms of MAT in Massachusetts jails and prisons.

But only ~ 1 in 10
Incarcerated persons across the USA receive treatment.2

1 in 2
Deaths of recently incarcerated persons in Massachusetts were opioid-related.3

MAT Saves Lives and Money

Rhode Island currently provides access to all 3 forms of MAT for incarcerated individuals resulting in a 60% reduction in opioid overdose deaths for recently incarcerated inmates on MAT.8

1-2 Years
The time that research shows patients need to receive MAT in order to achieve optimal rates of long-term success and recovery.7

1 in 2
Deaths of recently incarcerated persons in Massachusetts were opioid-related.3

60%
Fewer
Deaths

Inmates on MAT in an Australian study had a 74% lower hazard of dying in prison from suicide and other causes than those not on MAT.4

Costs for Australian inmates receiving MAT post-release were ½ those for inmates who did not receive MAT post-release.5

New York’s Riker’s Island prison instituted an MAT program decades ago, which “has resulted in overall health care cost savings, reduced crime and recidivism, reduced HIV and hepatitis C transmission, and better than average rates of recovery from drug use.”6

9Recommended by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, American Medical Association, The National Institute on Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

We urge amendment of the CARE Act to require all three forms of MAT in Massachusetts jails and prisons.
Questions? Want to get involved? Contact Mandy Gilman (agilman@abhmass.org) at the Association for Behavioral Healthcare or Brendan Abel (babel@mms.org) at the Massachusetts Medical Society.

References:
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