

FACING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

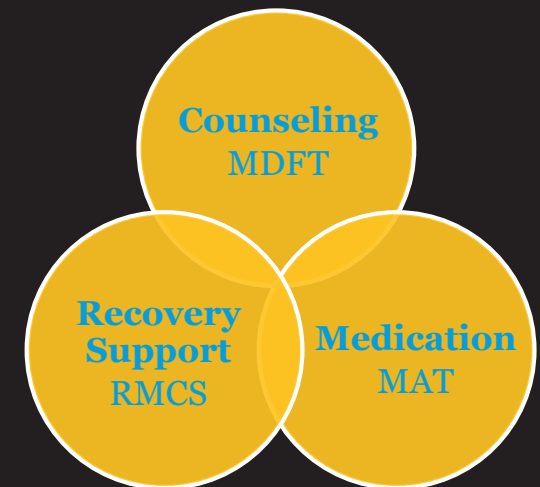
9 THINGS TO KNOW

1. **Connecticut is in an opioid epidemic crisis.** Opioid related overdose deaths in CT have grown at 4 times the national average since 2012.
2. **Opioid overdoses kill.** Of the 917 Connecticut drug overdose deaths in 2016 the majority involved opioids.
3. **Heroin overdoses play a significant role.** Drug overdose deaths involving heroin continue to climb in Connecticut with 500+ fatal overdoses in 2016.
4. **Misuse of fentanyl.** Fentanyl is a man-made opioid pain medication which is 50-100 times stronger than heroin. The combination of heroin and fentanyl is causing a rapid rise in fatal overdoses.
5. **Overdoses are more common in suburbs and rural areas than urban areas.** Although cities are centers of the problem it goes way beyond urban areas.
6. **White males are more likely to experience opioid overdoses.** The epidemic affects us all. In Connecticut of those who died of opioid overdoses in 2016 the highest rate was among white non-Hispanic males.
7. **Most people who have problems with opioids are top income earners.** Statistics show 66% of people with a nonfatal opioid overdose have incomes in the top half of their communities.
8. **Early intervention can reduce overdose deaths.** Naloxone (Narcan®) is effective in stopping opioid related overdoses.
9. **It's a crisis that can be solved.** Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in combination with behavioral treatment can help clients to live the life they want.

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COMPREHENSIVE → OPIOID TREATMENT FOR YOUTH UP TO AGE 21

ASSERT Treatment Model (ATM)



3.6%

**OF ADOLESCENTS
AGE 12 - 17
MISUSED OPIOIDS
IN THE PAST
YEAR**

ASSERT Treatment Model (ATM)

**For Adolescents &
Young Adults**

The ASSERT Treatment Model (ATM) provides intensive family-based treatment for adolescents and young adults up to 21 years old with opioid use problems. ATM is a new treatment approach that combines three services:

- Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Recovery Management Checkups and Support (RMCS)

ATM provides youth and their families with proven treatments for opioid use problems, and offers up to 12 months of support after treatment ends.

Family Treatment (MDFT)

Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) is a proven comprehensive family-centered treatment for adolescents and young adults. MDFT addresses substance misuse, delinquency, antisocial and aggressive behaviors, mental health symptoms, and work and school problems all at once. MDFT combines aspects of family systems theory, developmental psychology, risk and protection. Family is defined broadly to include biological, foster or adoptive families, other relatives, intimate partners, and other significant adults.

Medication Treatment (MAT)

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the use of medications combined with behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders. Youth and families are given information and support to choose which medication is the best fit for them. While ATM offers FDA approved medications to treat opioid use disorders, youth are not required to take these medications in order to participate in the program.

Recovery Management (RMCS)

Recovery Management Checkups & Support (RMCS) provides help after treatment for up to 12 months. RMCS consists of in-person and telephone check-ins to re-connect youth to care if needed. Check-ins change in frequency over time based on youth and family needs. RMCS starts about 6 weeks before MDFT discharge to promote healthy, positive, and wellness-focused lifestyles among youth and their families.

