



Opioid Use Disorder Screening and Treatment in Local Jails, 2019

SUMMARY NCJ 305179

APRIL 2023

At midyear 2019, more than 6 in 10 (63%) local jail jurisdictions reported that they conducted opioid use disorder (OUD) screenings of persons at intake. Fewer than 2 in 10 (19%) jurisdictions said that they initiated medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for those identified as having OUD.

Screening and positivity rates

Of the estimated 894,030 persons admitted to local jails between June 1 and June 30, 2019, almost two-thirds (64%) were screened for OUD. Screening at admission to jail varied by region and locality. About 80% of admissions to local jails in the Northeast, 68% in the West, 62% in the South, and 61% in the Midwest were screened for OUD.

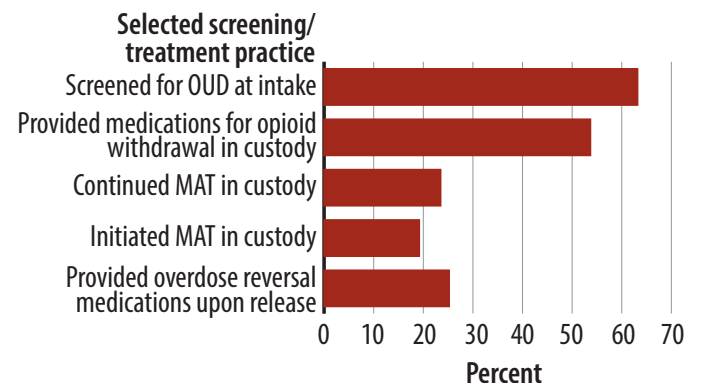
Of the OUD screenings conducted at intake in June 2019, about 15% were positive. Among states, the positivity rate varied by the rate of opioid overdose deaths in the state. About 22% of OUD screenings were positive in states with 24.0 or more opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 U.S. residents ages 15 to 74 in 2019. About 6% of screenings were positive in states with fewer than 10.0 OUD overdose deaths per 100,000.

Treatment practices and rates

After intake, nearly a quarter (24%) of jail jurisdictions continued MAT for OUD for persons admitted with a current prescription or for those who were getting services from a methadone clinic prior to admission. More than half (54%) of jail jurisdictions provided confined persons medications—such as clonidine, lofexidine, methadone, or buprenorphine (e.g., Suboxone)—to treat opioid withdrawal.

Of persons admitted to local jails during June 2019, an estimated 5% were treated for opioid withdrawal. Four times as many admissions were treated in jails in the Northeast (16%) than in the Midwest, South, and West (4% in each).

Percent of local jail jurisdictions that screened or treated inmates for opioid use disorder, midyear 2019



Note: OUD denotes opioid use disorder. MAT denotes medication-assisted treatment. Excludes the combined jail and prison systems in Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Includes 15 locally operated jails in Alaska.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Jails, 2019.

At midyear 2019, about 1% of the 734,470 persons confined in local jails were receiving MAT for OUD. About 3% of those confined in jails located in the Northeast were receiving treatment, while the percentage was lower for other regions.

Community treatment

Upon the release of individuals from jail facilities, about 28% of local jail jurisdictions linked persons with OUD to MAT in the community. Seventy-one percent in the Northeast provided such links, almost twice as many as in the West (37%), about two and a half times as many as in the Midwest (28%), and almost four times as many as in the South (19%).

The full report ([Opioid Use Disorder Screening and Treatment in Local Jails, 2019](#), NCJ 305179), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.