



## Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Training Needs Assessment Survey

### Background and Disclaimer

The [Windsor-Essex Community Opioid and Substance Strategy \(WECOSS\)](#) is a network of local organizations working together to reduce the harms associated with substance use in our community, using a four-pillar based approach to implement relevant interventions at the community level. The WECOSS' Treatment and Recovery Pillar is conducting a needs assessment to explore strategies to enhance understanding and access to opioid agonist therapy in Windsor-Essex County.

Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) is an evidence-based care modality for opioid use disorder. It involves taking a medically-prescribed opioid agonist, such as methadone or buprenorphine (suboxone), to prevent withdrawal, reduce cravings for opioid drugs, and promote stability. It is one of the many services on the continuum of care for opioid use disorder that can be effective in supporting individuals in their recovery.

Although the Windsor-Essex County area has seen drastic increases in opioid-related deaths over the last five years, the rate of new users to OAT year by year has remained relatively low ([WECOSS Statistics, 2025](#)). The Treatment and Recovery Pillar aims to improve access to this service by providing frontline service providers with training on identifying and supporting individuals in their care who may benefit from OAT.

To inform future training opportunities, we are looking for the input of **frontline service providers who work with people who use opioids** on the education needs that exist as it relates to OAT and the kinds of training that would support providers in engaging their clients/patients about this service. We are also interested in learning from you about the types of training materials and delivery methods that are most relevant to frontline practice.

Your responses to this survey will be kept confidential. Your participation is voluntary and you may choose to skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Survey results are owned by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) and stored securely by the WECHU. Results will be presented to WECOSS partners in aggregate format to inform the development and distribution of OAT training workshops for frontline providers.

By answering any question in this survey, you provide your consent to participate. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the WECHU at [substance@wechu.org](mailto:substance@wechu.org). Thank you in advance for your time and participation.

### Demographic Questions

To help us better understand your perspective, we kindly ask that you provide some demographic information.

1. Are you a frontline service provider that works with or directly supports people who use opioids in your role?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

If yes, proceed to Question 2.

If no, transfer to end message:

Thank you for your interest in this survey. At this time, we are looking for input from our primary target audience for future OAT training sessions, which includes frontline service providers who work with or directly support people who use opioids in their role. To learn about other opportunities to get involved in the WECOSS, please visit [www.wecoss.ca](http://www.wecoss.ca) or contact the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit at [substance@wechu.org](mailto:substance@wechu.org).

2. What type of organization or sector do you represent (please select the option that best describes your organization or sector):
  - a. Substance use treatment and/or mental health service
  - b. Community health organization
  - c. Harm reduction services
  - d. Emergency services
  - e. Law enforcement
  - f. Municipal or public administration
  - g. Hospital
  - h. Primary care
  - i. Pharmacy
  - j. Peer support
  - k. Community outreach
  - l. Housing and shelter
  - m. Social assistance
  - n. Education
  - o. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please provide a brief description of your role and the manner in which you work with or support people who use opioids:

4. Do you currently support your clients/patients in accessing OAT, if/when deemed appropriate?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

If yes, what kinds of supports do you provide to assist clients/patients in accessing OAT?

If no, are there any barriers that prevent you from offering this support to clients/patients? If so, please describe.

**Evaluation Questions – Existing Knowledge and Training Needs**

5. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I have a clear understanding of what OAT is and how it works.					
I am confident in my ability to have conversations with my clients/patients about OAT.					
I am aware of inclusive and respectful language to use when talking about OAT or those accessing OAT.					
I know when it is appropriate to connect a client/patient to OAT.					
I am aware of the various					

OAT options available in the community and how they differ.					
I have the knowledge and resources to make appropriate referrals to OAT.					
I feel confident supporting clients/patients using OAT in their recovery journey.					

6. What do you perceive to be the key knowledge gaps or education needs for frontline service providers when it comes to OAT? What topics or information would you like to see covered in future trainings?

7. Are there specific sectors that you feel would benefit from further training on this topic area? If so, please describe.

**Evaluation Questions – Delivery Formats**

8. What delivery method do you feel would be most effective for future OAT trainings?

- a. In-person training
- b. Virtual training
- c. Blended in-person and virtual training

d. No preference

9. If you were to attend an in-person OAT training session, what format would interest you the most?

- a. Instructor-led presentation
- b. Interactive workshop with group exercises and activities
- c. Town hall style (e.g., question and answer session with panel of local experts)
- d. Keynote speeches
- e. No preference
- f. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

10. If you were to attend a virtual OAT training session, what format would interest you the most?

- a. Live webinar
- b. Training videos
- c. Self-paced e-learning module
- d. Website with information and resources
- e. Podcast
- f. No preference
- g. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

11. What time of day would be most suitable for OAT training?

- a. Morning
- b. Lunch and Learn
- c. Afternoon

## Closing

12. Do you have any other suggestions on strategies that can be used to make these trainings a success?

## End Message

Thank you for participating in this survey. We appreciate your time and input.

### **Interested in Being Invited to Future OAT Trainings?**

Please click [here](#) (*separate survey*) to provide your contact information for follow-up. By clicking on the link, you can provide your information on a separate form, meaning that your survey submission will not be directly attributed back to you. Please note that providing your contact information is optional. Your information will only be used for the purpose of inviting you to future trainings.

### **Looking for Resources Now?**

Resources with information on OAT are available through the Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH): [Opioid Agonist Therapy Pamphlet](#) & [Making the Choice, Making it Work: Treatment of Opioid Addiction](#)

To find OAT and other care options available for people who use opioids, please visit [https://wecoss.ca/wec\\_connect](https://wecoss.ca/wec_connect) for a comprehensive inventory of programs and services.

