



Know

the facts.

**UNDERSTANDING
OPIOID USE DISORDER**

**Unless we have all of us, we
won't have any of us.**

My first EMS study - 2013

1) Two main drivers:

- Altruism
- Adrenaline

2) Two main sources of burnout:

- Tragedy
- Perceived lack of change

EMS and the opiate epidemic

1) Limited opportunity for:

- Altruism
- Adrenaline

2) Ongoing daily exposure to:

- Tragedy
- Perceived lack of change

Two stories

1) Asthma

2) HORT



FACT 1

**It's a
disease.**

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FACT 2

**There is
treatment.**

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Know the facts.

Treatment Options

Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT)

combines behavioral therapies and the use of medications to treat opioid use disorder

Opioid Treatment Programs in Indiana

- > Currently 13
- > 5 more planned in 2018





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FACT 3

Recovery is possible.

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Know the facts.

**What can you do to
reduce the stigma?**

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Language matters

SAY THIS  **NOT THIS**

Person with opioid use disorder	Addict, user, druggie, junkie, abuser
Disease	Drug habit
Person living in recovery	Ex-addict
Person arrested for a drug violation	Drug offender
Substance dependent	Hooked

Language matters

SAY THIS  **NOT THIS**

Medication is a treatment tool	Medication is a crutch
Had a setback	Relapsed
Maintained recovery; substance-free	Stayed clean

Sources: Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Changing the Language of Addiction.*, 01/09/17.
National Council for Behavioral Health, *Language Matters*, September 2015.

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In Review

- **Know the facts**
- **Be aware of your attitudes and behavior**
- **Choose your words carefully**
- **Display kindness to people in vulnerable situations**
- **Educate others**
- **Avoid hurtful labels**

In Review

- Focus on the positive
- Support people
- Include everyone
- Replace negative attitudes with evidence-based facts
- Offer compassionate support
- Treat people with opioid use disorder with dignity and respect

To request outreach materials email:

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