

In 2019, there were 1,150 drug overdose deaths in Philadelphia. This represents a 3% increase from 2018. Cocaine and fentanyl are most commonly involved in overdose deaths. Deaths among black, non-Hispanic and Hispanic individuals increased while deaths among white, non-Hispanic individuals declined. The changes in race-ethnicity pattern are currently being analyzed.

In response to the Mayor’s Opioid Taskforce Recommendation, CBH was charged with creating and hosting a regional Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) learning collaborative from September 2018 to May 2019. 365 different community stakeholders participated in some level of this learning collaborative, from 41 providers. This collaborative was aimed at supporting and preparing Philadelphia Medicaid providers for the MAT 2020 Bulletin issued by CBH (18-07). The objectives of this learning collaborative were to:

- ➔ Identify barriers to implementing MAT as required per Bulletin 18-07.
- ➔ Identify strategies to address said barriers through peer learning and expert lecture.

Ensuring Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment

The number of individuals with a primary diagnosis of opiate use disorder (OUD) who participate in some form of MAT continues to increase. In 2019, 11,463 individuals received some form of MAT, an increase of 7% from the previous year.

In May 2019, CBH issued a request for proposal (RFP) aimed at expanding MAT in outpatient settings in underserved areas of the City. Three providers were awarded the right to negotiate and are in the process of undergoing the credentialing process with CBH. Additionally, in May 2019, CBH issued an RFP aimed at expanding MAT residential (ASAM 3.7WM and 3.5) throughout the network. Three providers were awarded the right to negotiate. Ambrosia began accepting members as of November 25, 2019. They have a total of 120 residential SUD treatment beds, all with the ability to induct and/or maintain members on MAT. The other providers awarded the right to negotiate are in the process of applying for initial credentialing.

Unique Members with a Primary Diagnosis of OUD Receiving MAT

