



In a major victory for increasing access to addiction treatment, [Congress passed](#) the **Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act (MAT Act) at the end of 2022.**

The MAT Act will increase access to medication-assisted treatment for those with opioid use disorder. The MAT Act removes a bureaucratic barrier (called the x-waiver) that has blocked healthcare providers from being able to prescribe buprenorphine, a life-saving treatment for people facing opioid addiction and seeking treatment. This bill is especially important in a year when 108,000 people died of overdose across the country.

What is MAT?

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and other therapeutic techniques, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to treating substance use disorders. Medications such as buprenorphine relieve the withdrawal systems and psychological cravings that oftentimes deter people from moving forward in their recovery. The Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act ensures medical providers can prescribe buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction just as they prescribe medications for other chronic conditions. It presents a critical step towards fully integrating substance use disorder treatment into the healthcare system where it belongs.

How We Can Make Sure this Victory Reaches our Community

Spread the word about this victory! Put an announcement in your church bulletin, share it on social media platforms, email your friends and family, and most importantly, make sure your healthcare providers know. We've prepared a special fact sheet for them that you can access by going to ppls.ac/MATActHCP

Resources to Help Spread the Word

- Check out our victory video at: ppls.ac/MATActVictoryVid
- Share this one-pager: ppls.ac/MATActComm
- Share our healthcare provider one-pager: ppls.ac/MATActHCP
- Review the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's official announcement about this change: ppls.ac/MATActSAMHSA