

The Pew Charitable Trusts conducted a 50-state analysis of opioid treatment program (OTP) regulations. As part of this project, State Opioid Treatment Authorities (SOTAs) were asked about their respective state’s experience with OTP policy changes as a result of federal relaxations made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Data collected during this phase of the project occurred between June 18th and September 14th, 2021. Respondents are state officials, identified by name and title, and were prompted on three separate occasions to complete the questionnaire via an email distributed link. Responses were gathered via Qualtrics. The questions asked and aggregate responses follow here.

Please note: Results also include responses that Pew staff recoded from the “Other: Please describe” response option into the appropriate category as needed. And response skip logic—used to show the questions that appeared for participants based on their response choice— details are outlined in the blue boxes below.

Questionnaire

This survey will ask you questions about OTP policy changes your state made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and your plans regarding these policies in the future. Your responses will help state and federal policymakers, researchers, and the general public understand the impact of the pandemic on opioid use disorder treatment. It will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Thank you for your participation.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing methadone take-homes for patients who had not previously met state and federal criteria?

Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19	28
Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19	1
Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility	5
Not implemented	2
Other: Please describe	1
Unsure	*
<u>N = 37</u>	

Note: “Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility” includes states that selected “other” and indicated they implemented the policy but did not specify patient eligibility regarding COVID-19 status.

Display This Question:

If In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing methadone take-h... = Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing methadone take-h... = Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing methadone take-h... = Other: Please describe

Did or does your state plan to rescind allowing methadone take-homes for patients who had not previously met state and federal criteria?

This policy has been rescinded	5
This policy has not yet been rescinded, but may be before the end of the declared public health emergency	3
This policy will remain in place until the end of the declared public health emergency	10
This policy will remain in place following the end of the declared public health emergency, to the extent allowed under federal law	14
Other: Please describe	2
Unsure	1
<u>N = 35</u>	

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing patients who met state and federal criteria to receive 28 days of methadone take-homes?

Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19	24
Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19	4
Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility	4
Not implemented	2
Other: Please describe	3
Unsure	*
<u>N = 37</u>	

Note: “Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility” includes states that selected “other” and indicated they implemented the policy but did not specify patient eligibility regarding COVID-19 status.

Display This Question:

If In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing patients who met... = Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing patients who met... = Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy allowing patients who met... = Other: Please describe

Did or does your state plan to rescind allowing patients who met state and federal criteria to receive 28 days of methadone take-homes?

This policy has been rescinded	3
This policy has not yet been rescinded, but may be before the end of the declared public health emergency	4
This policy will remain in place until the end of the declared public health emergency	13
This policy will remain in place following the end of the declared public health emergency, to the extent allowed under federal law	12
Other: Please describe	1
Unsure	2
<u>N = 35</u>	

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adjusted drug screening requirements (e.g., reduced frequency, eliminated observation requirements)?

Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19	15
Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19	3
Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility	1
Not implemented	14
Other: Please describe	4
Unsure	*
<u>N = 37</u>	

Note: “Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility” includes states that selected “other” and indicated they implemented the policy but did not specify patient eligibility regarding COVID-19 status.

Display This Question:

If In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adju... = Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adju... = Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adju... = Other: Please describe

Did or does your state plan to rescind reduced or adjusted drug screening requirements (e.g., reduced frequency, eliminated observation requirements)?

This policy has been rescinded	2
This policy has not yet been rescinded, but may be before the end of the declared public health emergency	2
This policy will remain in place until the end of the declared public health emergency	6
This policy will remain in place following the end of the declared public health emergency, to the extent allowed under federal law	7
Unsure	3
Other: Please describe	3
<u>N = 23</u>	

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adjusted counseling requirements (e.g., reduced number or time of required sessions)?

Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19	9
Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19	2
Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility	*
Not implemented	23
Unsure	1
Other: Please describe	2
<u>N = 37</u>	

Note: “Other: Implemented but did not specify patient eligibility” includes states that selected “other” and indicated they implemented the policy but did not specify patient eligibility regarding COVID-19 status.

Display This Question:

If In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adju... = Implemented regardless of risk of, exposure to, or infection with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adju... = Implemented only for those at risk of, exposed to, or infected with COVID-19

Or In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state implement a policy regarding reduced or adju... = Other: Please describe

Did or does your state plan to rescind reduced or adjusted counseling requirements (e.g., reduced number or time of required sessions)?

This policy has been rescinded	*
This policy has not yet been rescinded, but may be before the end of the declared public health emergency	1
This policy will remain in place until the end of the declared public health emergency	6
This policy will remain in place following the end of the declared public health emergency, to the extent allowed under federal law	3
Other: Please describe	2
Unsure	1
<u>N = 16</u>	

The March 2020 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) OTP guidance allowed states to request blanket waivers to provide 28 days of take-home methadone for stable patients, and up to 14 days of take-home methadone for patients who are less stable. Did your state receive a blanket waiver?

Yes	34
No	1
Don't know	1
<u>N = 36</u>	

Display This Question:

If The March 2020 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) OTP guidance al... = Yes

Approximately what percentage of OTPs in your state adopted extended take-home dosing under this waiver?

Insert percentage:	Mean = 95
<u>N = 30</u>	

Display This Question:

If The March 2020 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) OTP guidance al... = Yes

For the purpose of take-home doses, did your state define stable?

Yes: Please describe	13
Did not define	21
<u>N = 34</u>	

Display This Question:

If The March 2020 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) OTP guidance al... = Yes

For the purpose of take-home doses, did you state define less stable?

Yes: Please describe	13
Did not define	21
<u>N = 34</u>	

In March 2020, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) granted exceptions to allow for home delivery of medications for OUD to quarantined patients. Did any OTPs conduct home delivery of medications for OUD during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes	18
No	10
Home delivery is conducted by another entity	*
Don't know	1
<u>N = 29</u>	

Display This Question:

If In March 2020, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) granted exceptions to allow for home delivery of... = Yes

Approximately what percentage of OTPs conducted home delivery of medications for OUD during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Insert number:	Mean = 34
Don't know	*
<u>N = 14</u>	

*In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state Medicaid program change payment methodology to **cover telemedicine services delivered by OTPs?***

Yes, only for the duration of the public health emergency	12
Yes, and will remain beyond the public health emergency	11
This was already in place prior to the emergency declaration	4
My state did not and still has not covered telemedicine services delivered by OTPs	3
Other: Please specify	2
Don't know	*
<u>N = 32</u>	

*In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state Medicaid program change payment methodology to **allow OTPs to bill the same rate for telemedicine as in-person services?***

Yes, only for the duration of the public health emergency	13
Yes, and will remain beyond the public health emergency	9
This was already in place prior to the emergency declaration	4
My state did not and still has not allowed OTPs to bill the same rate for telemedicine as in-person services	2
Other: Please specify	2
Don't know	*
<u>N = 30</u>	

*In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state Medicaid program change payment methodology to **establish new billing codes for telemedicine to cover OTP check-in services (i.e., services equivalent to those otherwise delivered at the dosing window)?***

Yes, only for the duration of the public health emergency	2
Yes, and will remain beyond the public health emergency	2
This was already in place prior to the emergency declaration	1
My state did not and still has not established new billing codes for telemedicine to cover OTP check-in services (i.e., services equivalent to those otherwise delivered at the closing window)	18
Other: Please specify	3
Don't know	1
<u>N = 27</u>	

*In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your state Medicaid program change payment methodology **for anything not described here? If yes, please describe.***

Yes	24
No	10
Don't know	3
<u>N = 37</u>	

Display This Question:

If Does your single state agency (SSA) pay for OTP services? = Yes

*In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your SSA change payment methodology to **cover telemedicine services delivered by OTPs?***

Yes, only for the duration of the public health emergency	5
Yes, and will remain beyond the public health emergency	6
This was already in place prior to the emergency declaration	8
My SSA did not and still does not cover telemedicine services delivered by OTPs	*
Other: Please specify	3
Don't know	*
<u>N = 22</u>	

Display This Question:

If Does your single state agency (SSA) pay for OTP services? = Yes

*In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your SSA change payment methodology to **allow providers to bill the same rate for telemedicine as in-person consultation?***

Yes, only for the duration of the public health emergency	5
Yes, and will remain beyond the public health emergency	5
This was already in place prior to the emergency declaration	7
My SSA did not and still does not allow providers to bill the same rate for telemedicine as in-person consultation	*
Other: Please specify	4
Don't know	*
<u>N = 21</u>	

Display This Question:

If Does your single state agency (SSA) pay for OTP services? = Yes

In response to the federal relaxations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, did your SSA change payment methodology to **establish new billing codes for telemedicine to cover OTP check-in services (i.e., services equivalent to those delivered at the dosing window)?**

Yes, only for the duration of the public health emergency	1
Yes, and will remain beyond the public health emergency	1
This was already in place prior to the emergency declaration	4
My SSA did not and still has not established new billing codes for telemedicine to cover OTP check-in services (i.e., services equivalent to those delivered at the dosing window)	10
Other: Please specify	2
Don't know	*
<u>N = 18</u>	

Did the number of patients **entering treatment** at OTPs change after the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on January 31, 2020?

Yes – Increase	16
Yes – Decrease	9
No - Stayed the same	5
Don't know	*
<u>N = 30</u>	

Did the number of patients **receiving methadone** at OTPs change after the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on January 31, 2020?

Yes – Increase	14
Yes – Decrease	4
No - Stayed the same	12
Don't know	*
<u>N = 30</u>	

Did the number of patients **receiving buprenorphine** at OTPs change after the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on January 31, 2020?

Yes - Increase	7
Yes – Decrease	3
No, stayed the same	11
OTPs in my state do not provide buprenorphine	2
Don't know	*
<u>N = 23</u>	

Did the number of patients receiving **naltrexone** at OTPs change after the declaration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on January 31, 2020?

Yes – Increase	2
Yes – Decrease	1
No - Stayed the same	11
OTPs in my state do not provide naltrexone	6
Don't know	1
<u>N = 21</u>	

Please describe any additional initiatives developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that were not discussed in the previous questions.

Please tell us your name, title, and state.
