Virtual Opioid Dependency Program
Annual Utilization & Clinical Outcomes, 2018-2019

About the program

- The Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VODP) is a new partner for people struggling with opioid use. It provides Albertans with immediate, remote access to opioid dependency treatments no matter where they live in the province.
- The program runs 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm.

Same-day medication starts
- Physicians prescribe opioid agonist treatments that clients can pick up at a nearby pharmacy.

Transitional care
- Connect clients to local services when possible, such as clients coming from detox or corrections, or clients who work around the province.

Opioid dependency treatment
- Provides ongoing treatment for clients when local services are not available, such as clients in rural settings.

Program use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admissions</th>
<th>Discharges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/2018</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/2019</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*20 were readmissions to VODP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017/2018</th>
<th>2018/2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>256</td>
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Median length of stay: **138 days** **233 days**

Wait times

- Median wait time: **Decreasing**

About the client admissions

- **Referral source**
  - Community physician or psychiatrist: 38%
  - Self referral: 19%
  - Community AMH services: 15%
  - Addiction recovery or detox: 14%
  - Transfer from another opioid program: 2%
  - Other (ED, corrections, etc.): 11%

- **AHS Zones**
  - North: 16%
  - Central: 48%
  - South: 16%
  - Edmonton: 17%
  - Calgary: 3%

- **Client demographics**
  - 66% of clients are aged 20-39

For more information, visit

[www.vodp.ca](http://www.vodp.ca)
Client improvements and program success

VODP reduced drug use and overdoses among clients:

**Everyday drug use**
- Use of no drugs: Increasing
- Use of 1 or more drugs: Decreasing

**Overdoses**
- Accidental overdose: Intentional overdose

Unemployed clients gained employment following VODP admission:

**Client employment**
- New employment: 60%
- No income: 8%
- Social Assistance: 17%
- Spousal or family support: 4%
- Alberta Works: 16%
- Disability or leave: 10%
- EI: 9%
- AISH: 4%

**Client education**
- Did not graduate high school: 43%
- Graduated high school: 34%
- At least some post-secondary education: 24%

60% of clients reported new employment income at reassessment.

Clients provided positive feedback about the program:

How helpful has this program been for you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow up</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 month</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 month</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"[I feel] relief of pain - I'm getting outside again and able to move around again. I'm able to go for walks down the block. My mind is clearer off of opiates." - Client

"I am creating a life that I never had. Your program is a life saver" - Client

"Everyone is so personable, they don't treat me like a patient. [VODP provides] convenience and ease of access through texting, etc." - Client

Prepared by Knowledge Exchange, Provincial Addiction and Mental Health

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