

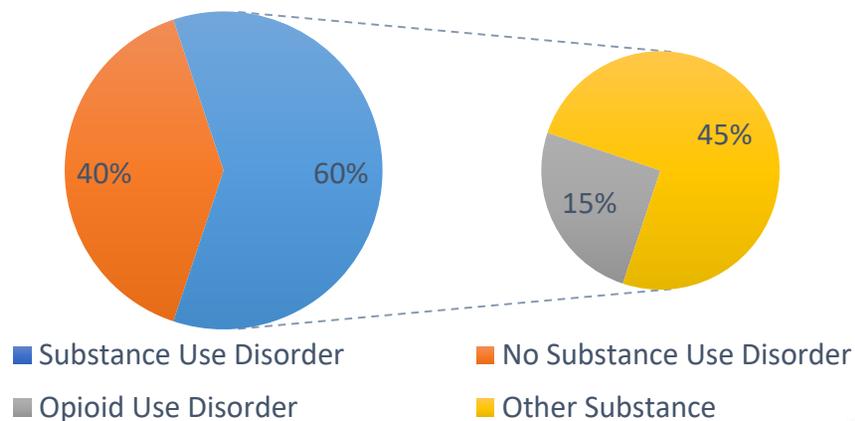


“...Insanity is doing the same thing...and expecting different results.” -Einstein

Nicholas Fitzpatrick tried heroin for the first time when he was only 12 years old. Both of his parents had substance use disorders, and he wanted to know why it was important enough to drive his father away and his mother into crime. Shortly after trying heroin, Nicholas was also using crystal meth and describes his life from that point as a downward spiral.

Nicholas has spent over half his life with a substance use disorder and over a third of his life incarcerated. Each time Nicholas was placed into a facility, he was forced into withdrawal. Most places did little more than check his blood pressure every few hours. Nicholas was even forced to withdraw from his medication-assisted treatment (MAT) prescriptions, which were intended to help with his substance use disorder symptoms. Incarcerated and withdrawing unassisted, Nicholas said at times he would find it easier to cope by turning to drugs he was able to get in jail and prison. Once as he was released, he was using on the streets within three months.

According to national estimates, of the **60%** of jailed persons with a substance use disorder, **15%** have an opioid use disorder.





During over a decade spent in and out of rehabilitation facilities Nicholas was not offered MAT to aid with his recovery, even though it is a scientifically proven effective treatment.

MAT supports an individual with counseling, behavioral therapy, and medications to provide a “whole-person” approach to treat substance use disorders. When MAT is offered in correctional facilities, it provides a unique opportunity to help the individual in their withdrawal process but to also begin their recovery process. Correctional facilities can be strict, controlled, and regulated, thus creating the stability someone with a substance use disorder needs to ensure treatment plans are followed.

Today, Nicholas Fitzpatrick is currently under the care of a primary care physician at a local clinic that provides him medication assisted treatment. Nicholas has been in recovery for three months and he has the unconditional love and support of his wife, Cindy. Nicholas is a devoted father of three. Nicholas aspires to become a peer counselor and has a positive outlook for his future.

National Medication Assisted Treatment Successes

Rhode Island Department of Corrections:

- **62% decrease** in post-release deaths.
- **72% continued** MAT post-release.

Louisville Metro Department of Corrections:

- As of January 2018, **200 individuals have graduated** from the MAT program.
- Of these, 200, **47% have remained arrest-free** in the community.

Drug Safe Solano seeks to learn from these success stories as they work to implement MAT services in their own county jail system.

For more information please visit our website at www.drugsafesolano.org or email us at info@drugsafesolano.org.

