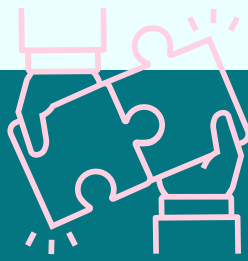
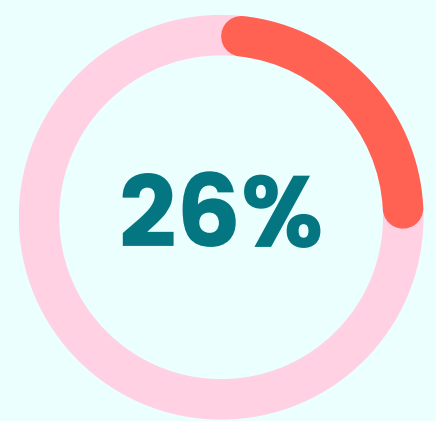


# Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT): Continuity of Care

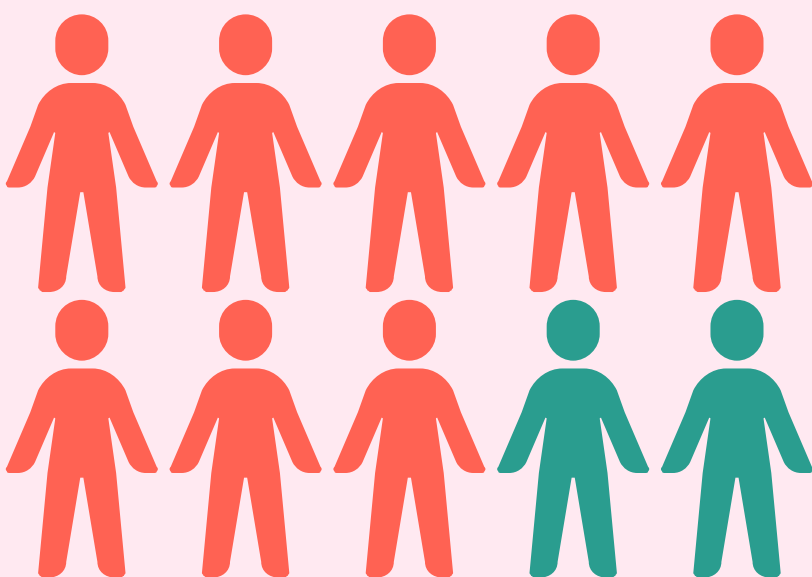


Act 176, effective July 1, 2018, directs Vermont correctional facilities to provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to incarcerated individuals for as long as medically necessary. Beginning in 2019, the Vermont Department of Corrections (VTDOC) and Department for Vermont Health Access (DVHA) collaborated to perform a longitudinal survivor study. Using Medicaid claims data, DVHA matched individuals who received MAT while incarcerated and were then released to analyze engagement and continuity of care post release in the community. Note: Only individuals who were enrolled in Medicaid are included in these analyses. The vast majority of those incarcerated at the VTDOC are eligible for Medicaid upon release.

Of those released from incarceration from 2019–2022, **about a quarter** had a release date within the same year they received MAT while incarcerated (26%).



The majority of those who had received MAT within the year of their release had a legal status of sentenced when compared to those who were detained awaiting trial (2:1 ratio).



Almost **8 out of 10** of those who had received MAT within a year of their release had received **Buprenorphine** while incarcerated (78%).

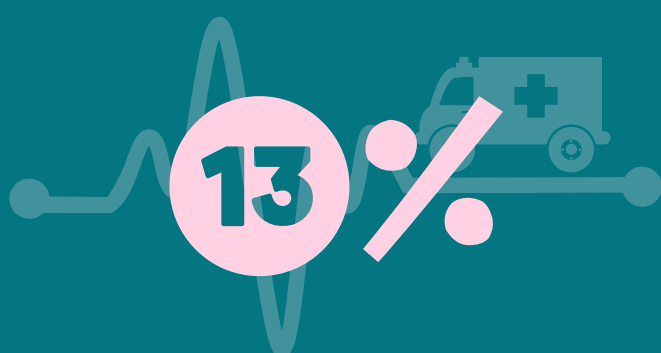
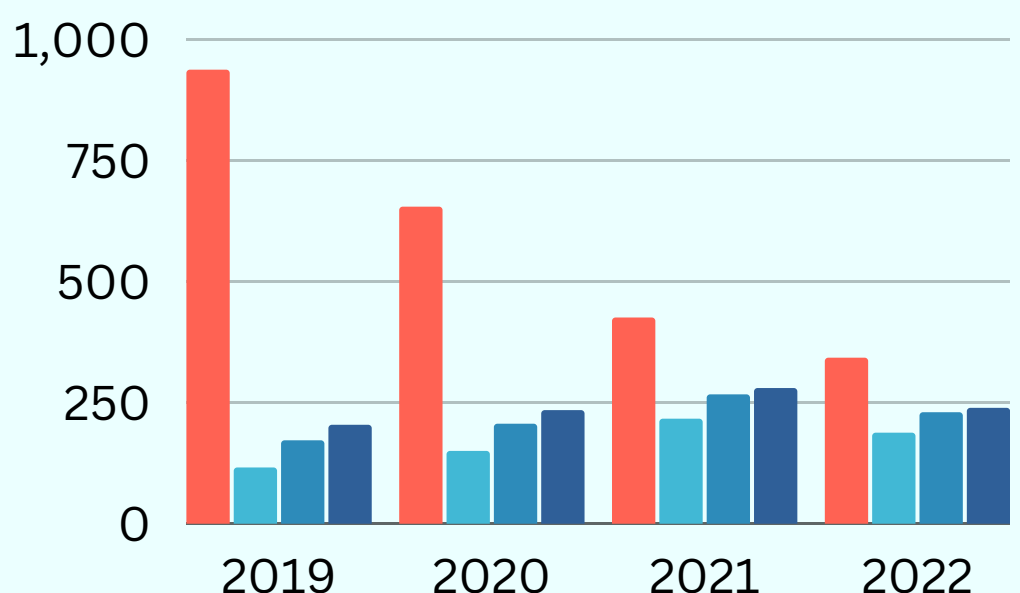
Almost three quarters of those who had received MAT within a year of release were released to community supervision (73%).

## Continuity of Care

In 2022, **70%** of those who had received MAT within their year of release received treatment in the community **within 45 days of release**.

This level of medication adherence is uncommon. Frequently, medication adherence in chronic diseases is low ([see PubMed article](#)).

- # MAT Patient Releases
- TX ≤ 15 Days Post-Release
- TX ≤ 30 Days Post-Release
- TX ≤ 45 Days Post-Release



From 2019–2022, of those who had received MAT within their year of release, an average of **only 13%** had a Medicaid Emergency Room claim within 30 days of their release date.