

The more we know about opioid use disorder, the better we can understand that this disorder is real. Take it from the experts.



FACT 1: “It’s a disease.”

– **Dr. Jennifer Walthall**, *Secretary, Indiana Family & Social Services Administration*

Whether opioids are prescribed by a doctor or acquired illegally, they can cause serious changes to the brain and body. Continued use and misuse can lead to physical dependence and withdrawal symptoms. And after a while, people must take opioids just to avoid the physical withdrawal symptoms.



FACT 2: “There is treatment.”

– **Dr. Virginia Caine**, *Director, Marion County Public Health Department*

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) combines behavioral therapy and medication to treat opioid use disorder. Medications, such as Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Naltrexone, when used in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, provide a whole-patient approach to the treatment of opioid dependency.



FACT 3: “Recovery is possible.”

– **Douglas G. Carter**, *Indiana State Police Superintendent*

Recovery is a process of change that is possible with the support of others. The four major dimensions of recovery include: Health, Home, Purpose, Community.