

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM



1 MAT AND THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM CAN WORK TOGETHER

2 PARENTS ON MAT CAN RETURN TO PARENTING

- MAT prevents symptoms of withdrawals so patients can return to everyday activities like parenting
- One study found that mothers felt MAT made them a better parent (Letourneau et al, 2013)



3 THE CHILD WELFARE CASE CAN BE CLOSED WHEN THE PARENT IS ON MAT IF:

- The parent on MAT lives a stable life in terms of housing, employment, etc.
- The patient complies with the treatment
- The patient does not commit illegal behavior



4 PARENTS SHOULD NOT BE PRESSURED TO PREMATURELY STOP MAT

- The courts, child welfare workers, and family may pressure parents to prematurely stop MAT
- Stopping MAT too early puts parents at risk for relapse, especially during the stressful time of an open child welfare case

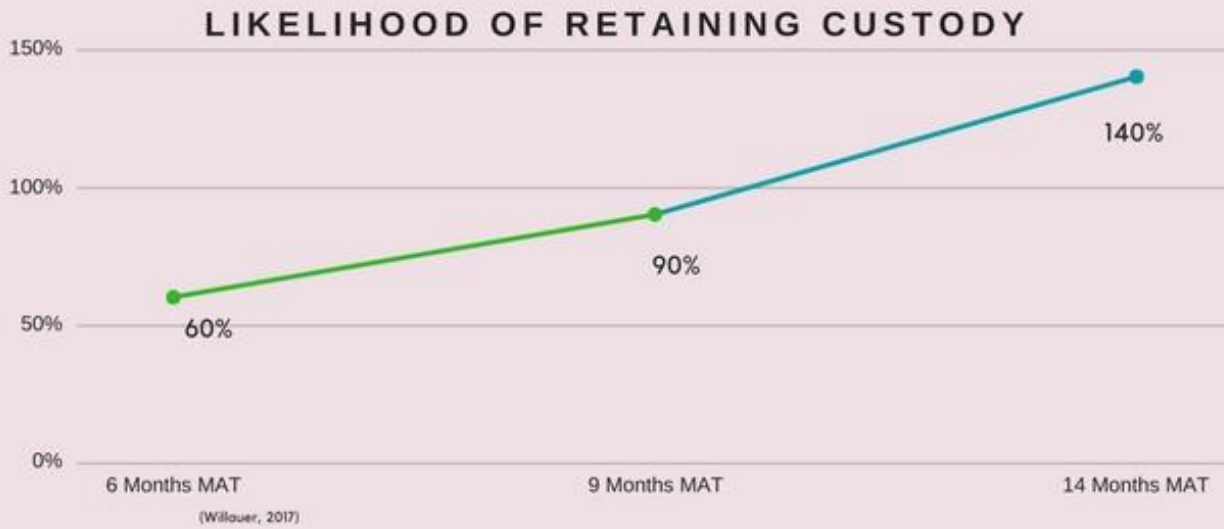


5 HOW CAN WE SUPPORT PARENTS ON MAT?

- Educate the courts and child welfare workers on MAT
- Destigmatize MAT
- Affordable treatment, child care during treatment, and transportation to treatment



MAT INCREASES THE ODDS OF PARENTS KEEPING CUSTODY

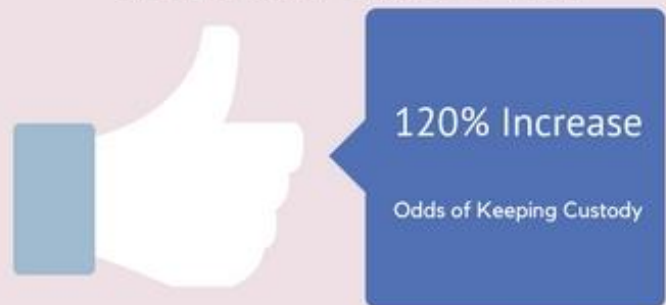


FOR EACH MONTH OF MAT



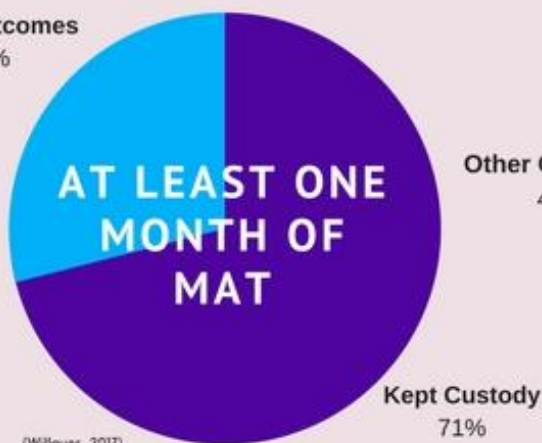
(Hall et al., 2016)

AFTER ONE YEAR OF MAT

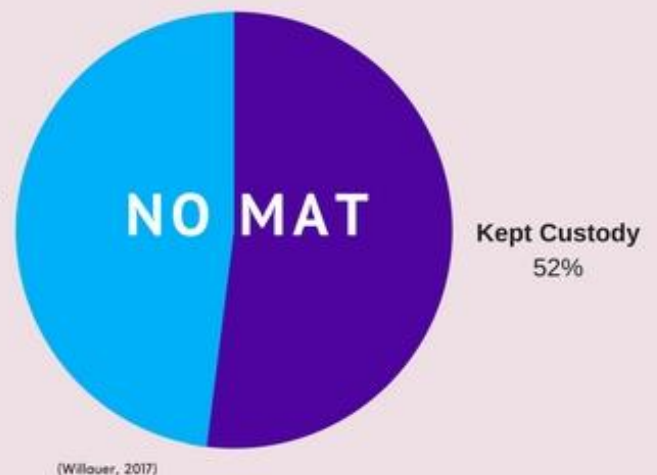


(Hall et al., 2016)

Other outcomes
29%



Other Outcomes
48%



Literature Cited

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Hall, M. T., Willfong, J., Huebner, R. A., Posze, L., & Willauer, T. (2016). Medication-Assisted Treatment Improves Child Permanency Outcomes for Opioid-Using Families in the Child Welfare System. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 71, 63-67.