

## Medication for opioid use disorder after nonfatal opioid overdose and association with mortality: a cohort study.

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Laroche MR, Bernson D, Land T, et al. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder After Nonfatal Opioid Overdose and Association With Mortality: A Cohort Study. *Ann Intern Med.* 2018;169(3):137-145. doi:10.7326/M17-3107.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/medication-opioid-use-disorder-after-nonfatal-opioid-overdose-and-association-mortality>

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Nationally, [opioid overdose](#) remains a [common cause](#) of [preventable death](#). Treatment of opioid use disorder with opioid replacement therapy, specifically methadone or buprenorphine, is a potent but underutilized strategy for reducing opioid-related harm. Investigators employed a prospective cohort study to follow 17,568 adults who were treated in Massachusetts [emergency departments](#) for a nonfatal opioid overdose. About 15% received opioid replacement therapy in the subsequent 2 years. Patients on opioid replacement therapy were substantially less likely to die from opioids or any other cause. An accompanying editorial from leaders at the National Institute on Drug Abuse highlights strategies to increase the number of Americans offered these life-saving therapies. The editorial also notes the alarming number of patients who [received prescriptions](#) for short-acting opioids and benzodiazepines after an opioid overdose. A past [Annual Perspective](#) and [PSNet perspective](#) delineated other strategies for addressing the opioid crisis.