

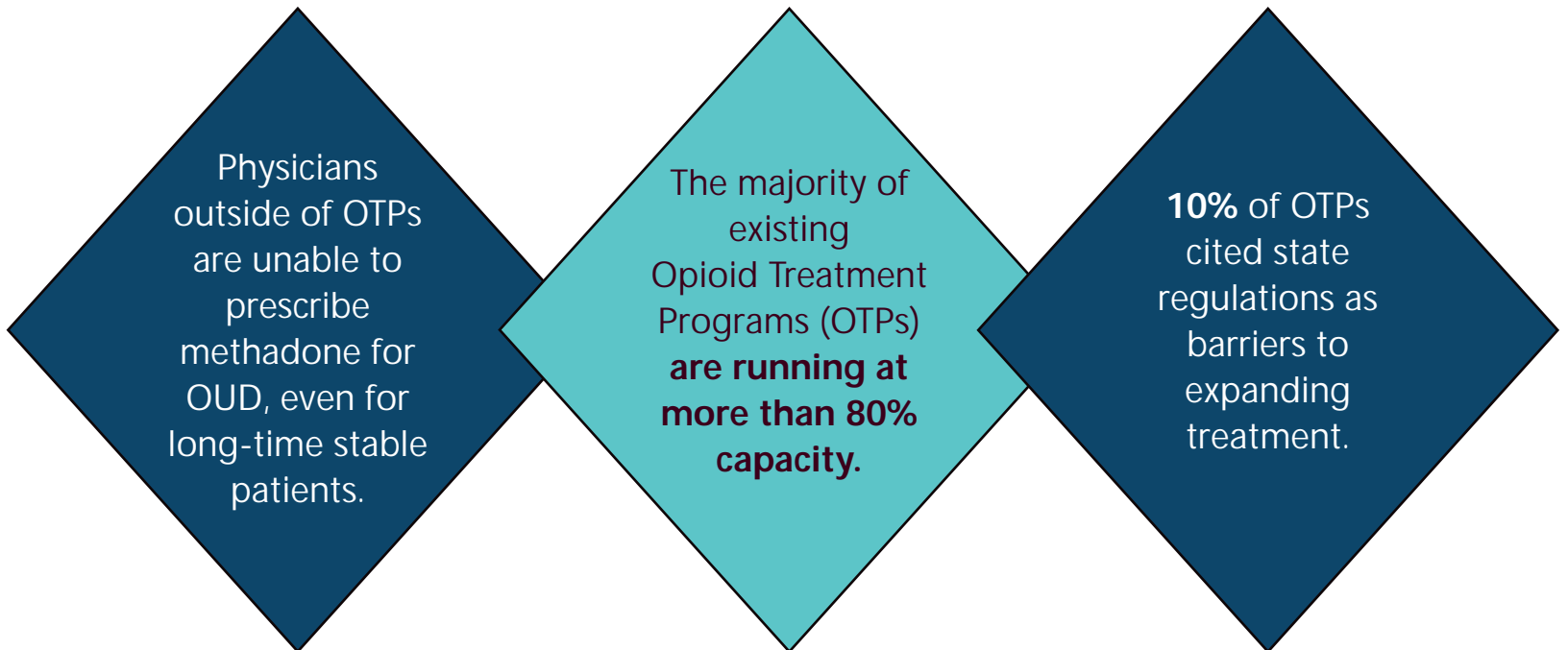
Improving Access to Evidence-Based Medical Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: Regulatory Barriers and Strategies



A key component to comprehensive substance use treatment is the ability for clinicians to share data in an efficient, effective way that improves outcomes. Unfortunately, special privacy regulations impair data sharing for patient care. **Regulations like this may contribute to the fragmentation of substance use disorder treatment from the rest of the healthcare system** and hinder care coordination among clinicians caring for patients with substance use disorder.

STRATEGY 6: To improve care coordination among clinicians, SAMHSA should revise restrictions on data sharing specific to substance use treatment programs.

STRATEGY 7: NIDA should fund research exploring the impact of prescription drug monitoring programs and other data sharing tools on overdose mortality and other opioid-related health outcomes.



Physicians outside of OTPs are unable to prescribe methadone for OUD, even for long-time stable patients.

The majority of existing Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) **are running at more than 80% capacity.**

10% of OTPs cited state regulations as barriers to expanding treatment.

SOURCE: Madras, B. K., N. J. Ahmad, J. Wen, J. Sharfstein, and the Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Working Group of the Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. *NAM Perspectives*. Discussion Paper, Washington, DC. <https://doi.org/10.31478/202004b>

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