

Common Methadone Myths & Realities

Myth: Opening a methadone clinic increases rates of crime in our community.

Reality: Methadone negates the need to seek 'street drugs' and illegal ways to pay for them by preventing opioid withdrawal and blocking the euphoric effects they would otherwise provide. This creates a reduction in crime rates.

Myth: The arrival of a methadone clinic encourages our citizens to use illicit drugs.

Reality: There is a demographic of opioid-dependent people in the community already. People who have been waiting for relief from their all-consuming dependence. It is estimated that over 50% of Change Health Care's Smiths Falls clientele hail from other methadone clinics in Ottawa, Brockville and Kingston. These people have been forced to find the time and modes of transportation to attend out-of-town clinics for treatment until now.

Myth: People on methadone are still 'addicts', even if they aren't using other 'street drugs'.

Reality: Individuals undergoing methadone maintenance treatment are often likened to people who take insulin as a treatment for their diabetes. Both are medications. Both allow the client to live a normal life (i.e. work in society, attend schooling, healthy parenting & relationships)

Myth: Methadone cures an opioid dependence.

Reality: Methadone is not a cure, nor is it a 'quick fix'. Methadone is one component of treatment for opioid dependence. It is a tool that must be utilized properly in order to be effective for the client to repair the damage caused by their dependence. There is no 'cure' for alcohol and drug dependence.