

Medical treatment findings from the *At-Risk Youth Study*



Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) reduces daily street opioid use among youth and young adults who use drugs

Youth and young adults on OAT do not experience improvements in other important areas, including ability to access services, homelessness, and incarceration

But, more than 2/3rds of ARYS participants are not accessing OAT

Findings highlight that medical treatment is important but NOT enough

Over 2/3rds of youth and young adults who use methadone maintenance therapy, subsequently discontinue treatment

Youth and young adults report low interest in initiating buprenorphine-naloxone

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- Medications for opioid use disorder are an important component of treatment for many youth and young adults who use drugs
- But many young people are hesitant to start and face barriers in accessing, staying on, and stopping medication
- In order to support youth and young adults who use drugs in their treatment goals, there needs to be access to a continuum of health and social services, harm reduction interventions, and more options for medical treatment

ARYS started in 2005 and is an ongoing open prospective cohort study of young people who use unregulated drugs in Vancouver, Canada.

ARYS is harmonized with the VIDUS and ACCESS cohorts.

The cohorts have contributed to advancing health policy and programming in Vancouver and beyond.

ARYS is recruiting!

If you are between the ages of 14-26 & are actively using drugs other than pot, you may be eligible to participate

Give us a call at 604-687-2797 or drop by our office: 1265 Granville Street Monday–Thursday 8:30AM–5:00PM

Scan for more information about ARYS



References

1. Pilarinos A, Fast D, Nosova E, Kwa Y, Joe R, Buxton JA, DeBeck K. Initiation of opioid agonist treatment and subsequent substance use and other patterns among adolescents and young adults in Vancouver, Canada. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2022 Jun 1;235:109441. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109441
2. Pilarinos A, Bingham B, Kwa Y, Joe R, Grant C, Fast D, Buxton J, DeBeck K. Interest in using buprenorphine-naloxone among a prospective cohort of street-involved young people in Vancouver, Canada. *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment.* 2023 May; 148:209005, 2949-8759. doi: 10.1016/j.josat.2023.209005.
3. Pilarinos A, Kwa Y, Joe R, Dong H, Grant C, Fast D, Buxton JA, DeBeck K. Methadone Maintenance Treatment Discontinuation Among Young People who use Opioids in Vancouver, Canada. *Can J Psychiatry.* 2023 Feb;68(2):89-100. doi: 10.1177/07067437221136468.