



**Illicit stimulant use among patients receiving injectable
opioid agonist treatment:
A qualitative grounded theory study**

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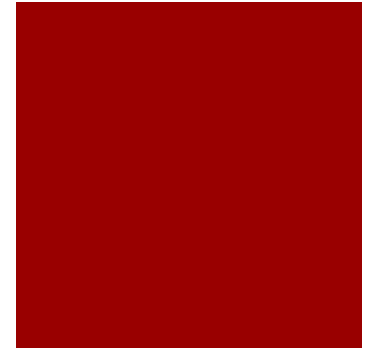
Disclosure Statement

- I have no conflicts to declare.



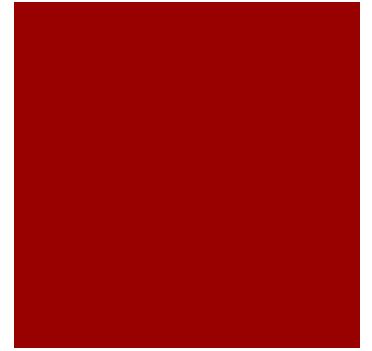
Cocaine use in iOAT

- Cocaine use is prevalent iOAT patients (1-3)
- Treatment outcomes:
 - Lower odds of treatment retention (3)
 - Higher rates of opioid use, poorer retention (4-7)
- Modest declines in cocaine use in iOAT
 - In SALOME trial:
 - 11/30 days at BL
 - 8/30 days at 6 months



Research Question

- What are the processes by which iOAT patients engage in the use of illicit stimulants?



Methods

- Qualitative one on one interviews (n=31)
 - Participants recruited from iOAT cohort study
 - Self-reporting any illicit stimulant use



Grounded theory approach



Direct coding of participants' words

Researcher reflection


**Iterative process of data collection +
analysis**

Developing a theory

Self-managing illicit stimulant use in iOAT



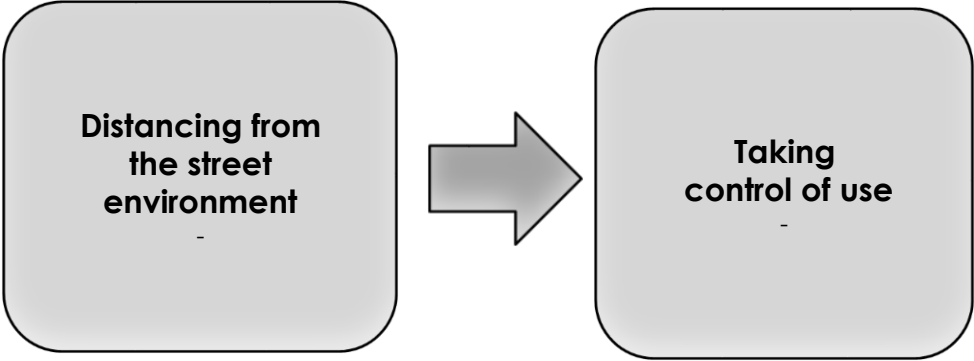
**Distancing from
the street
environment**




“It [iOAT] took me away from the trenches of the street right. I was always a hustler I was always down there, my life was buying dope to sell it to get more dope. Now that I don’t have to do that for the down [heroin] it sort of rubs off on the other drugs too right.”

-63-year old man

Self-managing illicit stimulant use in iOAT

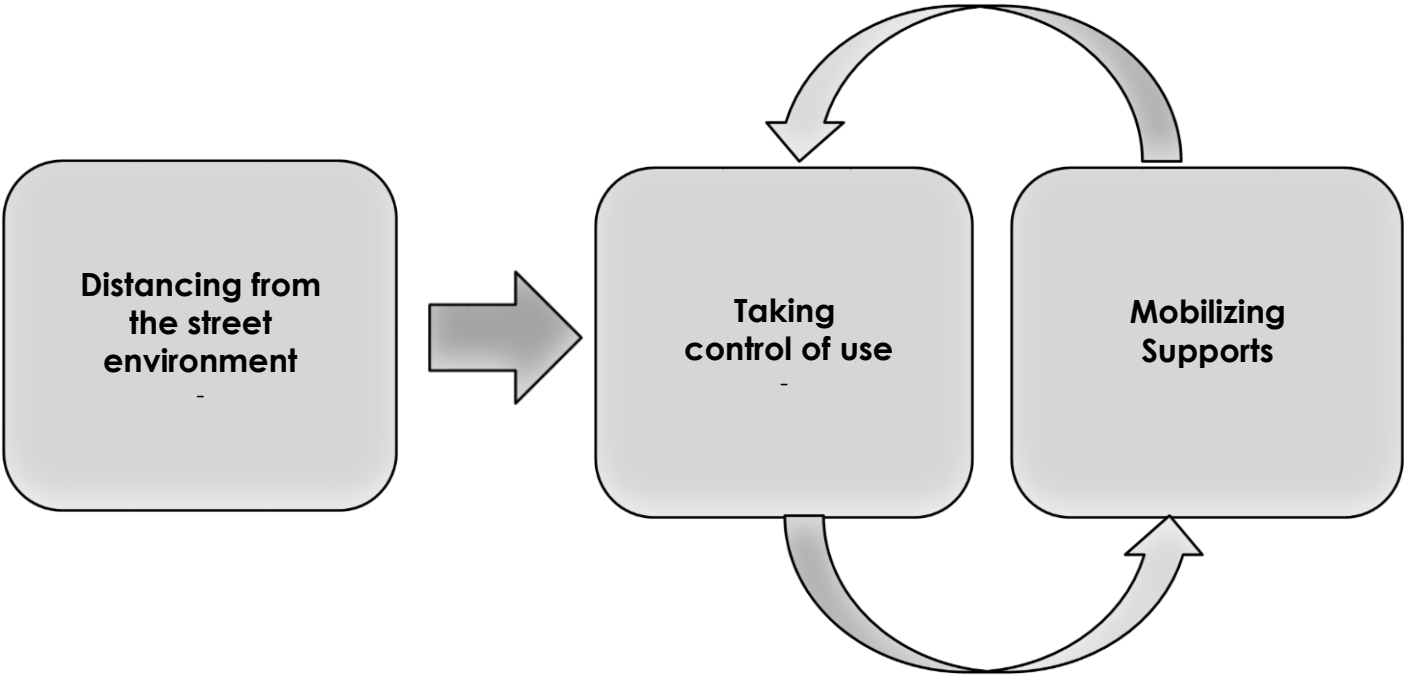





“It is more control, more control over what I am doing. Before if I had money I would spend it. Now we go shopping at Costco for whatever we need and leave money there for if we need it. I still get cravings [for crack cocaine] and I just try to do different things to try to get my mind off it. I go swimming, rollerblading, just going for a walk, I watch TV, or write. I am well so I can do those things again.”

-45 year old woman

Self-managing illicit stimulant use in iOAT





“If there was something for the cravings it would be amazing. That is what I am trying to beat right now. I side track myself and try to do other things to get it off my mind. So maybe I can figure out how to stop doing it.”

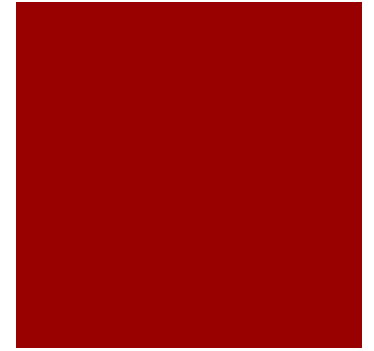
-46 year old woman

Discussion

- iOAT access can offer a first step toward stimulant use self-management
- Self-management framework:
 - Role of both individual efforts with external supports
- Evidence supports dexamphetamine for cocaine use in iOAT (Nuijten et al., 2016)



Next Steps

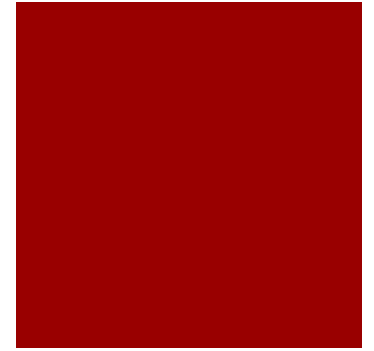


- Clinically:
 - KT project to promote dexamphetamine prescribing in new iOAT clinics
- Research:
 - Explore heterogeneity in stimulant use patterns
 - Individual, social, environmental factors associated with patterns of use

Acknowledgements

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