

# Opioid substitution treatments in France: recent data



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Nearly twenty years after they were first launched in France (1995), opioid substitution treatments (OSTs) remain a cornerstone of the country's harm reduction policy. As part of medical, psychological and social treatment, OSTs promote access to care for opioid-dependent drug users and reduce morbidity, mortality and social harm.

This analysis presents a summary of the latest OST data available. It is a follow-up to a series of studies initiated in 2002 of opioid substitution medication (OSM) reimbursement data. Other sources are also used in this issue of *Tendances*, which begins with presenting an estimate of the number of people receiving OSTs in France and in Europe. Then, there is a description of the relevant population, distinguishing between approaches to follow-up and treatment dispensing as well as a discussion of the issue of misuse and diversion. There is also a discussion on the control measures put in place and OSM related morbidity and mortality risks. Finally, there is a brief discussion on "the French model" of substitution therapy.

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