Getting to Services:
Far, Far Away

The number of drug-related poisoning deaths in the United States more than tripled between 1999 and 2017, accompanied by a rise in injection drug use. Since uptake of treatment for substance use disorder and harm reduction services at syringe services programs can reduce the risk of HIV and hepatitis C acquisition, access to services is critically important.

Many miles to go

The average distance required to travel to a substance abuse treatment facility is 11.3 miles, 17.6 miles for a facility providing medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and 90.9 miles for a syringe services program (SSP).

![Distance to SSP facility chart]

Too many Americans left behind

Syringe services programs and medication-assisted therapy often require daily or weekly visits to facilities. According to one study, people typically do not access SSPs if they are more than ten miles from where they live. Yet nearly 30% of Americans (95.7 million people) live more than ten miles from a facility providing medication-assisted treatment, and nearly 80% (260.9 million people) live more than ten miles from an SSP.

![Maps of Americans living more than 10 miles from a MAT facility and an SSP]
