

One of the best interventions we have in the opioid crisis is buprenorphine (when combined with naloxone goes by the trade name Suboxone). It's a partial agonist of the opioid receptors, helping reduce cravings and also helping with chronic pain. There are currently over 7,000 people in Baltimore alone who are not being treated for substance use disorder. Due to the federal DATA 2000 law, prescribing this medication requires a special waiver from the DEA called an X-waiver. This requires 8 hours of training for physicians. I completed my training online after residency, however, many residents see patients with substance use disorder and are unable to prescribe this medication due to restrictions from this 19 year old law. Residents practice under the supervision of an attending physician who has a CDS license and DEA number. **We should allow residents to gain a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine** so that they can learn in a supervised environment how best to treat substance use disorder. The lives and livelihoods of so many people struggling with addiction depends on more providers to prescribe this medication and refer to substance use disorder counseling.