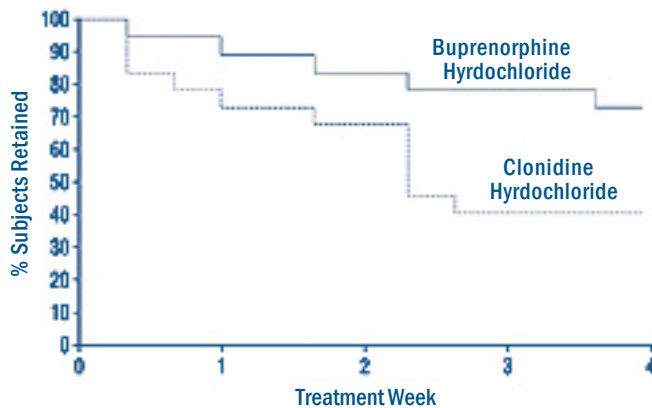




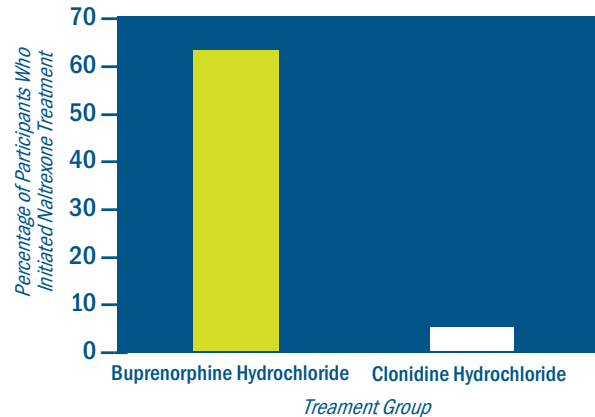
## Buprenorphine Effective in Opioid Detoxification Treatment of Substance Dependent Youth

Opioid use among adolescents has greatly increased in the last decade, with use of heroin by high school students more than doubling since the early 1990s. A recent study<sup>1</sup> found that the administration of buprenorphine<sup>2</sup> was more effective than clonidine hydrochloride<sup>3</sup> in behavioral therapy based detoxification programs<sup>4</sup> for opioid dependent youth. Youth receiving buprenorphine during detoxification treatment were significantly more likely than those receiving clonidine hydrochloride to complete a 28-day detoxification treatment program (72 vs. 39 percent) and to provide opiate negative urine samples (64 vs. 32 percent). Additionally, youth in the buprenorphine sample were more likely to enter post-detoxification treatment compared to those in the clonidine hydrochloride group (61 vs. 5 percent).

Client Retention in Detoxification Treatment



Clients Entering Post-Detoxification Treatment



**Source:** Marsch, L.A., Bickel, W.K., Badger, G.J., Stothart, M.E., Quesnel, K.J., Stanger, C., and Brooklyn, J. (2005). Comparison of Pharmacological Treatments for Opioid-Dependent Adolescents: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Archives of General Psychiatry*. Vol. 62, No. 10, February 2007.

<sup>1</sup> In a double blind, randomized study, 36 youth were enrolled in two groups. In conjunction with a 28-day behavioral detoxification therapy program, one group was administered buprenorphine, the other clonidine hydrochloride.

<sup>2</sup> Buprenorphine is an opioid partial agonist. At low doses buprenorphine allows opioid-addicted individuals to discontinue the use of opioids and avoid withdrawal symptoms.

<sup>3</sup> Clonidine hydrochloride is used to treat high blood pressure in adults and as an anti-hypertensive in the treatment of opioid withdrawal.

<sup>4</sup> Behavioral therapy was based on the Community Reinforcement Approach which trains client on stimulus, urge, and social control.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit [www.tasc.org](http://www.tasc.org).