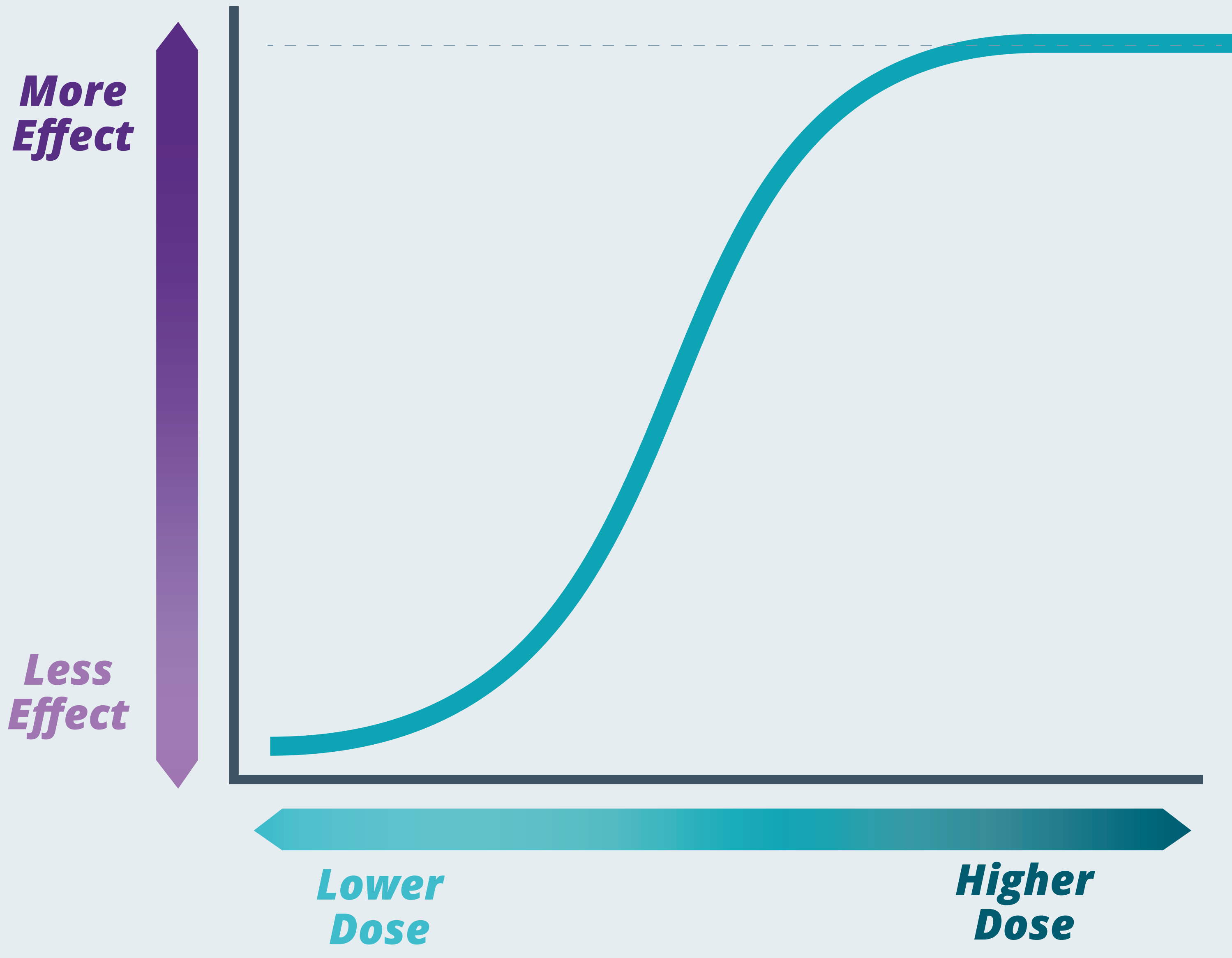


WHAT IS THE DRUG CEILING EFFECT?

The drug ceiling effect refers to a particular phenomenon in pharmacology where a drug's impact on the body plateaus. At this point, taking higher doses does not increase its effect.



TREATING OPIOID SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

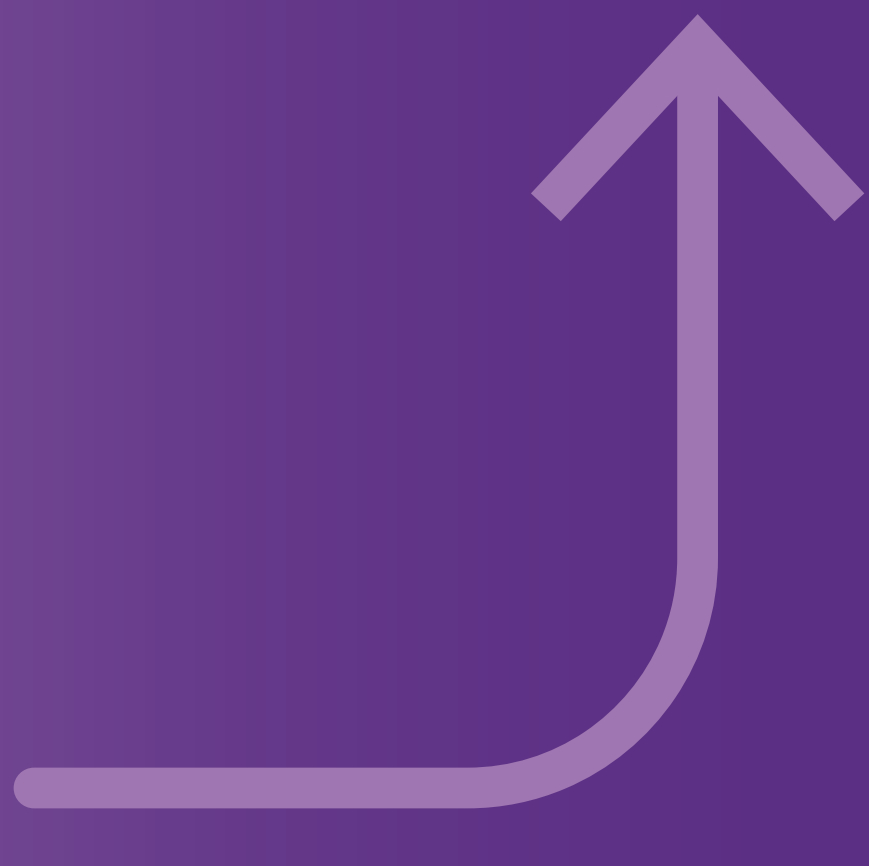
There are two types of agonists used to treat substance use disorders. One creates a drug ceiling effect and one does not.

The first, methadone, is a full agonist and typically used for treatment.



METHADONE

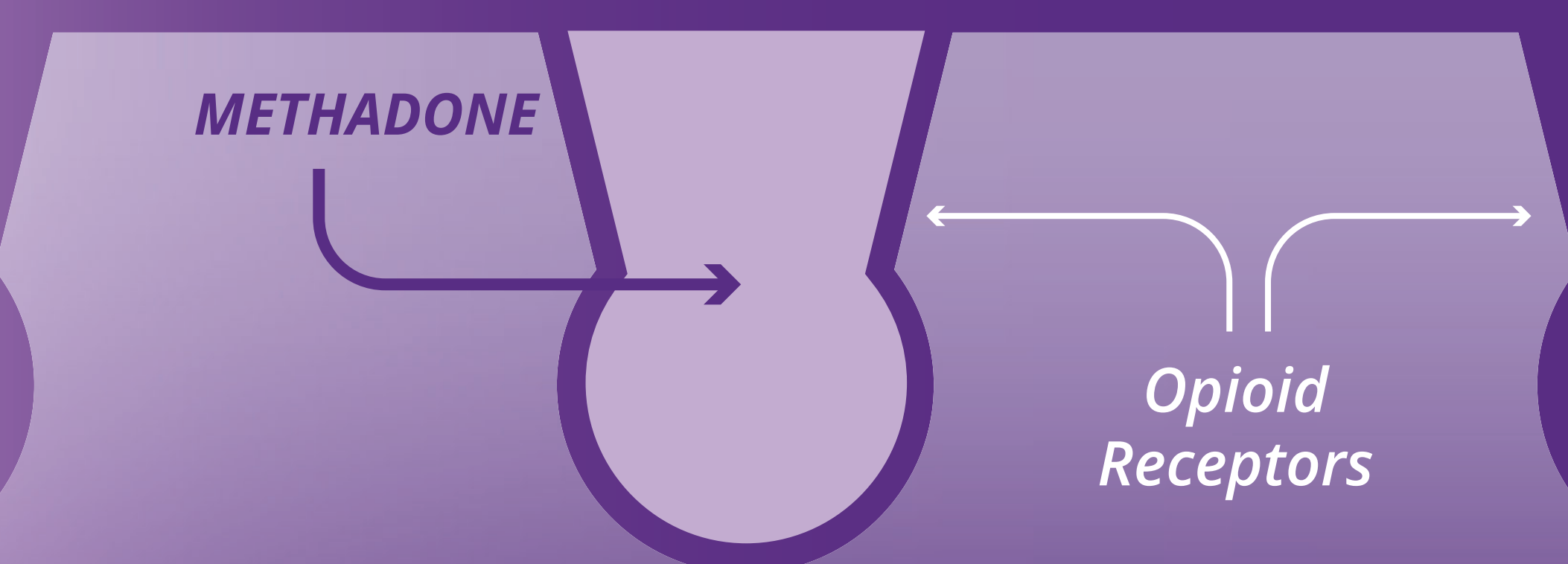
Does *not* have a drug ceiling and is most useful for treating patients who have been using substances for a long period of time.



Lasts 59 hours in the body.

FULL AGONIST

Activates opioid receptors. More potent with no drug ceiling effect. Must be administered by medical staff.

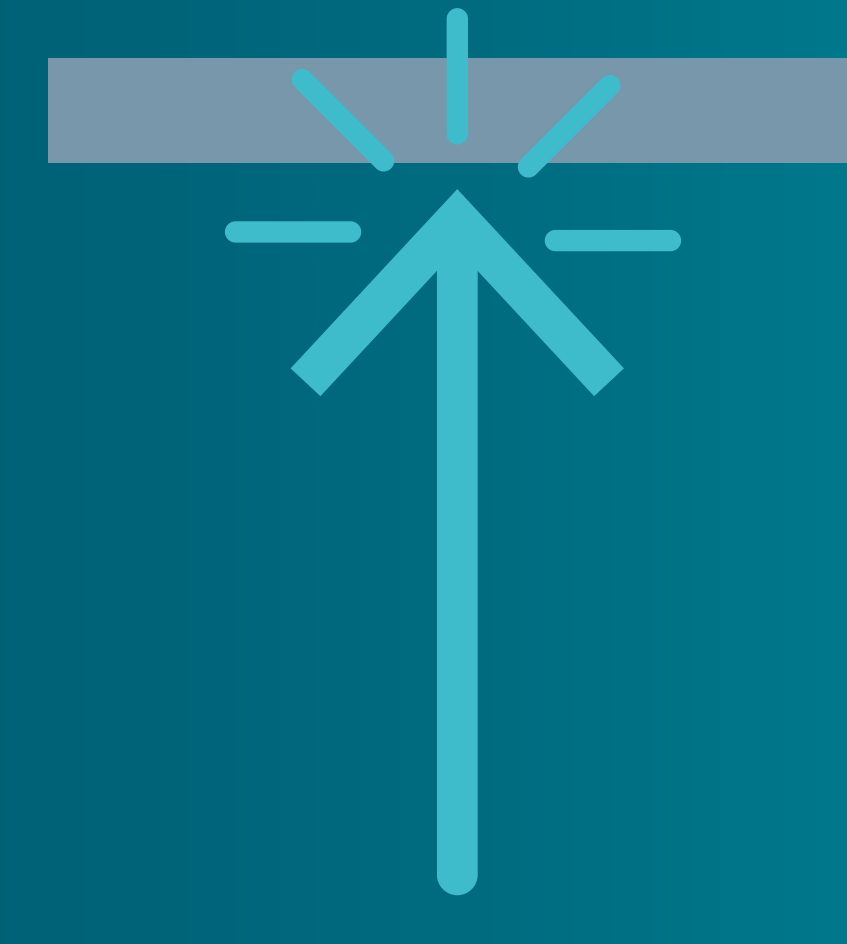


The second is a partial agonist called buprenorphine.



BUPRENORPHINE

Creates a drug ceiling effect and is used to treat patients who have not yet built up a strong resistance to opioids.



Lasts 60 hours in the body.

PARTIAL AGONIST

Partially activates, but also partially blocks opioid receptors, creating a drug ceiling effect.

