Telemedicine for opioid use disorder treatment in the age of Covid-19

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- Work supported by:
 - ◆ VA HSR&D (CDA 18-008)
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 - CDC UM Injury Prevention Center (R49 CE003085)







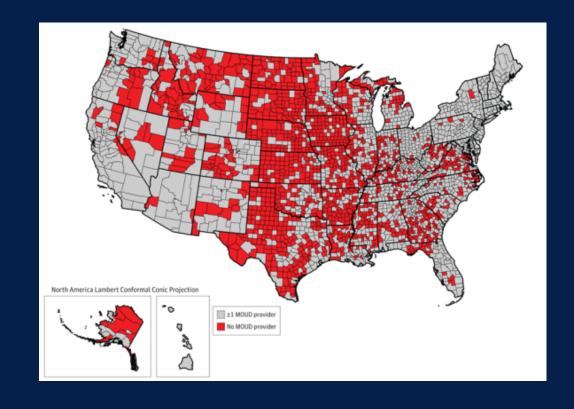
Even before COVID-19, the need for increased accessibility of OUD treatment

Access

 Estimates of 20-40% of persons with OUD, perhaps less, receiving effective medication treatment.

Sub-optimal Outcomes

 Even in those who access/start medication treatment, retention is low (< 50% at 3 months of treatment) and there is high risk for overdose and other negative outcomes when patients stop treatment.

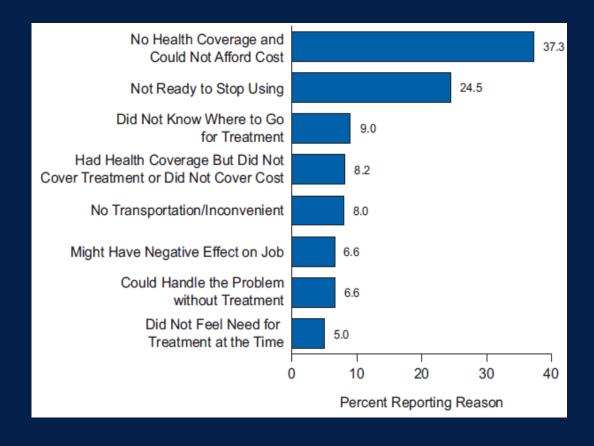




Barriers to OUD Treatment

 Despite such extensive negative impacts from OUD, treatment rates have long remained low. The question is why?







Distance a particular barrier for addiction treatment

- Distance has been described by patients as a major reason for discontinuing SUD treatment and associated with lower followup for SUD treatment
- Particularly challenging for SUD treatment that often requires frequent (weekly) visits over time and many SUD clinics have practice where they discharge patients if they miss appointments
- Particular barrier for this patient population "What's the one thing that could help you engage in treatment?..."
 - "That's easy, a car!"





What is telemedicine?

 Synchronous/live videoconferencing: connects providers and patients in real time for direct care delivery (most common modality reimbursed)

 Asynchronous/store and forward: not "real time," allow for electronic transmission of medical information, such as digital images

 Other modalities such as telephone, text or web-based interventions not included





Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Act of 2008

- Concerns prescribing of controlled medications when provider and patient are not in the same location
- Must conduct an initial face-to-face evaluation unless:
 - The facility where the patient is physically present has its own DEA license
 - Covering provider or emergencies
 - And other exceptions (including current federally declared public health emergency)



And then came COVID-19

- Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Act Exemption during Public Health Emergency
- New guidance and changes from SAMHSA, DEA, payers and others decreasing barriers in :
 - Use of phone visits
 - ◆ Take home methadone
 - CFR42 part 2
 - HIPAA
 - Reimbursement
 - Prescribing across states

Viewpoint

July 1, 2020

Telehealth for Substance-Using Populations in the Age of Coronavirus Disease 2019

Recommendations to Enhance Adoption

ASAM

Lewei (Allison) Lin, MD, MS^{1,2}; Anne C. Fernandez, PhD²; Erin E. Bonar, PhD^{2,3}

ONLINE FIRST

But barriers still exist and will likely persist after COVID-19

- Urine toxicology testing
- Clinical guidelines on high quality treatment practices
- Adhering to state laws on prescribing controlled medications
- Uncertainty about whether new regulations will persist
- How to treat more complex patients who may at times need higher level of care and you may want to assess in person?
- Interest/comfort level in using telemedicine by clinic staff



https://www.cchpca.org/telehealthpolicy/current-state-laws-andreimbursement-policies



Patient views on OUD telemedicine

- Patients who have received tele-buprenorphine:
- "I mean it's just more convenient... It's less time that I have to spend to take out what I need to do in life. Like going to (the clinic), it's kind of rough to have a day off once a week to go to (the clinic) to see a doc and do all of this."
- "I don't feel like there's any more risk or anything like that. I think right now maybe because of the corona situation maybe so", (getting prescription w/o drug test), "me personally no it's not a problem whatsoever"
- The least helpful part is...medication getting lost in the mail, the VA not getting your UDS, you not being home and your medication goes someplace else...that's real real crazy stuff to happen, you don't want to wind up with no medication... medication getting shipped out to the right place, someone's gotta be home to sign"



Questions

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Implementation of Hub and Spoke Tele-Buprenorphine During the Coronavirus Pandemic

David T. Moore, MD PhD Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Yale School of Medicine



Disclosure Information (Required)

- Presenter 1: David T. Moore, MD PhD
 - Presenter 1 Commercial Interests: Alkermes, payment for consulting

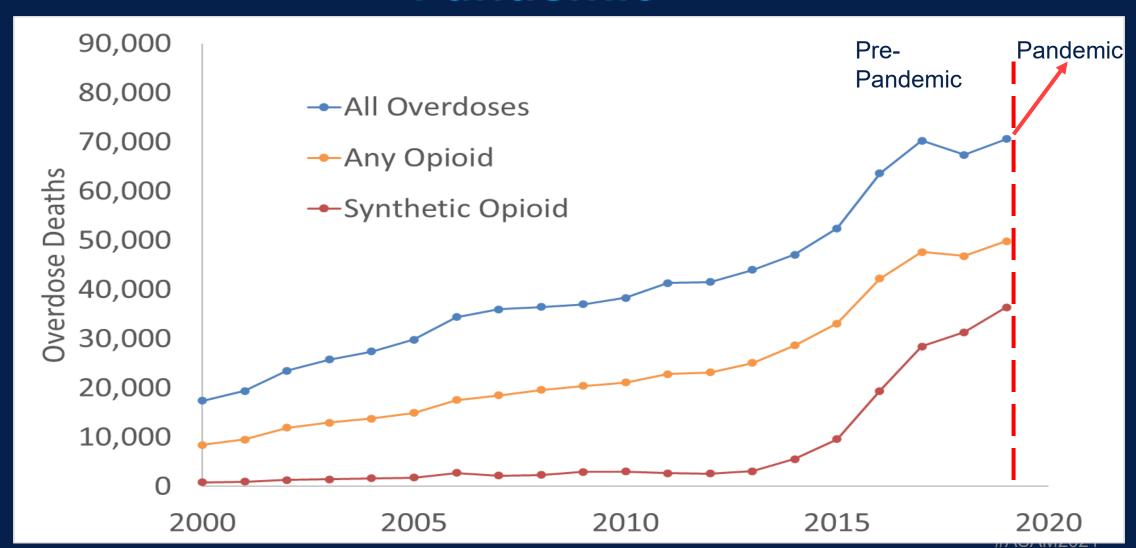


Key Points

- During the pandemic, overdose rates have dramatically increased
- Many communities with increased overdose rates, also have low access to buprenorphine prescribers
- + Hub & Spoke Telemedicine can:
 - Accelerate implementation of buprenorphine
 - ◆ Increase the <u>resilience</u> of existing buprenorphine services
- Hub & Spoke tele-buprenorphine prescribers need to join larger interprofessional team



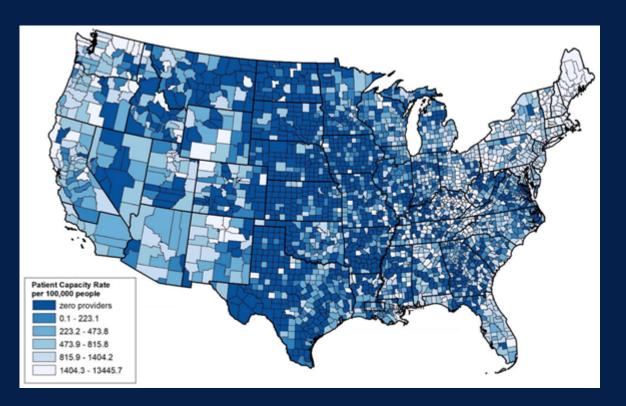
Fatal Drug Overdoses Accelerated During the Pandemic



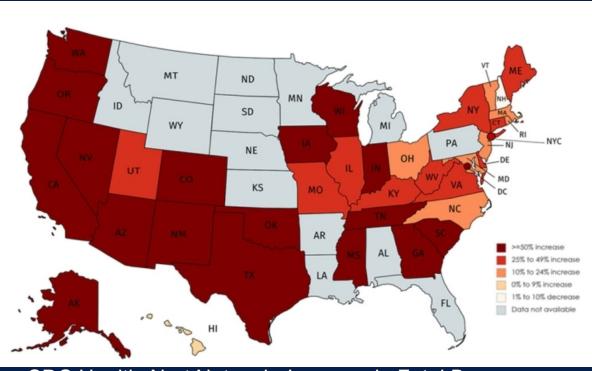


Buprenorphine Access and Overdose Rates Depend on Location

Per-Capita Buprenorphine Prescribers



Synthetic Opioid Mortality Increased >98% in Western States (May 2020 vs June 2019)

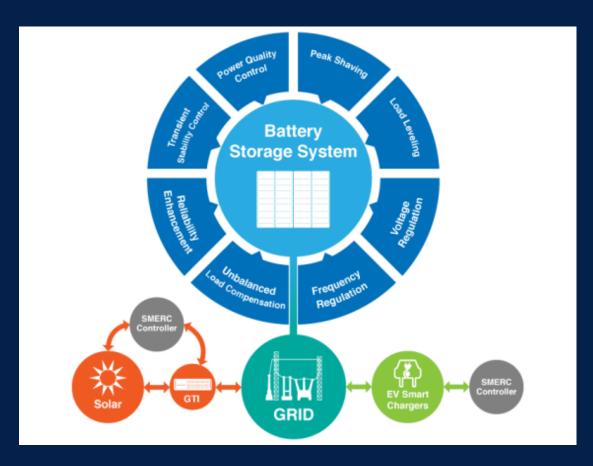


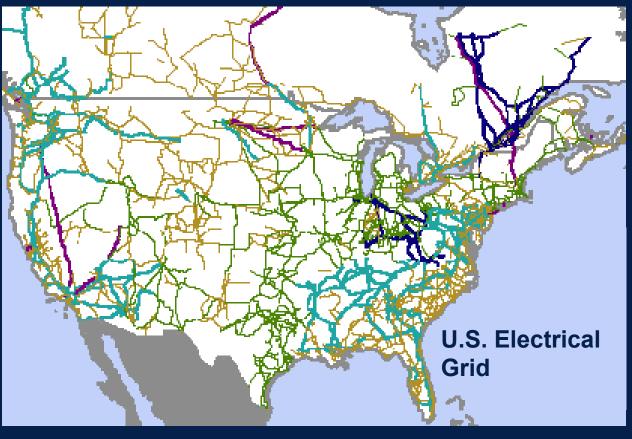
CDC Health Alert Network. *Increase in Fatal Drug*Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic
Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
2020.





Smart Electrical Grids can "Load Balance" to Keep the System Healthy





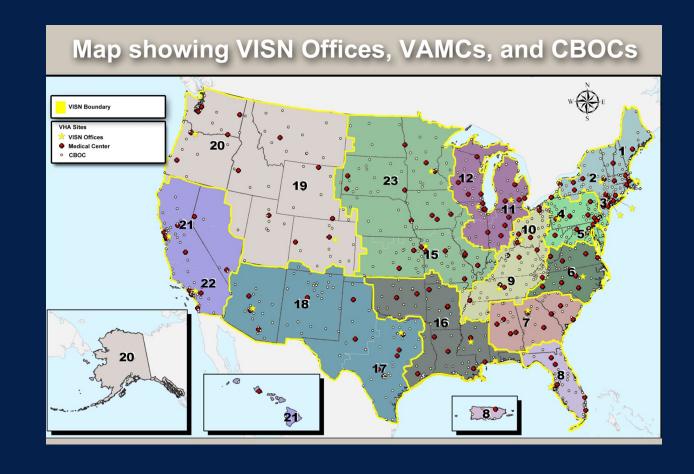
https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=8930





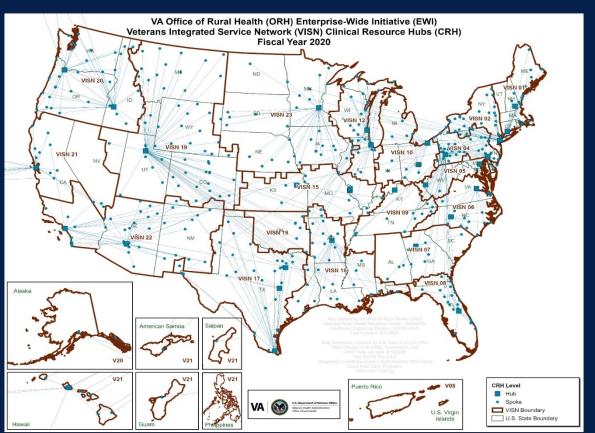
Can Resilient Services be Provided Across a Complex Healthcare System?

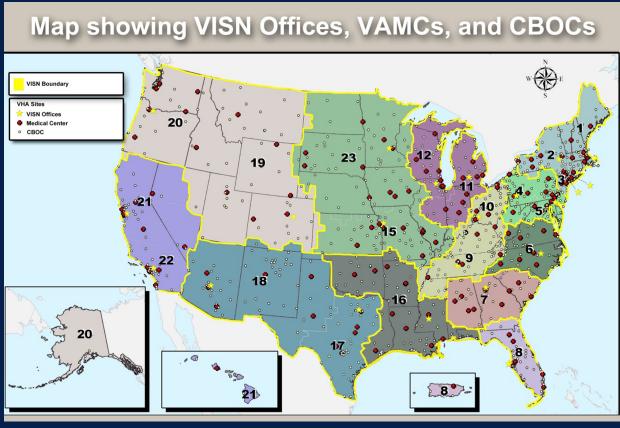
- >170 Medical Centers
- >1,0000 Community Clinics
- From Maine to Miami to Guam





Telemedicine Hubs Match Services to Communities Where Demand is Highest







Hub & Spoke Video Telemedicine









Hub & Spoke Telemedicine can Support All Parts of Stepped Care

Level 0

Self-management

- Mutual help groups
- Skills application

Step 1

Addiction-focused medical management

- Primary Care
- Mental Health

Step 2

SUD Specialty Care

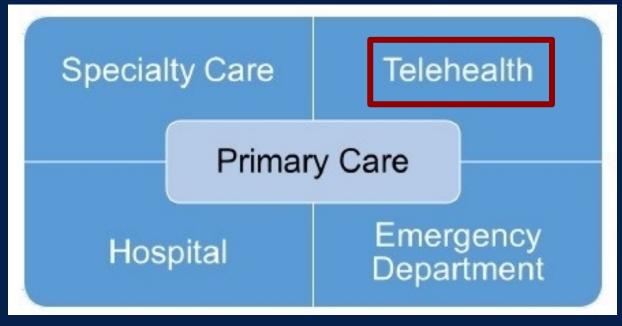
- Addiction specialty care
- CBT-SUD
- SUD groups
- IOP
- Residential



CONsortium to Disseminate and Understand Implementation of Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (CONDUIT)

Five Implementation Facilitation teams collaborating to increase access to Medications for OUD at nearly 60 sites







CONDUIT: Implementation of Telebuprenorphine in Rural Clinics

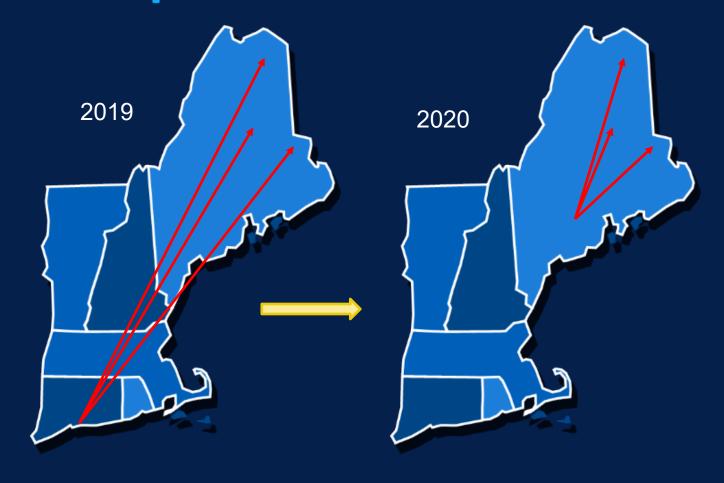
- Implementation-Facilitation Tools:
 - Local Champions: nursing staff, telehealth presenters
 - ◆ Internal Facilitators: Clinical Pharmacists
 - Audit and feedback
- Facilitators:
 - Local staff want buprenorphine in their communities
 - Comfort with telemedicine
- Barriers:
 - Uncertain regulations
 - Local vs remote practices
 - Mailing medications





Remote Prescribing can Pave the Way for Local Adoption

- 2019: Three sites in Maine received buprenorphine services from a prescribers in CT
- 25 Veterans in highly rural primary care clinics
- VA Maine Healthcare System increased number of buprenorphine providers from 2019 to 2020
- In 2020, VA Maine HCS took over tele-buprenorphine services





Coverage of "Step-2" Specialty Addiction Services During the Pandemic

- Buprenorphine prescriber shortages occurred after intense COVID-19 outbreaks
- 30 bed addiction residential program
 - On-site nursing, therapy, case management, and social work
- 300 patient dual diagnosis clinic with 100 patients on buprenorphine
 - On-site nursing, therapy, case management, and social work





Coverage of Specialty Clinics Means Joining Interprofessional Teams



Frequent Virtual Huddles

Complex Scheduling



On-site Staff

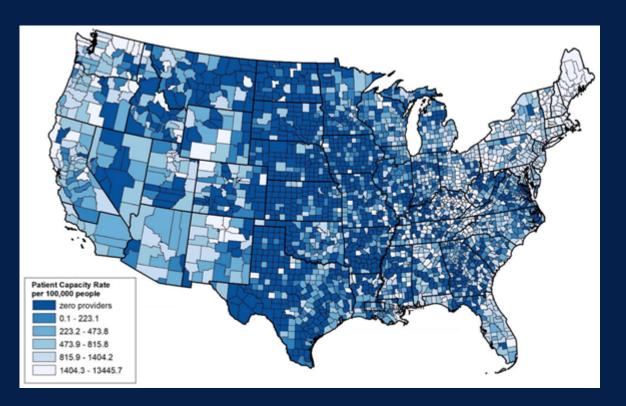
On-site COVID Precautions

Urine Toxicology

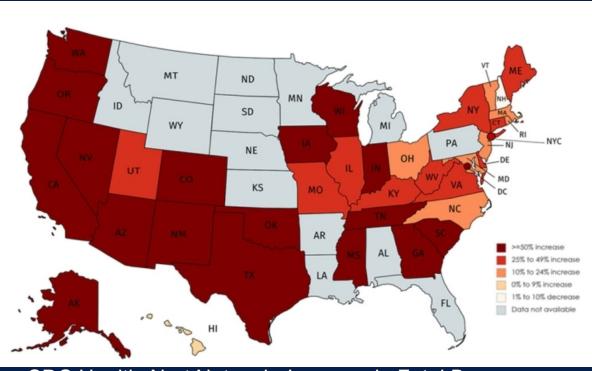


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Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
2020.





Final Takeaways

Hub & Spoke Tele-buprenorphine supports dissemination and sustainment of buprenorphine services

 The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that our OUD treatment network is fragile

◆ Tele-buprenorphine services are needed to reach communities without buprenorphine prescribers during the pandemic



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Telemedicine for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Rural Settings

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Director, UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Clinic
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Disclosure Information

- Larissa Mooney, MD
 - No Disclosures
 - Rural Expansion of Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), NIDA Clinical Trials
 Network (CTN), CTN-0102
 - Grant Number: 1UG1DA049435



Learning Objectives

- Discuss OUD treatment needs in rural settings
- Discuss three perceived provider-level barriers to TM
- Identify three social/structural disparities in digital access



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 - Todd Korthius, MD (Co-LI)
- Weil Cornell Medical College
- Participating rural clinics



AL TRIALS

Telemedicine to Expand Access to OUD Treatment in Rural Communities

- Rural areas experience opioid overdose and death rates among the highest in the country.
- Despite national efforts to increase office-based opioid treatment (OBOT), uptake has been slow in rural communities, with relatively few X-waivered providers.
- Relative lack of rural substance use disorder (SUD) specialty care
- Integrating TM for delivery of medication treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) into rural primary care may increase treatment access and retention. #ASAM2021

CTN-0102 Rural MOUD Expansion

Primary goal:

- Study the effectiveness and impact of a program delivering MOUD that includes both TM and OBOT in rural settings
 - MOUD initiation/retention

Secondary goals:

- Patient level outcomes (e.g., opioid use)
- ◆ Barriers and facilitators of implementing TM+OBOT in rural settings
- Uptake of extended-release injectable formulations
- Economic evaluation



Phase 1: Feasibility Study

Objectives	 Identify ways to integrate TM with OBOT in rural primary care settings Pilot test the integration of TM and OBOT
Design	 6 rural sites with varying levels of OBOT capacity: 0, 1-3, more than 3 waivered providers
Outcomes	 Appropriateness, Acceptability, Feasibility Clinic and patient level outcomes (number of patients and days on MOUD)



Rural Primary Care Clinics: Initial concerns and motivation for TM participation^{2,3}

Initial concerns re: TM

- Compatibility in treatment philosophies
- Uncertain about remote therapeutic relationships
- Lack of trust
- Potential competition for patients

Reasons for interest:

- Limited number of waivered prescribers
- Lack of or limited behavioral health
- Non-adherent or more complex pts
- Providers are seeking better care for their patients
- To expand MOUD access in surrounding communities in need



TM Service Delivery Arrangement²⁻³

- Type of services desired from TM
- Referral procedures
- Communication on patient progress
- Plan to address no-shows/dropout from services
- Billing for services

Which patients to refer to TM²⁻³

- Refer all OUD pts, if no or limited Xwaivered providers/behavioral health care on site
- Patients with logistical barriers (distance, transportation)
- Patients with high clinical complexity (or low?)
- Patients with stated preferences for TM

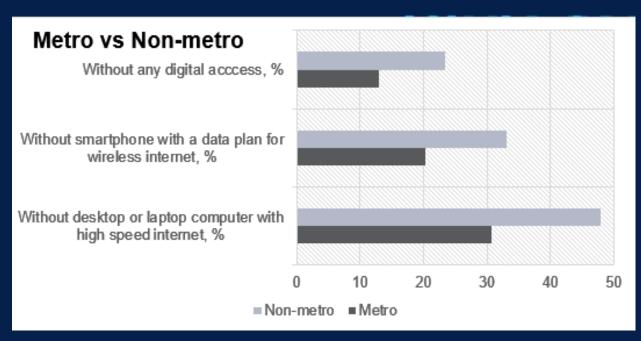


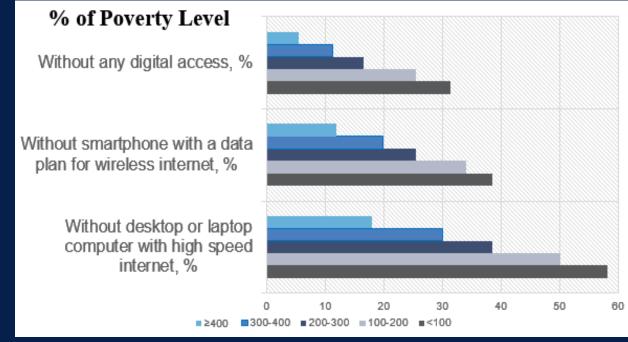
Early Lessons from Feasibility Study (Implemented July/Aug 2020)³

- COVID impact: Clinics' adjustments in procedures, staffing, visits
- TM referrals initially slow
 - Initially more clinically complex patients
 - Some patients resistant to being referred out
 - Preference for in-person visits
 - Drug court preferences for in-person visits
- Digital access challenges (devices, broadband)
 - Particularly during COVID when public Wi-Fi access is not available
 - Disparity
- OUD Screening & diagnosis
 - Low yield from screening
 - Both patients and providers not comfortable with SUD diagnosis
 - Other substance use problems and/or mental health problems



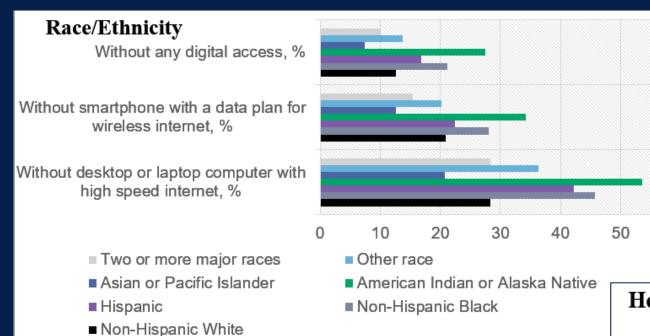
Disparities in Digital Access –2019 ACS⁵

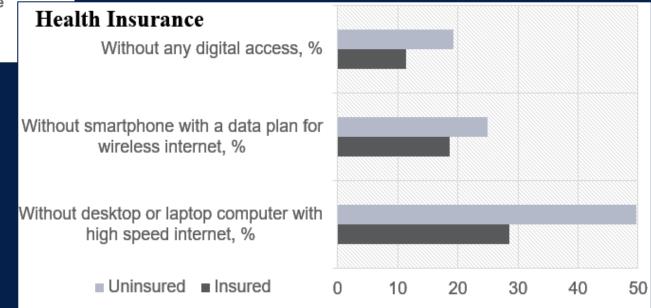






Disparities in Digital Access –2019 ACS⁵







Focus Groups: Clinic TM during COVID^{6,7}

- ◆ Factors influencing decisions about on-site TM vs. in-person care:
 - Internet connectivity
 - Concerns about pt monitoring & care (e.g. drug screens)
 - Pt engagement/accountability (e.g. missed visits)
- Perceptions about partnering with TM vendor
 - More privacy/less stigma
 - Access to resources not available locally (e.g. chronic pain, behavioral health)
 - Perceived barriers:
 - Connectivity/technology
 - Trust/communication
 - Cost/insurance
 - Concerns about quality of TM vs. in-person care



Summary

- TM may be used to expand MOUD service delivery in rural areas
- Use of external TM company/providers is one model to facilitate rapid scale-up
- Disparities in digital access (e.g. devices, broadband) create barriers to TM access in rural communities
- Addressing concerns about trust, communication, and clinical care may facilitate TM implementation and service planning



Thank You!

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- Private Practice

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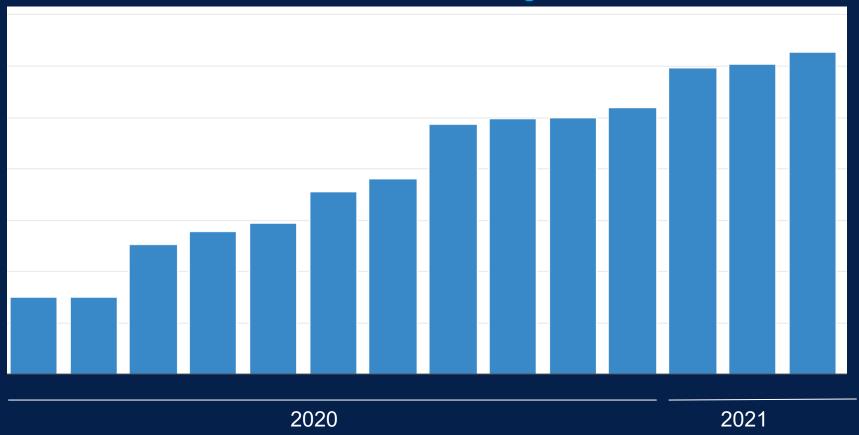
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Company Overview

- Active in 40+ states
- Multidisciplinary team
 - Physicians
 - Nursing
 - Therapists
 - Care Managers
- Digitally Native
- Payor mix
 - 65% MediCaid
 - Commercial and Medicare
- Addiction, Behavioral Health, Chronic Care Management
- Harm reduction

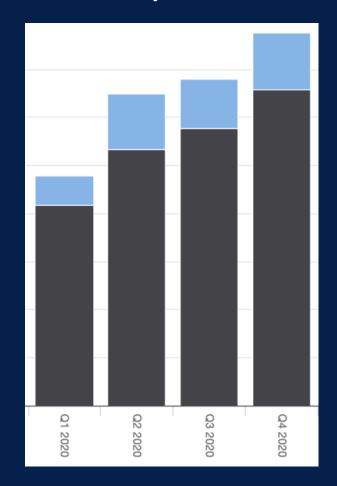


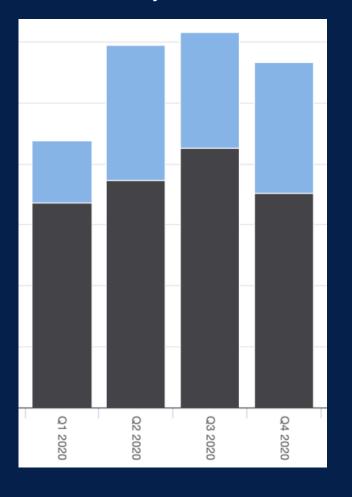
COVID Impact





Retention Data – MOUD Program – 2/25/2021







Agenda

- ◆ Telemedicine 1.0
 - **◆** Enablement
- ◆ Telemedicine 2.0
 - Patient Centered Care
- ◆ Telemedicine 3.0
 - Advancement and Innovation



Telemedicine 1.0

Enablement



Determine Approach — Levels of Delivery ◆ Adjunct to in-person care Pro/Con

- - Provide sessions on a case-by-case basis
 - Example: "sent telemedicine link in email"
- Hybrid Model Some Services thru Telemedicine
 - Provide sessions on a service line Therapy, Specialists, etc.
 - Example: "All counselor appointments are telemedicine"
- Telemedicine Clinic All Services via Telemedicine
 - Provide full clinic services in virtual space
 - Example: "Waiting room, exam rooms, group rooms. etc.)



R i s k

Security & Risk Management

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SECURITY

- BAA
- Use Waiting Rooms or other security measures to prevent unwanted guests
- Headphones
- Scan room to ensure privacy

- Check-in more frequently
- Easy to supervise care and ensure adherence
- Pill/Wrapper Counts on-demand
- Virtual Drug Screens
- Easy to move patients to other ODS providers who need care through joint session (super warm handoff)

Telemedicine 2.0

Patient-Centered Care



No Limits to Specialty (-ization)

- Specialists can be located anywhere, as long as licensed in state of practice
- Ability to provide patient-centered services
 - EMDR
 - Psychiatry
 - Etc.
- Specialty Tracks
 - Pregnant Females
 - ◆ LBGTQ
 - Male
 - Stimulant Usage
- Non-Provider Encounters
 - Yoga
 - Exercise & Movement



Telemedicine 3.0

Advancements in Care



Easy Engagement

- ◆ 24 x 7 Walk-in Clinic
- Digital Access Points
- Engagement Models
 - SMS
 - Website
 - Encounters







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