

The Opioid Epidemic: How Have Buprenorphine Waivered OB/GYNs Impacted Treatment Availability in New York?

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INTRODUCTION

- Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a known risk factor for pregnancy-related maternal deaths and greatly contributes to other obstetrical and neonatal complications
- Physicians are urged to obtain a US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) waiver (x-waiver) to reduce use associated risks through prescribing buprenorphine
- The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG) encouraged OB/GYNs to participate but the effectiveness of this initiative is unclear

OBJECTIVE

To observe the number and geographic distribution of x-waivered physicians in New York, with a focus on OB/GYN providers

METHODS

- Waivered physicians in NY were identified using the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Buprenorphine Practitioner Locator from June 2021
- Providers were identified as OB/GYN or MFM linking the SAMHSA locator and external datasets (ie. CMS Physician Compare and the NY State Department of Health Individual Provider Network Data)
- STATA 16 was used to determine county level treatment capacities (based on x-waiver patient limit), need (opioid burden/100,000 people), and NAS rates relative to OB/GYN or MFM provider location
- NY County Level NAS rates and opioid burden were obtained from NY State Department of Health
- Geographic distribution of waived physicians was mapped on a county level using ArcGIS Pro

RESULTS

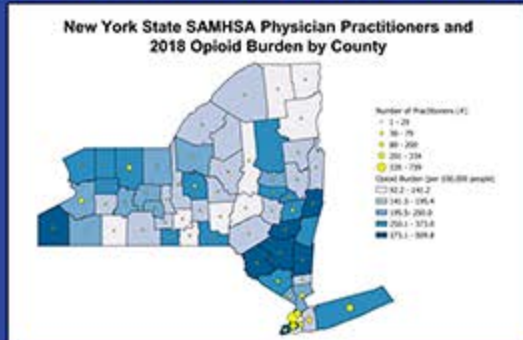
Buprenorphine Waivered Physicians

- 2,965 x-waivered physicians were identified practicing in 59 of the 62 counties (Figure 1)
 - 2.6% (n=76) providing care in 2 or more counties
 - 11% of counties (n=7) had an opioid burden exceeding 90% of treatment capacity

OB/GYN Specific Results

- 1.5% (n=46) of x-waivered physicians identified as OB/GYN or MFM
 - Only 20 counties had at least one x-waivered OB/GYN or MFM
- No OB/GYNs are located in counties with need exceeding 90% of the treatment capacity
- 60% of counties (14 of the 23) with above median NAS rates have no waived OB/GYNs whereas 52% of counties with below median NAS rates have at least 1 waived OB/GYN (Figure 2)

Figure 1: Distribution of Waivered Practitioners

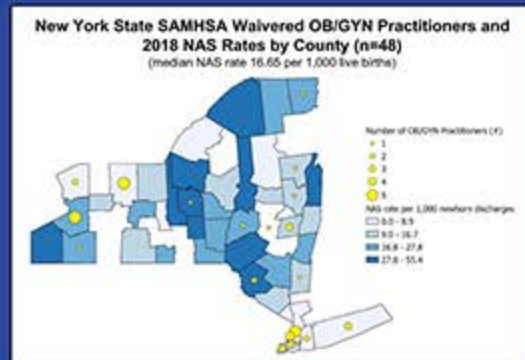


RESULTS cont.

OB/GYN Specific Results cont.

- 96% of counties (22 of the 23) with above median NAS rates have sufficient capacity to treat

Figure 2: Distribution of OB/GYN Practitioners



CONCLUSION

- OB/GYNs constitute only a small percentage of x-waivered providers in NY
- X-waivered OB/GYNs are typically located in counties with sufficient capacity to treat OUD and with below median NAS rates
- Future efforts should target increasing the number of waived OB/GYNs in counties with the greatest need as well as include measures to ensure obstetric and treatment outcomes are on par with those of patients treated by specialists in addiction medicine