

Barriers and Facilitators to Integrating MOUD and HIV PrEP for Adolescents and Young Adults



Maria Herrera, MD, MSHP¹; Kaja Darien, BA¹; Sarah Wood, MD, MSHP^{1,2}; Scott E. Hadland, MD, MPH, MS³; David Metzger, PhD²; Nadia Dowshen, MD, MSHP^{1,2}

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia¹; University of Pennsylvania², MassGeneral Hospital for Children / Harvard Medical School³

INTRODUCTION

- The syndemic of substance use and HIV threatens to undermine the priorities outlined by the National Institutes of Health "Ending the HIV Epidemic" initiative.
- However, few studies have explored integrated PrEP and MOUD for young people who face a disproportionate burden of HIV and preventable overdose deaths.

METHODS

- Qualitative study consisting of individual interviews of healthcare providers who prescribed MOUD and/or PrEP for youth ages 16-29, recruited from urban academic, private and community-based clinics.
- We conducted semi-structured interviews that used chart-stimulated recall technique.
- Interview guide was designed based on implementation science framework.
- Data were coded by 2 investigators employing modified grounded theory.

RESULTS

Figure 1. Provider Type

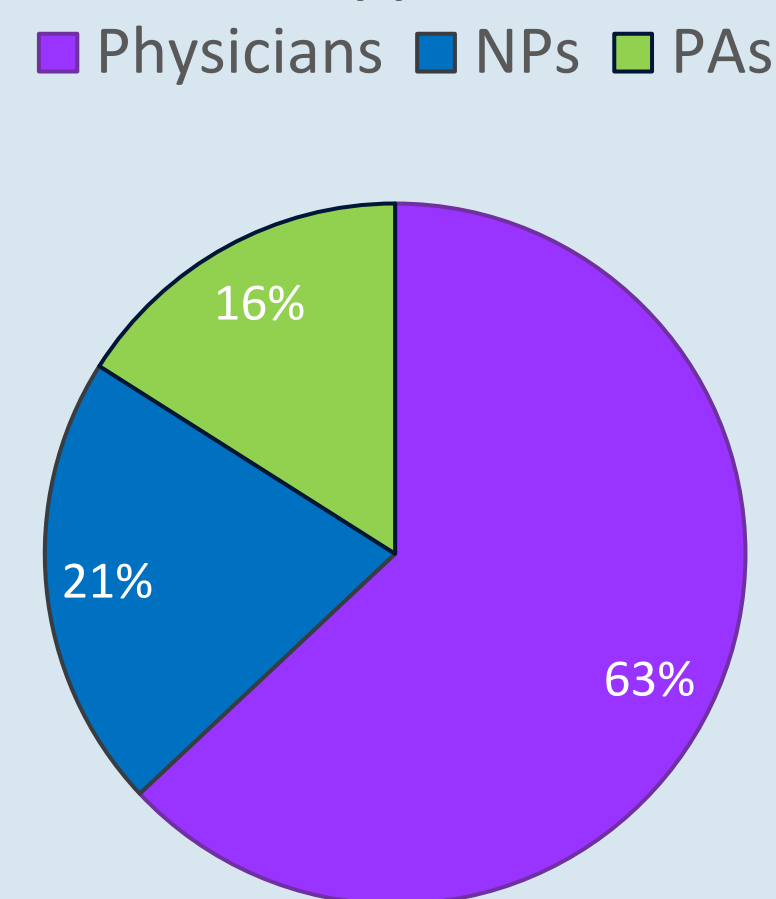


Figure 2. Prescribing Patterns

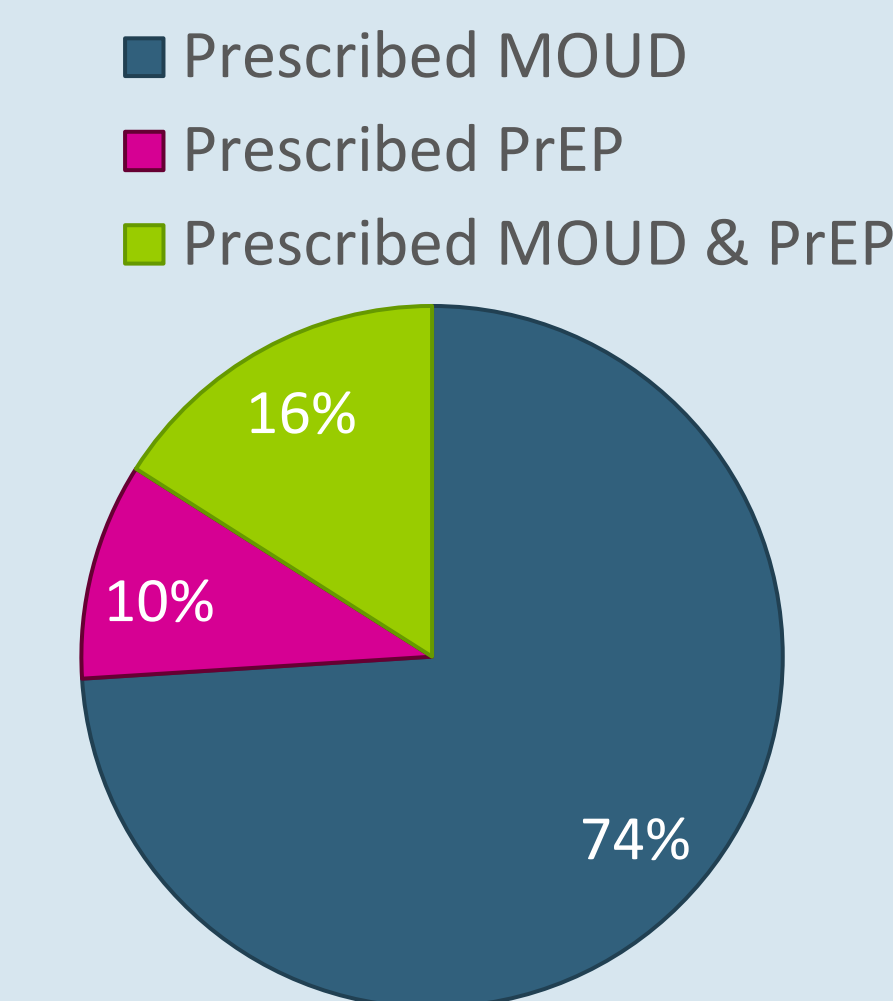


Table 1. Provider Characteristics

Demographics	Participant # (N=19)
Pediatrics	4
Internal Medicine	7
Med-Peds	1
Fam Medicine	5
Primary Care	2
Community Clinic	2
Academic Center	11
Private Practice	2

Table 2. Themes & Sample Quotes from Interviews

Themes	Quotes
Stigma	<i>"People still think that HIV is only for gay people."</i>
Adherence Challenges	<i>"You want me to take this pill that makes me feel worse for the next week?"</i>
Need for Labs	<i>"It could take many discussions to agree for a lab draw."</i>
Mental Health Needs	<i>"Probably our major hurdle is linkage to psychiatry."</i>
Low Risk Perception	<i>"When they're no longer doing IV drugs, and if their HIV is negative, they no longer have a current risk factor."</i>
Lack of Training	<i>"I don't do it often enough to have a comfort level with it."</i>
Restricted Visit Type	<i>"Often we view PrEP is more of the primary care purview, rather than part of the MOUD clinic."</i>
Electronic Health Record	<i>"It could be interesting to have a question about PrEP in our sexual history template."</i>
Support Staff	<i>"The navigators help the patient picking up prescriptions."</i>

CONCLUSIONS

- Our findings confirm that discussions about HIV prevention and PrEP prescriptions may be rare for AYA patients receiving MOUD.
- Further research is needed to develop interventions that increase the integration of PrEP delivery within the context of OUD care among this key AYA population.

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