

# Advancing Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment Through Clinician Training Program

Melissa B. Weimer, DO, MCR, DFASAM

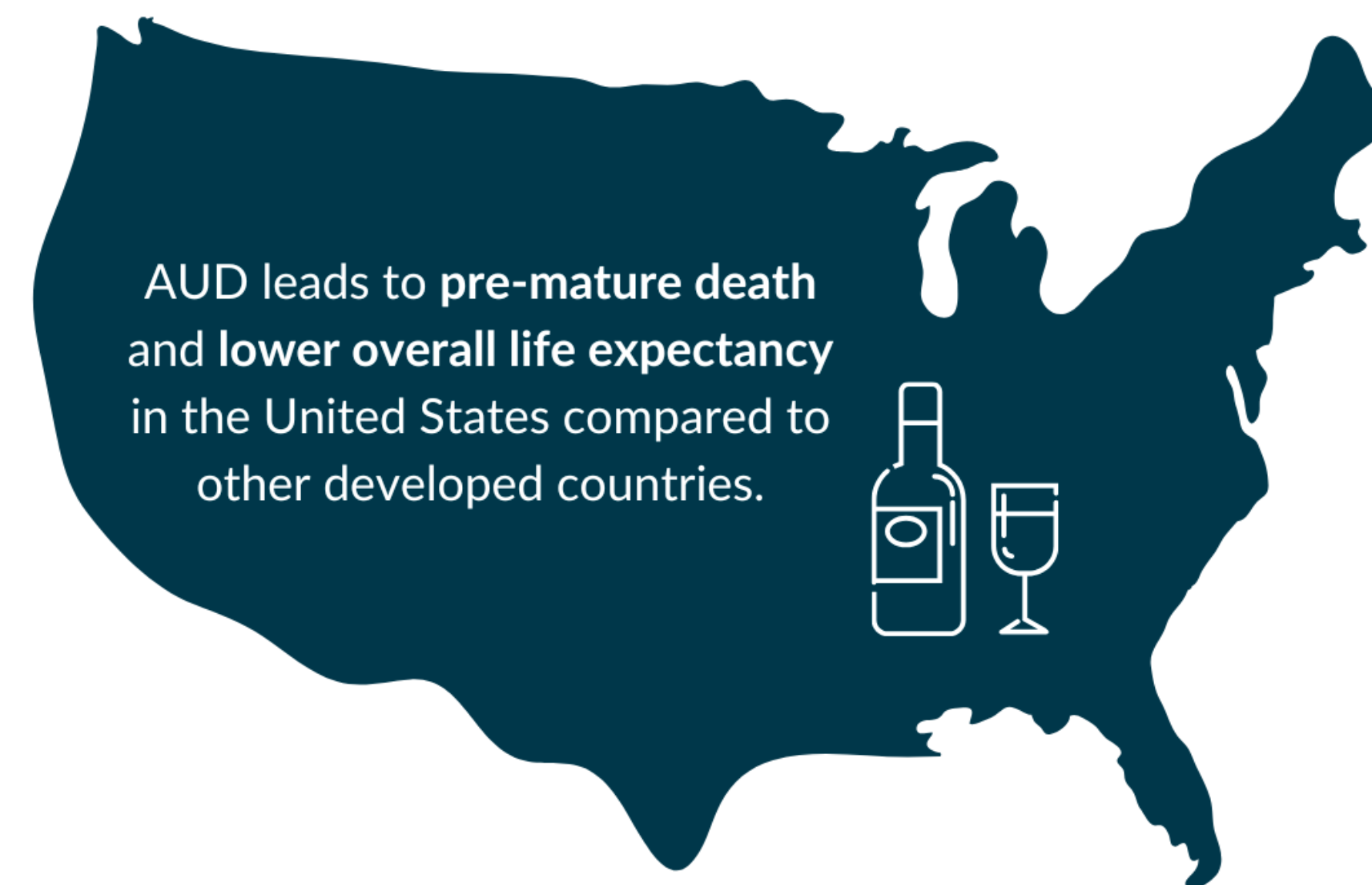
## INTRODUCTION

In 2022, **29.5 million people** 12 years and older had a past-year alcohol use disorder (AUD) in the United States.

**ONLY 7.6%** received any treatment for their AUD in the past year.

**ONLY 2%** took an FDA-approved medication for alcohol use disorder (MAUD) as part of their treatment.

- Left untreated, AUD can have severe medical consequences including alcohol-associated liver disease, cancer, and an increased risk for injuries.
- Despite FDA approval of highly effective, evidence-based MAUD, these medications are substantially underutilized.
  - Customized resources and training are not readily available for the workforce treating patients with AUD.
  - Lack of education available leads to reduced healthcare professional confidence to provide effective AUD treatment.



To address this treatment gap, **Providers Clinical Support System—Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (PCSS-MAUD)** provides free, comprehensive training, guidance, and mentoring on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of AUD. PCSS-MAUD aims to enhance the capacity of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals to treat individuals with AUD, including with the use of FDA-approved MAUD.

PCSS-MAUD is funded through a three-year cooperative agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration starting September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2026.

## METHODS

A needs assessment and literature review, combined with clinical expertise from the PCSS-MAUD Clinical Advisory Program Committee, an interprofessional group of experts in diverse healthcare settings, informed the program curriculum. The curriculum outlines the educational modality, topics, and intended audience.



All educational content was peer-reviewed by experts in the field of AUD prevention, treatment, and/or recovery and the Clinical Advisory Program Committee for quality, accuracy, timeliness, consistency, and bias.

Modality	Topic	Sub-topic	Audience	Setting
1. Online Module	Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment	Naltrexone PO, Naltrexone ER, Acamprosate, Disulfiram	Prescribers; Pharmacists	All
2. Toolkit	Withdrawal Management	Peer support during withdrawal	Peer recovery specialists/coaches	All

Within the first year of the program, PCSS-MAUD developed:



- PCSS-MAUD collected learner data through post-educational activity evaluations that were analyzed by an external Program Evaluator.
  - Evaluations included 16 questions, comprising Likert scale, multiple choice, and open-ended formats.
  - Evaluations assessed knowledge/skills gained, intent to apply, and respondent demographics.
  - Data was used for quality improvement of future educational activities and to assess the program goals of increasing the capacity of healthcare professionals to treat AUD.
- PCSS-MAUD's goal was to reach 2,000 learners within the first year.

## RESULTS

5,808

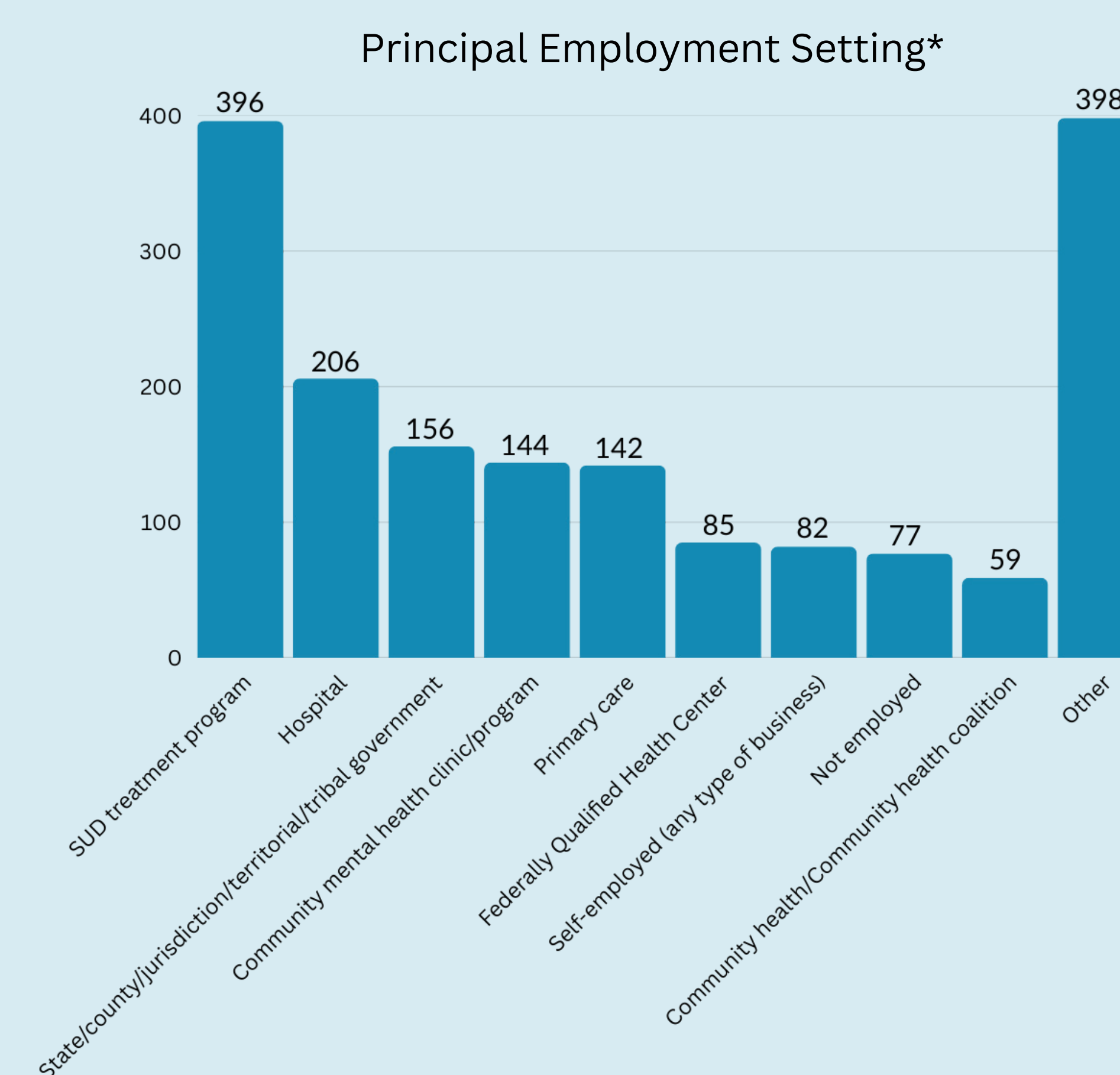
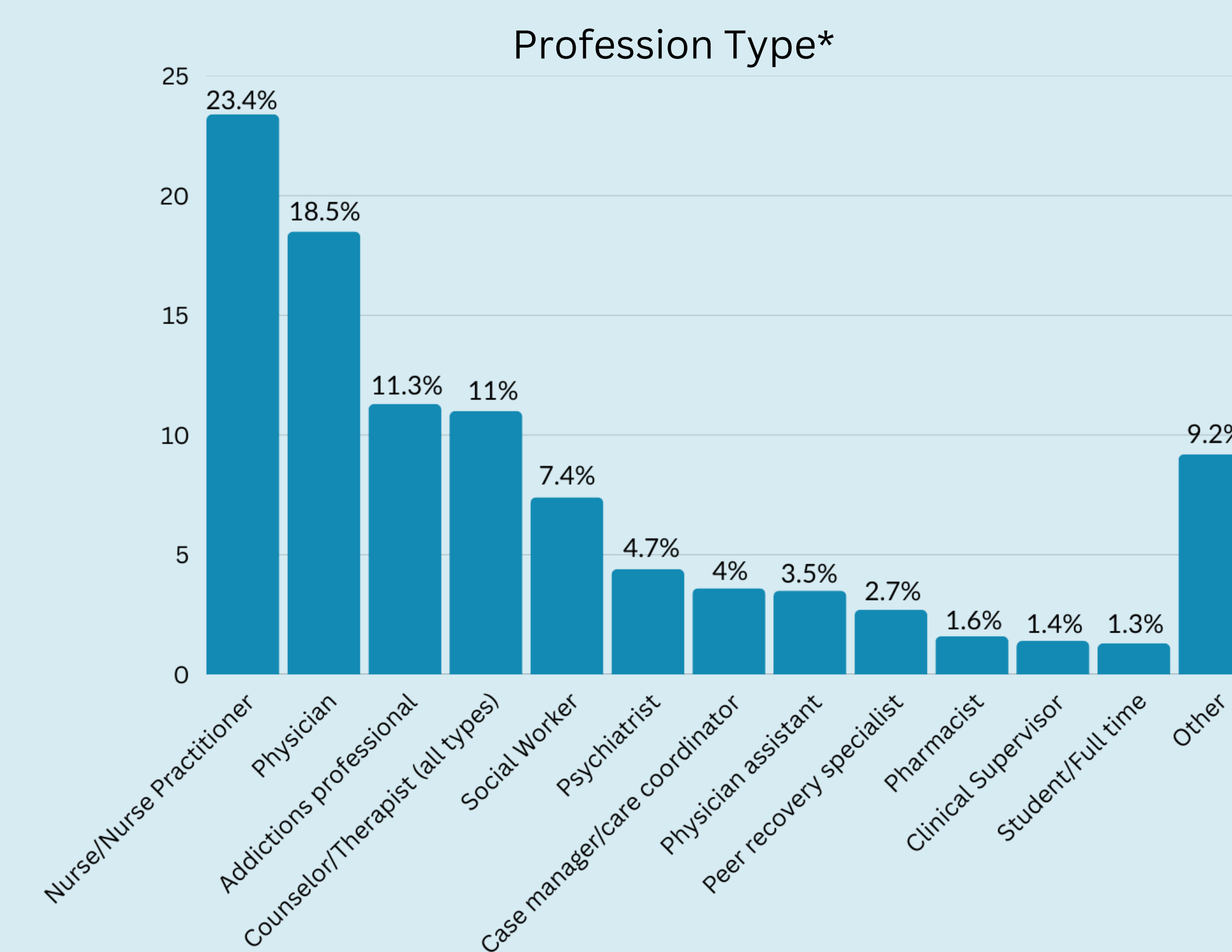
Learners Engaged

2,378

Views and Downloads

Within 9 months, PCSS-MAUD engaged 5,808 learners within live and recorded webinars, case-based discussions, online modules, and in-person training.

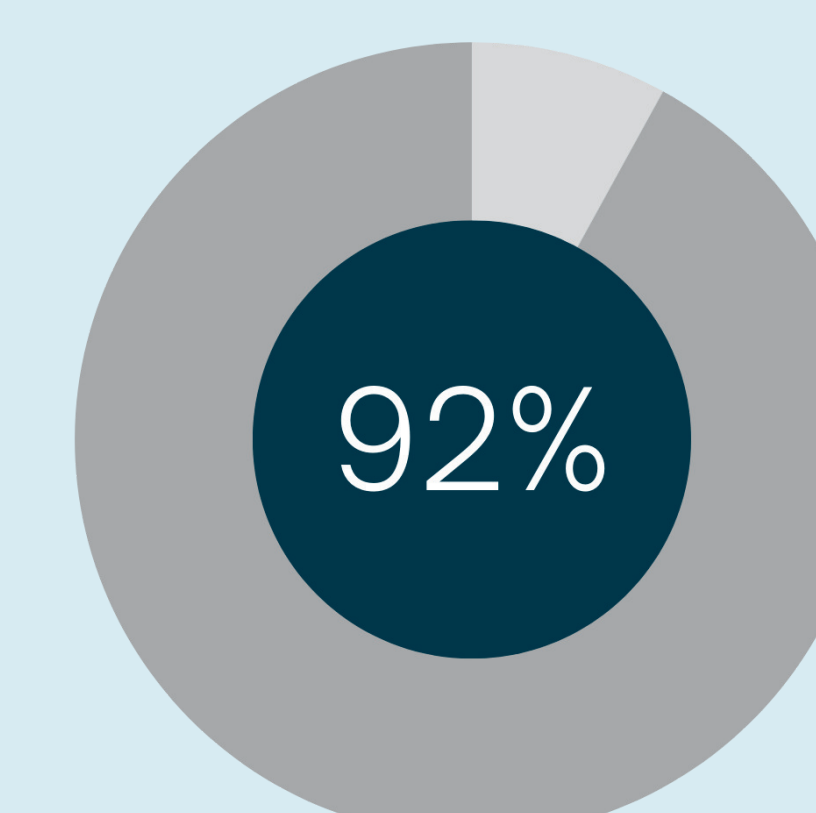
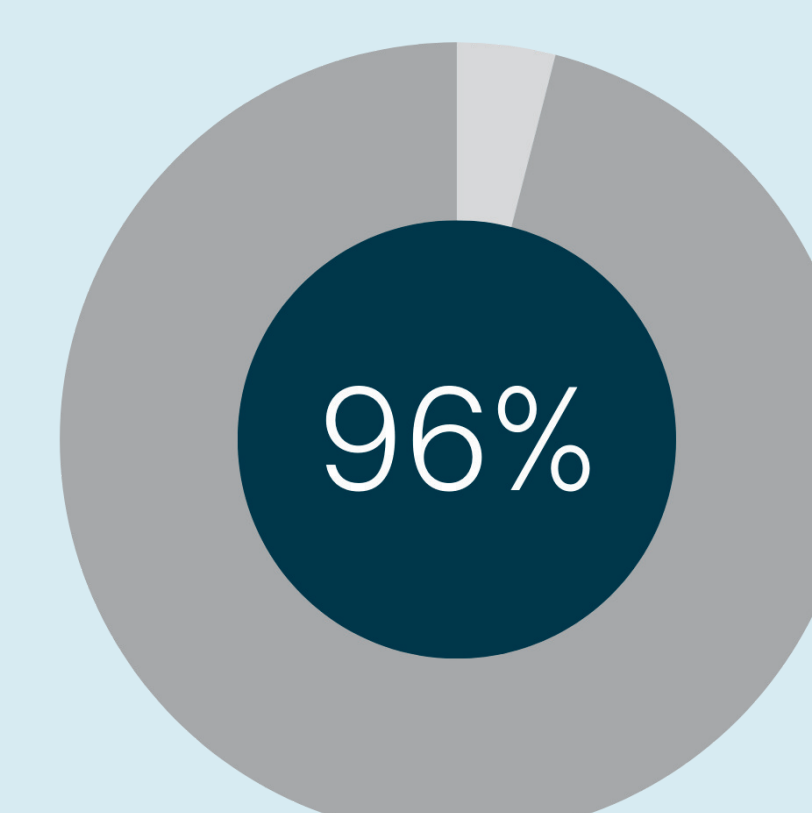
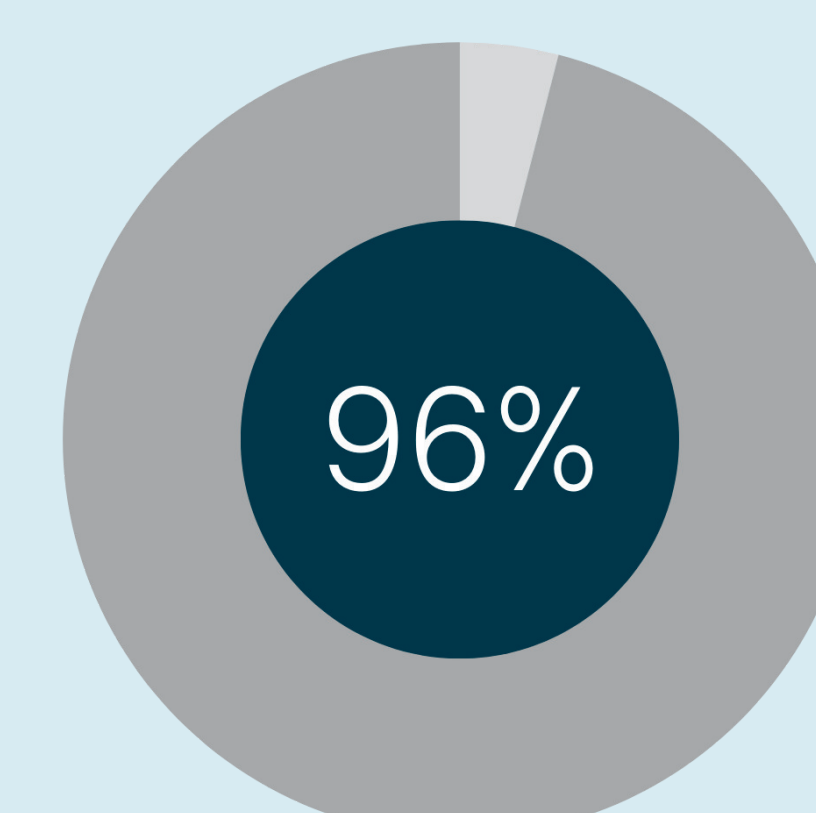
PCSS-MAUD mini videos and digital resources received a total of 2,378 views and downloads within the first year.



Over 96% of evaluation respondents reported being "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the quality of PCSS-MAUD events.\*

Over 96% of evaluation respondents "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that the event would benefit them or their community.\*

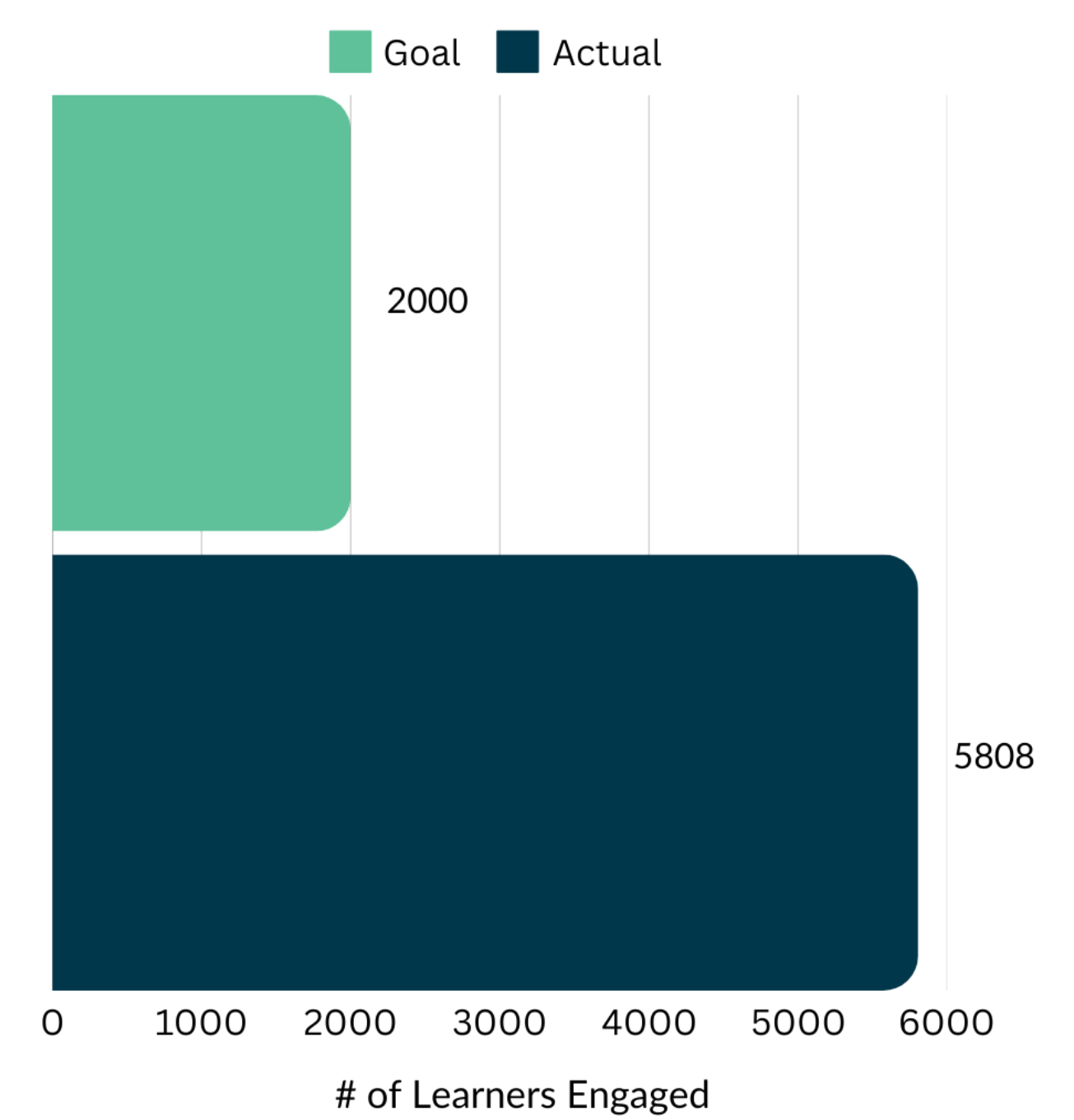
Over 92% of evaluation respondents "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that the event would improve their ability to work effectively.\*



\*Data in these charts is collected following each live and on-demand training from the Government Performance and Results Act evaluation that is required of all SAMHSA-funded initiatives.

## CONCLUSION

- PCSS-MAUD trained nearly three times its goal.
- The primary audience for PCSS-MAUD is those who can prescribe MAUD for patients with AUD.
- Evaluation respondents report high rates of satisfaction and likelihood of applying learnings to practice.
- The high ratings suggest that PCSS-MAUD educational activities resonated with the audience, highlighting a strong need for clinician education on AUD. Prescribers also expressed a clear desire to learn about and apply evidence-based treatments, such as medications for AUD, to their clinical practice.
- PCSS-MAUD may aid in closing the treatment gap by equipping healthcare professionals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to treat AUD.



## AUTHORS & DISCLOSURES

Melissa B. Weimer, DO, MCR, DFASAM has no disclosures.

## REFERENCES

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2023). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP23-07-01-006, NSDUH Series H-58). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Edwards, S., Ferguson, T.F., Gasparini, S. *et al.* (2023). Interprofessional education as a potential foundation for future team-based prevention of alcohol use disorder. *BMC Med Educ*, 23, 126. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-023-04100-y>
- Anderson, P. (2009). Overview of interventions to enhance primary-care provider management of patients with substance-use disorders. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 28(5), 567–574. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1465-3362.2009.00113.x>
- Williams, E. C., Achtmeyer, C. E., Young, J. P., Berger, D., Curran, G., Bradley, K. A., Richards, J., Siegel, M. B., Ludman, E. J., Lapham, G. T., Forehand, M., & Harris, A. H. S. (2018). Barriers to and Facilitators of Alcohol Use Disorder Pharmacotherapy in Primary Care: A Qualitative Study in Five VA Clinics. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 33(3), 258–267. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-017-4202-z>
- van Boekel, L. C., Brouwers, E. P., van Weeghel, J., & Garretsen, H. F. (2013). Stigma among health professionals towards patients with substance use disorders and its consequences for healthcare delivery: systematic review. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 131(1-2), 23–35. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2013.02.018>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Funding for this initiative was made possible by cooperative agreement number 1H79T1086771-01 from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their contribution to the development of this program and poster.

- Stephanie Swanson, MPH, *Director, Federal Programs*
- Ellen Gurung, MPH, *Specialist, PCSS-MAUD*
- Violet Siegang, *Instructional Designer, PCSS-MAUD*