

Treating Opioid Use Disorder: Perspective of FQHC Clinicians in Los Angeles

INTRODUCTION

- Opioid use disorder (OUD) cases and fatalities have surged in the US, largely driven by overprescription and underestimated risk.
- In Los Angeles County, OUD resulted in over 1,700 deaths in 2023.
- In 2023, the DEA required all registrants to complete a CME course on medication for addiction treatment (MAT) of OUD.
- Venice Family Clinic (VFC) recently merged with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the South Bay of Los Angeles.

OBJECTIVE

- Assess the following of VFC clinicians:
 - Confidence in treating patients with OUD and in utilizing MAT
 - Effectiveness of mandated CME training
 - Key barriers and resources within OUD treatment landscape

METHODS

- We collaborated with VFC to create and distribute a survey to all VFC clinicians in South Bay, Los Angeles.
- Clinicians self-reported whether they provide MAT, how often they encounter patients with OUD, their understanding of current OUD guidelines, confidence in treating OUD, and recent completion of OUD-related CME.

RESULTS

Table 1: Clinician Self-Reported Results Summary. The summary from our 33 respondents.

Category	Respondents
MAT provider	15
Encounter patients with OUD at least on a weekly basis	13
Average or above average understanding of current OUD Treatment Guidelines	21
Feel equipped to manage patients with OUD	12
Completed recently mandated CME course on OUD	19

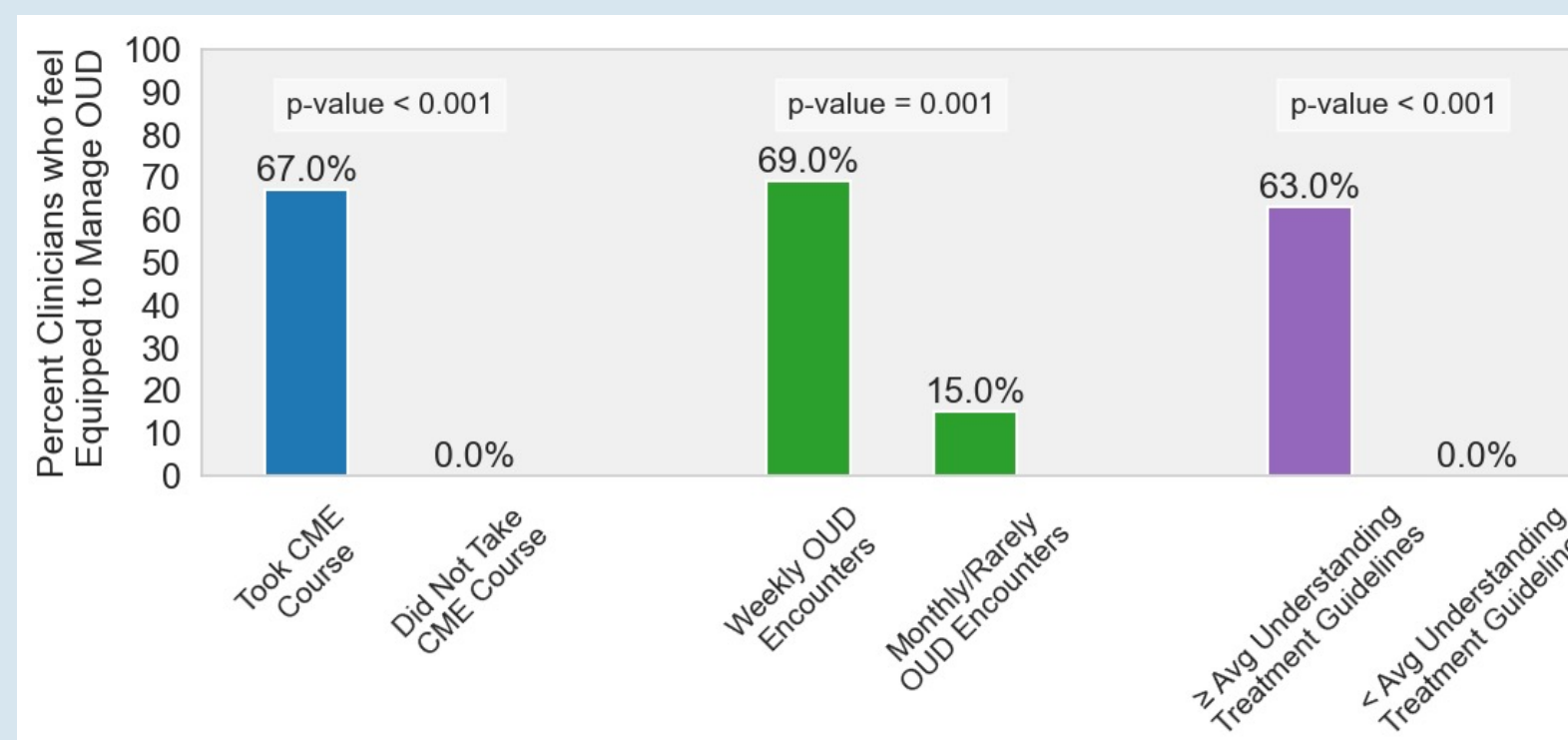


Figure 1A: Clinician Comfort Managing Patients with OUD – Association with Self-Reported Factors. Completing a CME course, encountering OUD ≥ once weekly, or having an ≥ average understanding of treatment guidelines is associated with feeling more equipped to manage patients with OUD.

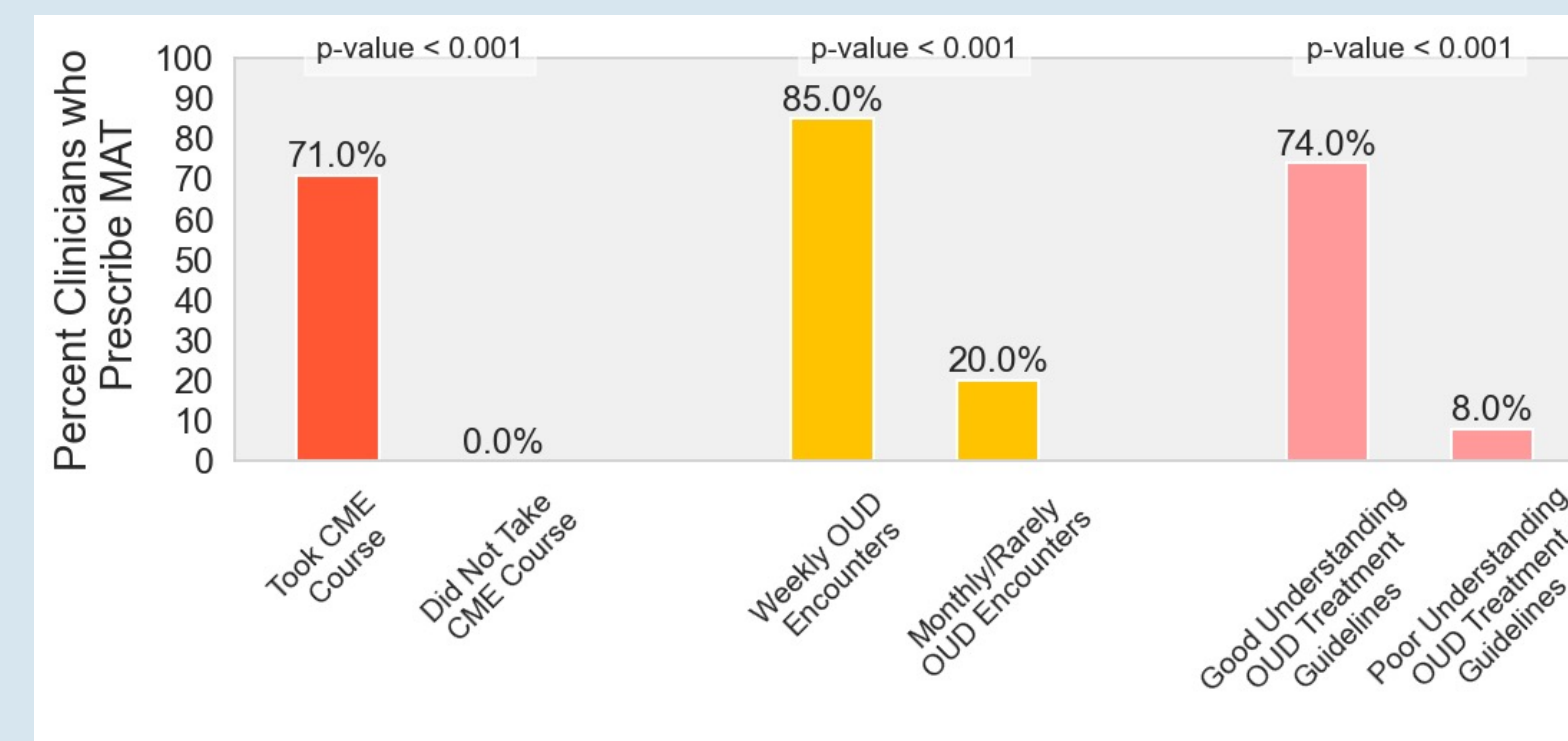


Figure 1B: Clinicians who Prescribe Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - Association with Self-Reported Factors. Completing a CME course, encountering OUD ≥ once weekly, or having a ≥ average understanding of OUD treatment guidelines is associated with being a MAT provider.

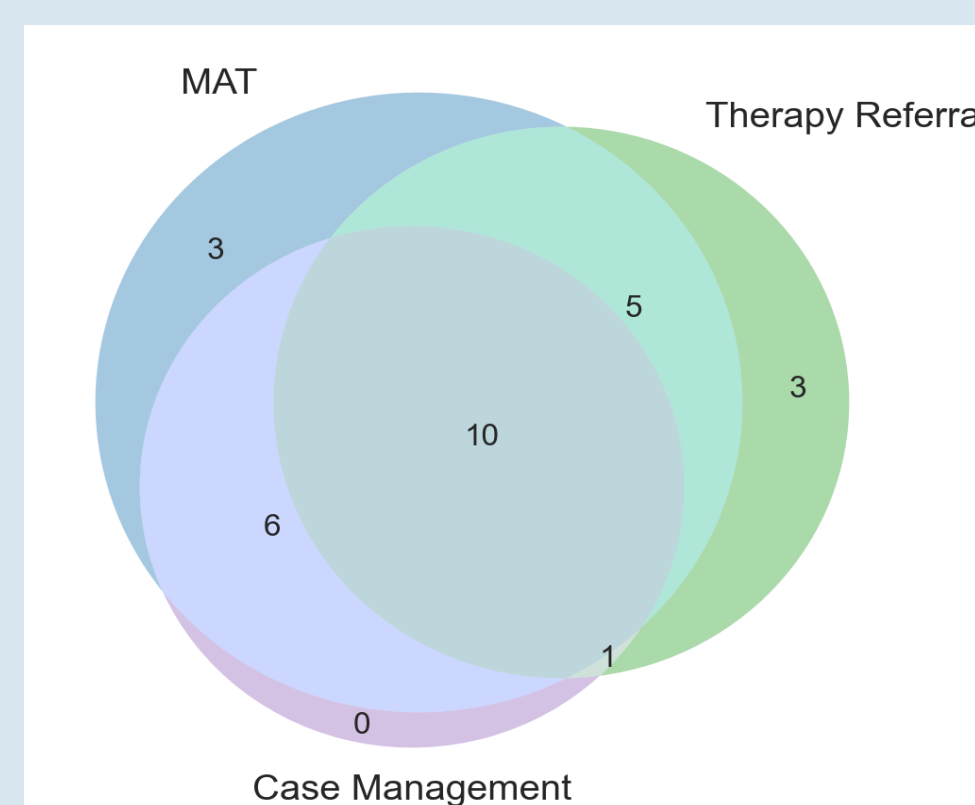


Figure 2: Reported Resources for Treating Patients with OUD. Most utilized resources: MAT, therapy referral, and case management (respectively). Multiple resources are often utilized in parallel.

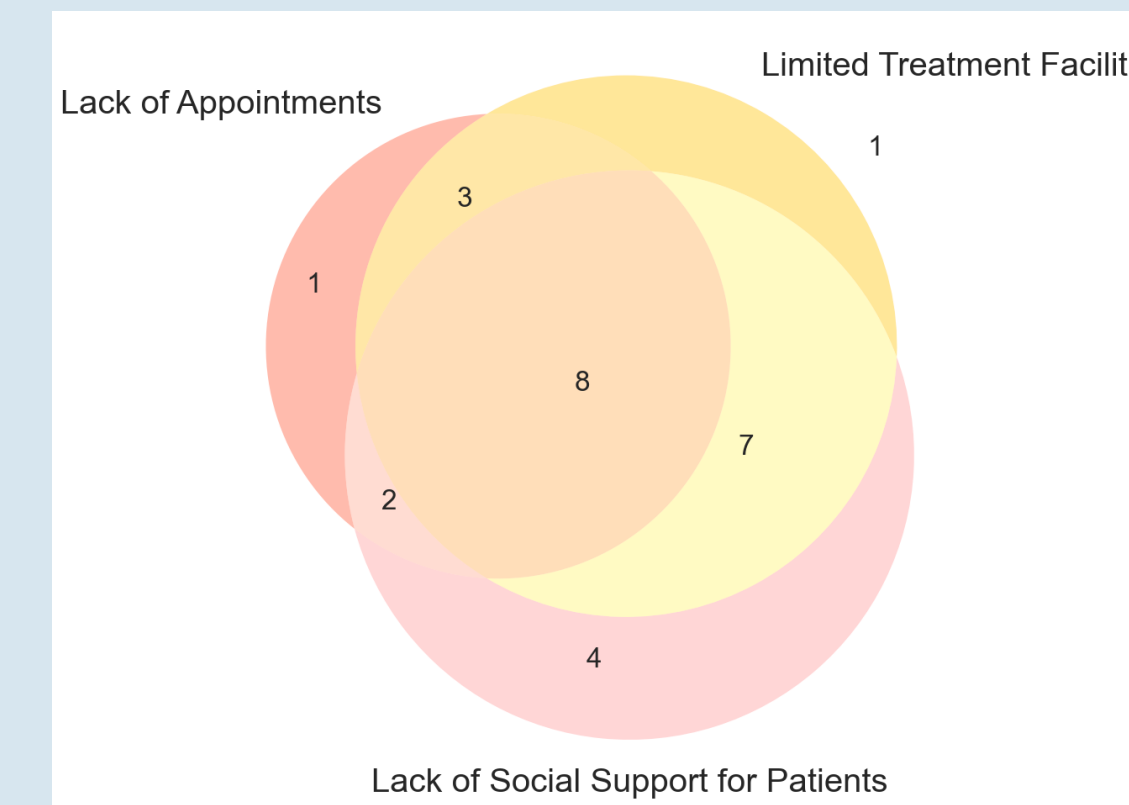


Figure 3: Reported Barriers to Treating Patients with OUD. Most encountered barriers: lack of social support for patients, limited access to treatment facilities, and lack of appointments (respectively). Multiple barriers are often present simultaneously.

CONCLUSION

- Clinicians at VFC use a multidisciplinary approach to treat OUD but feel ill-equipped to manage these patients effectively.
- Continuous education, regular patient interactions, and a strong understanding of current treatment protocols are important for effective OUD management.
- Reported barriers emphasize the need to address systemic issues such as lack of social support.
- Limitations include a small sample size and limited geographic generalizability.
- Our next intended step is to conduct a longitudinal study to assess how clinician confidence and competence in managing OUD evolve over time with continuous education and/or new training initiatives.

AUTHORS & DISCLOSURES

Andrew Schmidt; Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine; Nothing to disclose
Kurtis Pruitt; Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine; Nothing to disclose

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