

Promoting Resilience for Medicaid Members with Opioid Use Disorder

(PROUD)

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Purpose

The purpose of this study is to understand how environmental stressors of COVID-19 and severe weather events such as hurricanes, floods, and major storms have impacted the health and health care of Louisiana Medicaid members with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), as well as their usual sources of support and care. The study will offer additional insight into the experiences, knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of Medicaid members with OUD, their caregivers, advocates; as well as experiences, knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of healthcare providers, agency officials, and healthcare administrators serving members of Medicaid in Louisiana regarding adoption of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for OUD into clinical practice; how environmental stressors such as hurricanes or the COVID-19 pandemic impact clinical services delivery for OUD; and how telehealth or other innovations in clinical services or coordination of care may be of value in ensuring continuity of care and evidence-based care such as MAT for OUD, including during times of increased environmental stress, to reduce overdoses and improve health. Study findings will be translated into recommendations for potential policy innovations for Louisiana Medicaid, to facilitate more efficient entry of Medicaid members with OUD into evidence-based care with MAT, bolster continuity of care, and ensure availability of necessary supports to health and well-being for these members when facing environmental stressors including hurricanes and COVID-19.

Objectives

Our objectives are 1) to qualitatively assess the impact of environmental stressors of hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic on Medicaid members' experiences of OUD in Louisiana since 2020, 2) to identify the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of healthcare providers serving members of Medicaid in Louisiana regarding adoption of MAT into clinical practice; how environmental stressors such as hurricanes or the COVID-19 pandemic impact clinical services delivery for OUD; and how telehealth or other innovations in clinical services or coordination of care may be of value in ensuring continuity of care and evidence-based care such as MAT for OUD, including during times of increased environmental stress, to reduce overdoses and improve health, and 3) to inform improvements in Louisiana Medicaid policy, preventive strategies, planning, and care for Medicaid members with OUD who may face current and/or future environmental stressors which may result in adverse health outcomes such as overdoses.

Study Population

This study intends to interview Medicaid members, their caregivers, healthcare advocates, healthcare providers, agency officials, and healthcare administrators statewide who care for members of Louisiana Medicaid with OUD well as those who do not incorporate care for OUD into their practices. We will also interview people ages 18 and older from across Louisiana, including both urban and rural areas, and will include people who identify as men and women, as well as representatives of diverse racial and ethnic groups.

Number of Participants

We expect to interview up to 75 Louisiana Medicaid members, caregivers, healthcare advocates, healthcare providers, agency officials, and healthcare administrators. We anticipate this number of qualitative interviews will facilitate a deep and broad understanding of the questions we are exploring.

Study Design

We will apply Rapid Assessment Procedures-Informed Community Ethnography (RAPICE) methodology and a community partnered participatory research (CPPR) framework to achieve Aims 1, 2, and 3. For Aim 1 we will seek to understand and describe how environmental stressors of COVID-19 and hurricanes have impacted both Louisiana Medicaid members with (OUD) and affected their usual sources of support and care through semi-structured interviews with as many as 25 key informants (i.e., Louisiana Medicaid members with OUD, their caregivers, and advocates). For Aim 2, we will identify the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs of healthcare providers serving members of Medicaid in Louisiana regarding adoption of MAT into clinical practice; how environmental stressors such as hurricanes or the COVID-19 pandemic impact clinical services delivery for OUD; and how telehealth or other innovations in clinical services or coordination of care may be of value in ensuring continuity of care and evidence-based care such as MAT for OUD, including during times of increased environmental stress, to reduce overdoses and improve health through semi-structured interviews with up to 25 key informants (i.e., Louisiana Medicaid health care providers, health agency officials, and clinical administrators). For Aim 3, we will collaborate with affected community partners including Louisiana Medicaid members with OUD, their caregivers and advocates, and healthcare providers to propose policy innovations for Louisiana Medicaid to facilitate more efficient entry of Medicaid members with OUD into evidence-based care with MAT, bolster continuity of care, and ensure availability of necessary supports to health and well-being for these members when facing environmental stressors including hurricanes and COVID-19.

We will employ CPPR approaches to develop a partnered Leadership Council that will co-lead all aspects of study implementation. In developing the partnered Leadership Council, we will turn to existing and recent partnerships in research and clinical services across organizations serving members of Louisiana Medicaid,. The Leadership Council will collaborate in review of protocol development, data collection and analyses, and dissemination of findings. For example, community and academic partners will participate in regular project Leadership Council meetings, contribute to developing sampling strategy, nominate participants, co-develop interview guides, and support implementation of key informant interviews. Working with community partners, we will ensure relevance and sensitivity of questions in interview guides, elicit otherwise difficult to recruit nominees for key informant interviews using

snowball sampling statewide, and gather primary interview data from key stakeholders to understand the impact of environmental stressors on Medicaid member's experience of OUD in Louisiana since early 2020.

Study Duration

The study will start after IRB approval, with an expected end date of June 14, 2023.

Outcome Variables

This is a qualitative study utilizing key informant interviews. There are no quantitative outcome variables.

Locations/Facilities

The study will be conducted at LSU Health Sciences Center- New Orleans.