

# Many Medicaid Enrollees with Opioid Use Disorder Were Treated with Medication; However, Disparities Present Concerns



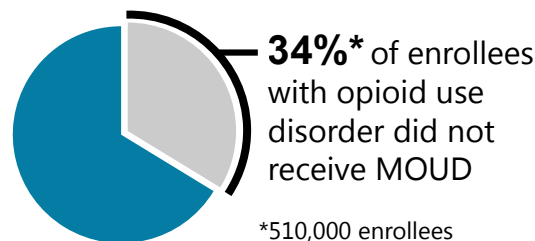
September 2023 | OEI-BL-22-00260

## 1.5 MILLION

Medicaid enrollees had opioid use disorder in 2021

Medications that treat opioid use disorder (MOUD):

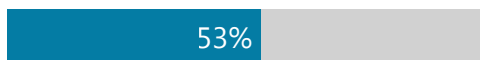
- methadone
- buprenorphine
- naltrexone



**Overall, 66% of enrollees with opioid use disorder received MOUD. However, certain demographic groups were less likely to receive MOUD.**

### Black or African American enrollees\*

Black or African American



Asian



Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander



American Indian or Alaska Native



White



\*In the 15 States with low-concern enrollee race/ethnicity data

### Enrollees 18 years of age and younger

18 and younger



19 – 44



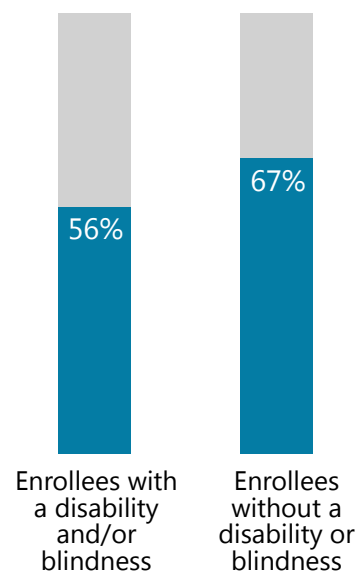
45 – 64



65 and older

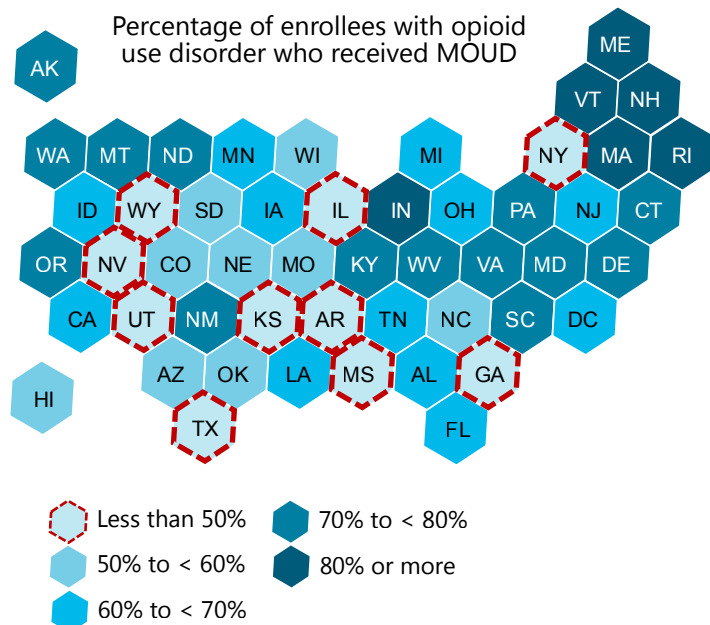


### Enrollees with a disability and/or blindness



Received MOUD Did not receive MOUD

### MOUD utilization rates among enrollees varied widely by State.



### We recommend that CMS:

- Encourage and support States' efforts to reduce barriers to MOUD, especially among groups who may be underserved; and
- Encourage States and work with Federal partners to educate Medicaid and CHIP enrollees about access to MOUD.

CMS neither concurred nor nonconcurred with our recommendations. The agency instead stated that it already works with States to increase access to MOUD and ensure that enrollees are educated regarding access. OIG recognizes CMS's efforts; however, opportunities exist for additional action given our concerning findings.

### Notes

For full report, see <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-BL-22-00260.asp>

Source: OIG analysis of 2021 Medicaid enrollment data and Medicaid/Medicare claims data.

We considered an enrollee to have opioid use disorder if they had at least one 2021 Medicaid claim that included (1) an "opioid abuse" or "opioid dependence" diagnosis code or (2) a service from an opioid treatment program. Enrollees may have received MOUD through sources other than Medicaid or Medicare. We used eligibility data to identify enrollees who were eligible for Medicaid due to disability and/or blindness. Data may not have captured the actual disability/blindness status of all enrollees in 2021.