



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM

Opioid Use Disorder | A Population Health Collaboration

PHILADELPHIA

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Population Health, Honorable Mention

OVERVIEW

Temple is on the front lines of the opioid epidemic, with multiple access points for care. To meet community need, the health system began identifying partners to provide services and search for funding to invest in service development. The main goal was to establish a hub-and-spoke model to deliver care and expand best practice treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD).

PROBLEM IDENTIFIED

Using a community health needs assessment, Temple University Health System found substance use disorder was a significant issue, with many community members noting a high need of treatment with minimal access to care. In further evaluating data, the health system found Philadelphia County reported 21,878 individuals covered by Medicaid with a diagnosis of OUD in 2016. Of those, only about 53 percent received medication-assisted treatment (MAT). In 2017, more than 1,200 people died from drug overdose in Philadelphia—more than three times the number of homicides in the city.

METHODS

Office-based opioid treatment programs (OBOT) that provide access to buprenorphine in communities, as well as the comprehensive psychosocial supports critical to recovery, present a viable opportunity to address the challenges of the overdose crisis and build a model of integrative health.

ENGAGEMENT

Temple collaborated with the city of Philadelphia, the state of Pennsylvania, and various community-based organizations to develop an approach to integrate behavioral health treatment in the physical health space while addressing social determinants of health in the OBOT setting.

RESULTS AND DATA

The most powerful result of the initiative was the increase in the number of patients who received treatment. The hub increased capacity to see new patients by 267 percent; the spoke locations increased ability to see new patients by 83 percent. Further, newly established protocols for emergency departments and crisis response centers improved warm hand-offs by 20 percent. More than 100 providers were trained and buprenorphine prescriptions increased from 995 in the third quarter of 2018 to 1,657 in the same quarter of 2019. The program also educated 22 skilled nursing facility providers, improving the OUD acceptance rate, from 16 percent to 28 percent.

