

Variation in Maryland's State Opioid Response Program by Race and Place-Based Economic Indicators

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Key Findings and Policy Implications

This paper analyzes issues of equity and access to care in Maryland's federally funded State Opioid Response (SOR) program. It uses data from Maryland's 53 participating SOR service providers and area data from the American Community Survey. The study finds that:

- From October 2020 through May 2022, Maryland's SOR providers served 8,659 adult clients. Most clients were men; 53 percent were White; 40 percent were Black; 23 percent were homeless.
- The service rate per 100,000 people is significantly higher for men (260) than that for women (110); and for Black adults (248) than White adults (186). For each White woman served, there are two White men; and for each Black woman, there are three Black men.
- The racial composition of clients varies dramatically across SOR programs, with some programs serving primarily Black or primarily White clients. These variations, however, reflect the variations in racial composition in the neighborhoods around the SOR.

Our findings of a higher population-based rate of SOR service receipt by Black versus White adults mirrors the broader trend of faster growth in opioid use disorders, overdose, and death among Black adults in Maryland.

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