



# Pharmacist-Integrated Collaborative Care in the Medication Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

Lisa A. Marsch, PhD  
Director, Northeast Node NIDA CTN  
Director, Center for Technology and Behavioral Health  
Andrew G. Wallace Professor  
Geisel School of Medicine  
Dartmouth College

This project is supported by Texas Targeted Opioid Response, a public health initiative operated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission through federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant award number H79TI085747.

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services or Texas Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. or Texas Government.

# Financial Disclosure

---

No relevant financial relationships to disclose.

# Learning Objectives

---

- Understand the problem and potential solution that pharmacists offer to communities
- Understand the Core Components and team structure of the integrated collaborative model
- Understand the feasibility of implementing this model in 4 diverse US clinics

**01**

**Understand the problem and potential solution that pharmacists offer to communities**

---

# Understanding the Problem



## All Hands On Deck

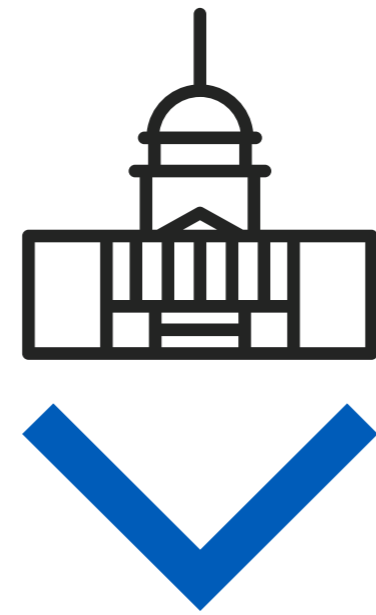
OUD rates continue to rise, sparking the need for everyone to contribute to scaling up treatment delivery



## Unsung Teammate

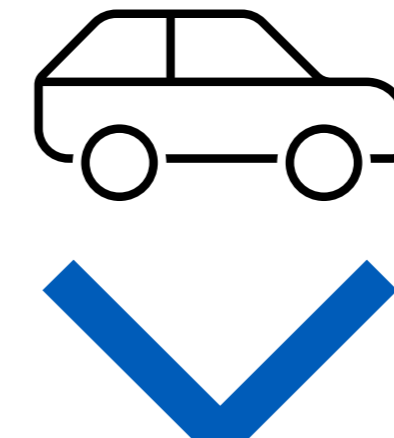
Pharmacists are an underutilized resource but are positioned to expand care for OUD

# Understanding the Problem



## US Limits Role

Australia, Canada, UK  
dispense methadone from  
community pharmacies



## Rurality

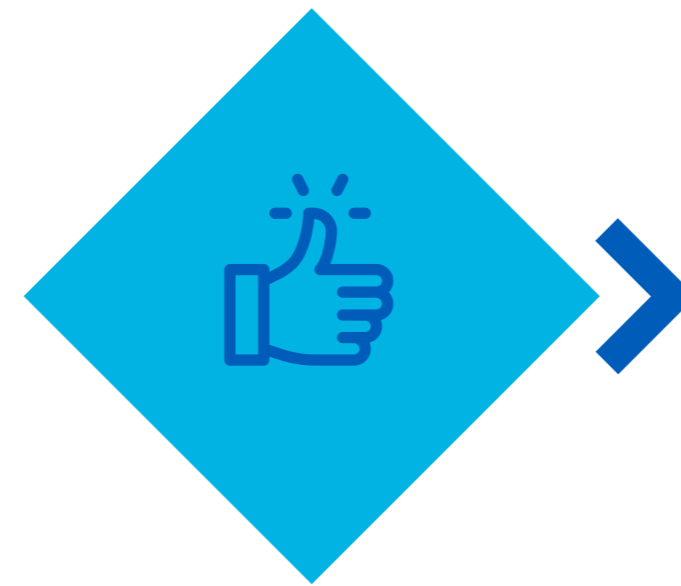
Rural areas face  
additional barriers  
(transportation, fewer  
providers, etc.)

# Exploring Potential Solutions



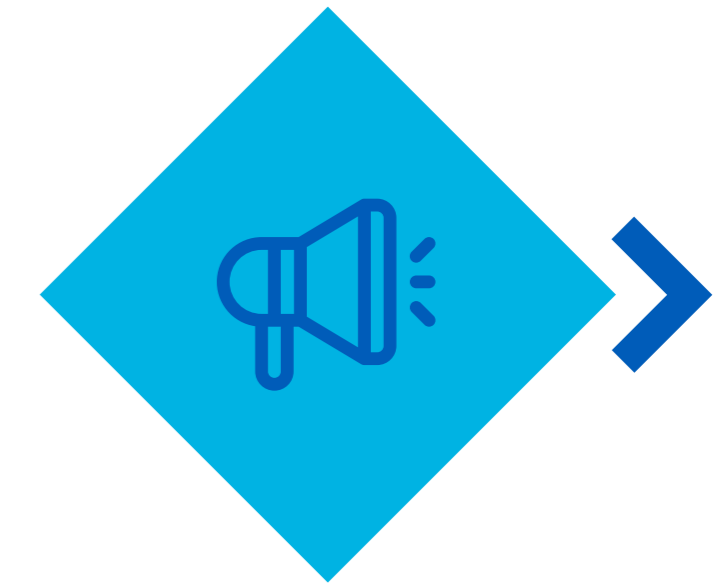
## Inclusion

Multidisciplinary teams can offer more robust services with less burden on the patient



## Knowledge

Pharmacists' expert knowledge of medications can support prescribers

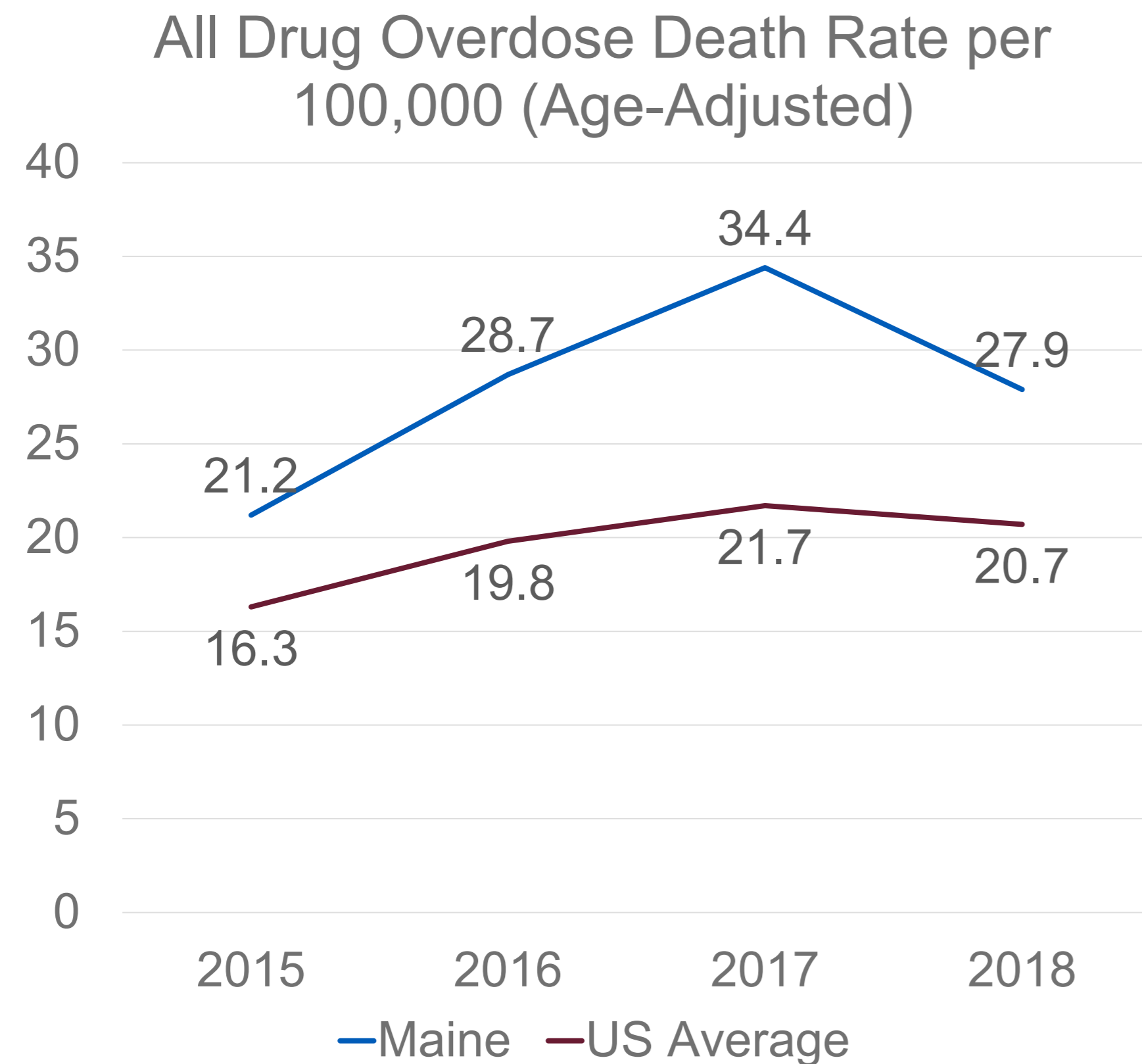


## Competence

AMERSA\* established core competencies for pharmacists to play a collaborative role

\*Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction

# An Unmet Need in Maine



## 2016 – Penobscot County

- 57 Overdose Deaths

## 2017 – Penobscot County

- 185 Overdose Deaths in the first 6 months
- 185 babies born opioid-exposed

# Penobscot Community Health Care (PCHC)



- Largest, most comprehensive of Maine's 19 CHCs
- One of the largest of the 100 CHCs in New England
- 19 practice sites and service locations



- Over 65,000 patients  
➤ >2/3 low income  
➤ >8000 uninsured
- 400,000 patient visits
- 800+ Employees (200 clinicians)
- 39 BHPs – 1 for every 2 PCPs
- 46 Care Managers



- MaineCare 26%
- Uninsured 13%
- Commercial 41%
- Medicare 20%

# Meeting the Need

## Hope House, 2017

Unique circumstances brought the pharmacist to the table.

Chief Psychiatric Officer Dr. Trip Gardner brought Pharmacist Dr. Felicity Homsted into the integrated team caring for Bangor's unhoused population.

Following the blueprint used with other chronic conditions, they created an integrated team for MOUD.





# Integrated MOUD

## Integrated

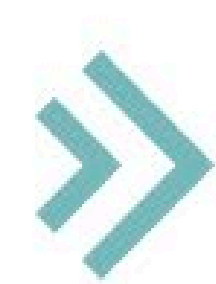
PCPs, pharmacy staff, psychiatrists, providers, clinicians, social workers, case managers

## Patient-centered

Full continuum of care offered to all patients with OUD

## Pharmacy involved

Beyond filling orders, prioritizing individualized care and education related to medications



**Staff and leadership soon realized how vital the pharmacist could be in caring for patients with OUD.**

# Impact of the Model



## Prescribing

MOUD prescribers increased from 4 to 24



## Attitudes

Positively increased staff reported attitudes about addiction



## Concern

Providers reported alleviated concerns about prescribing



## Expansion

Within 1 year, the model was implemented at 2 other clinics in the FQHC

# Pharmacy Integration

## Began Pharmacy Integrated Primary Care

- 1 Pharmacist (Dispensing Roll)
- 2 Pharmacy Technicians
- 1 Retail Pharmacy

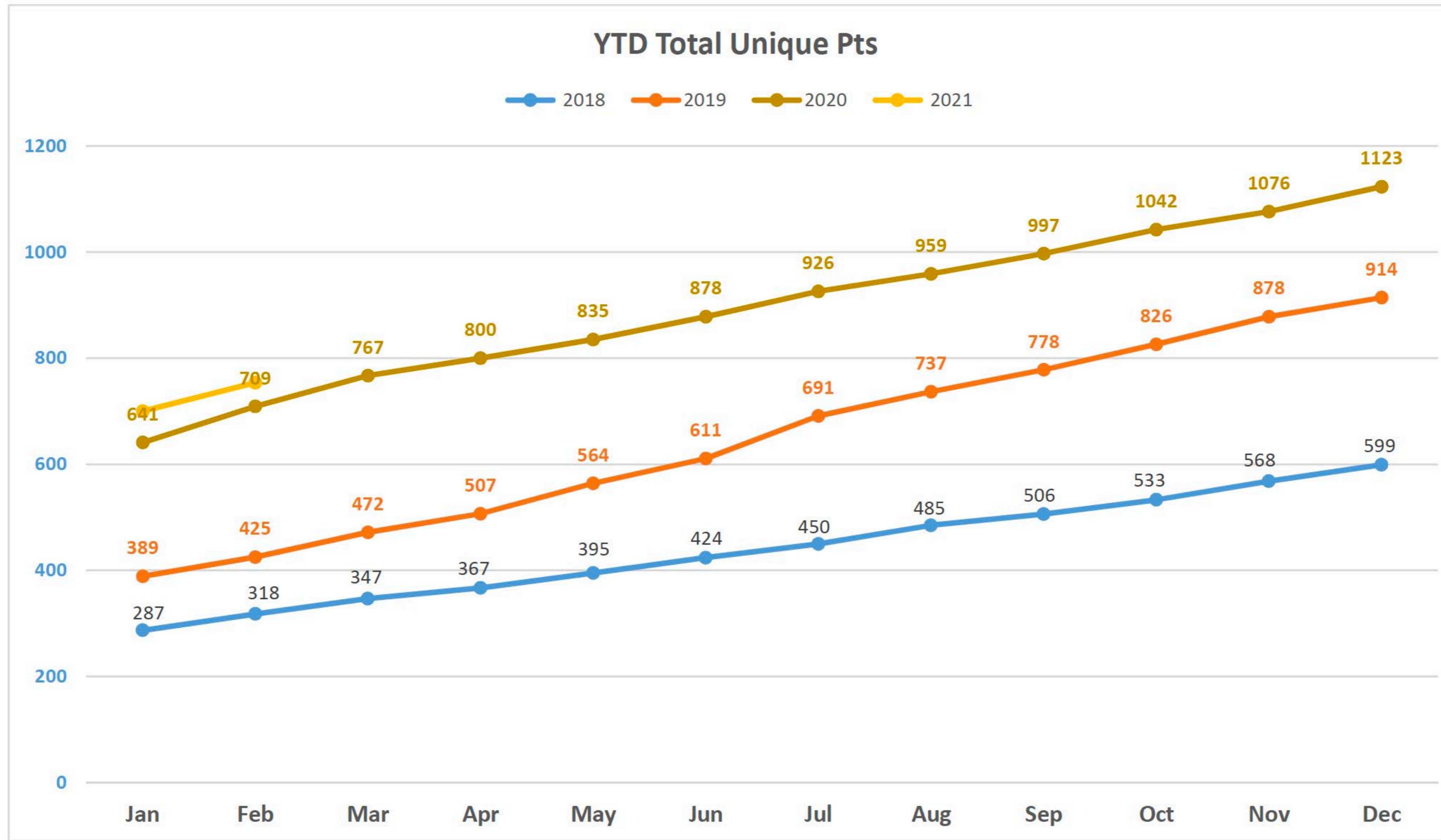
2006

**41** pharmacy positions, **4** integrated pharmacies, **1** rural dispensary, and **3** pharmacy residency programs

- **7** Community Pharmacists
- **7** Primary Care Pharmacists
- **18** Pharmacy Technicians
- **2** Prescription Assistance Technicians
- **7** Pharmacy Residents
- **150,000** prescriptions a year
- **2** collaborative drug therapy management programs – pharmacists prescribing with provider supervision

2018

# MOUD Patients Treated at PCHC, 2018-2021



Model active in at least 2 PCHC clinics by 2018; internal clinic data

# 02

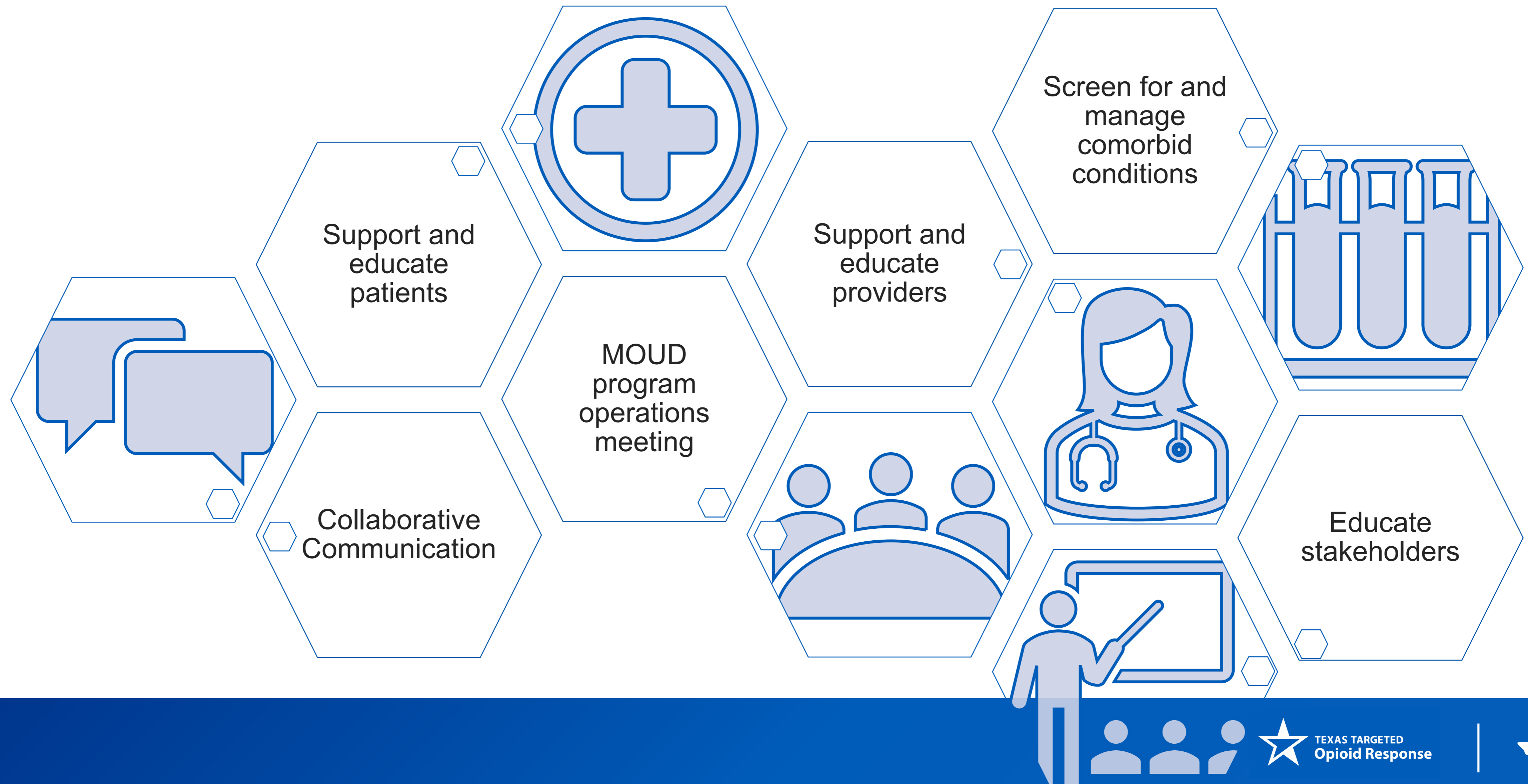
## Understand the Core Components and team structure of the integrated collaborative model

---



**Pharmacist-Integrated Medication  
Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (**PrIMO**)**

# 6 Core Components of PrIMO



# Clinical Team Composition

PRIMO TEAM MEMBERS	DESCRIPTION
<b>Core Team Members</b>	Pharmacist At least one prescriber Behavioral health specialist
<b>Ancillary Team Members</b>	Case manager/social worker Medical assistants Program or office manager
<b>Occasional Support members</b>	As needed, depending on clinic and community needs Examples include dentists, cardiologists, vocational therapists, residents, etc.

# 03

Understand the feasibility of implementing this model in 4 diverse US clinics

---

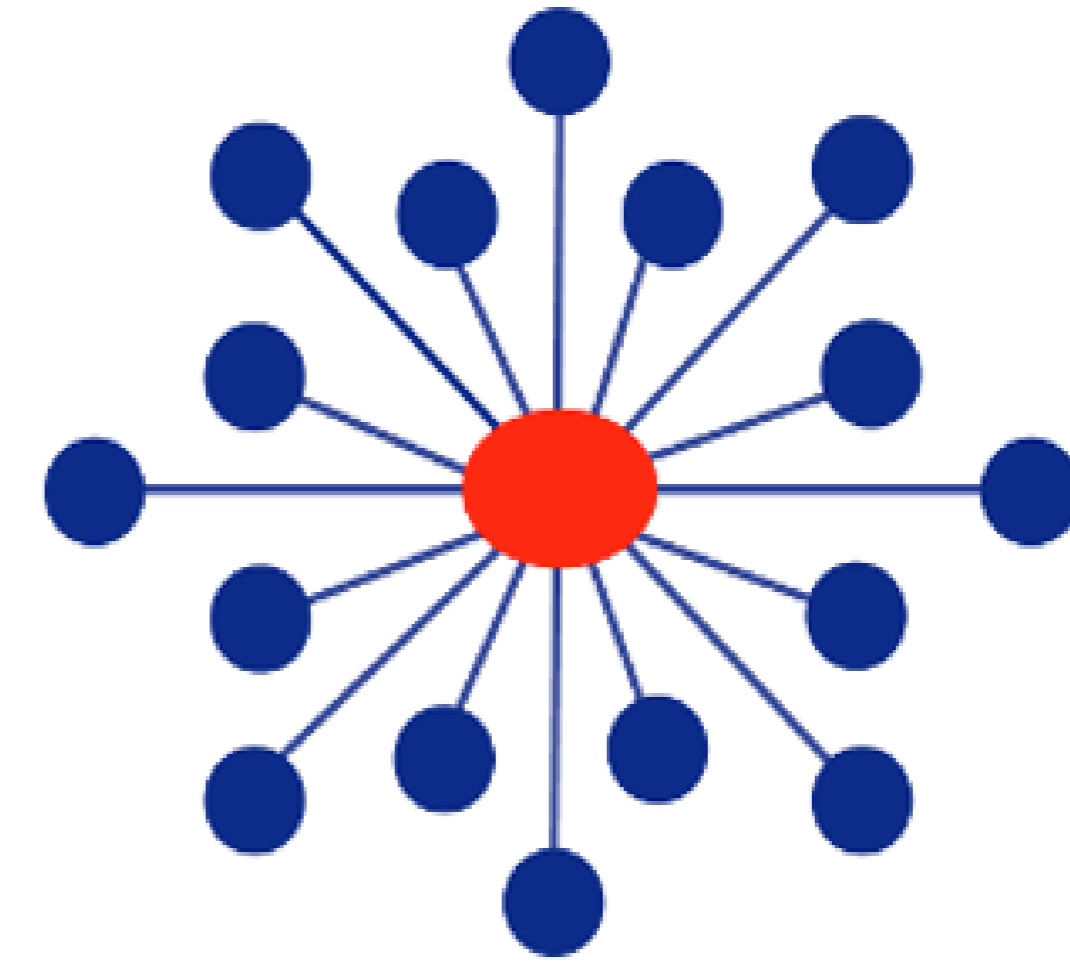
# Specific Aims

## Primary

To evaluate the feasibility of implementing PrIMO into the workflow across 4 diverse clinical sites.

## Secondary

To evaluate the acceptability and impact of implementing the PrIMO model.



## NIDA CTN Protocol 0116

# Implementing a Pharmacist-Integrated Collaborative Model of Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (PharmICO)

Lead Investigators: Lisa A. Marsch, PhD  
David A. Fiellin, MD  
Felicity Homsted, PharmD

Sponsor: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

# Core Components of PharmICO Study

## Implementation Measures

Milestone calculators



## Implementation Facilitation

Supportive framework

## Participant Assessments

Surveys and interviews



## Fidelity measure

Adherence to the model

## EHR Data

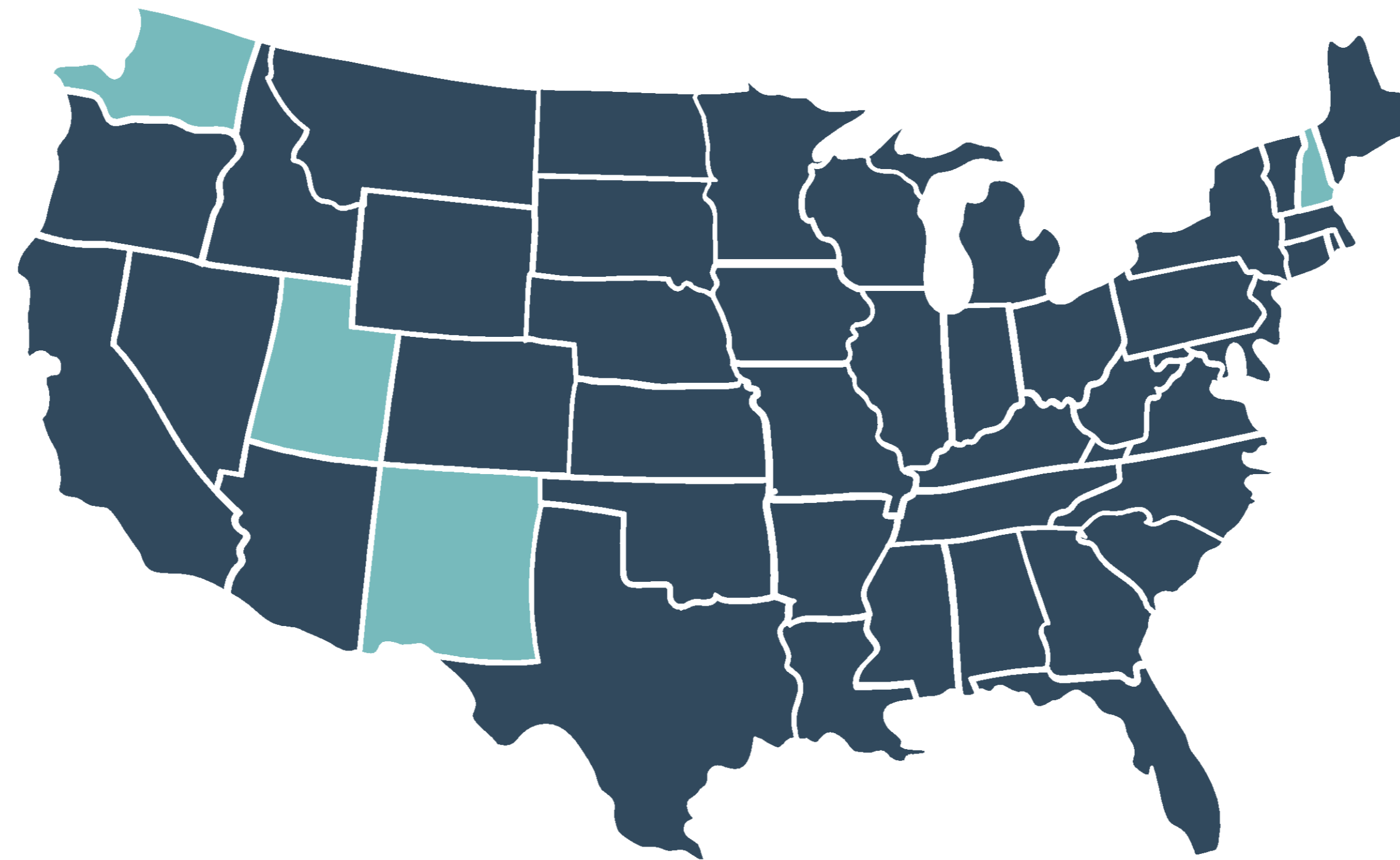
Impact on treatment outcomes



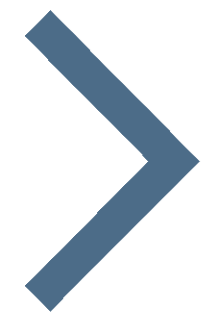
# Study Sites



Tacoma  
Washington



Nashua  
New Hampshire



Salt Lake City  
Utah

Albuquerque  
New Mexico

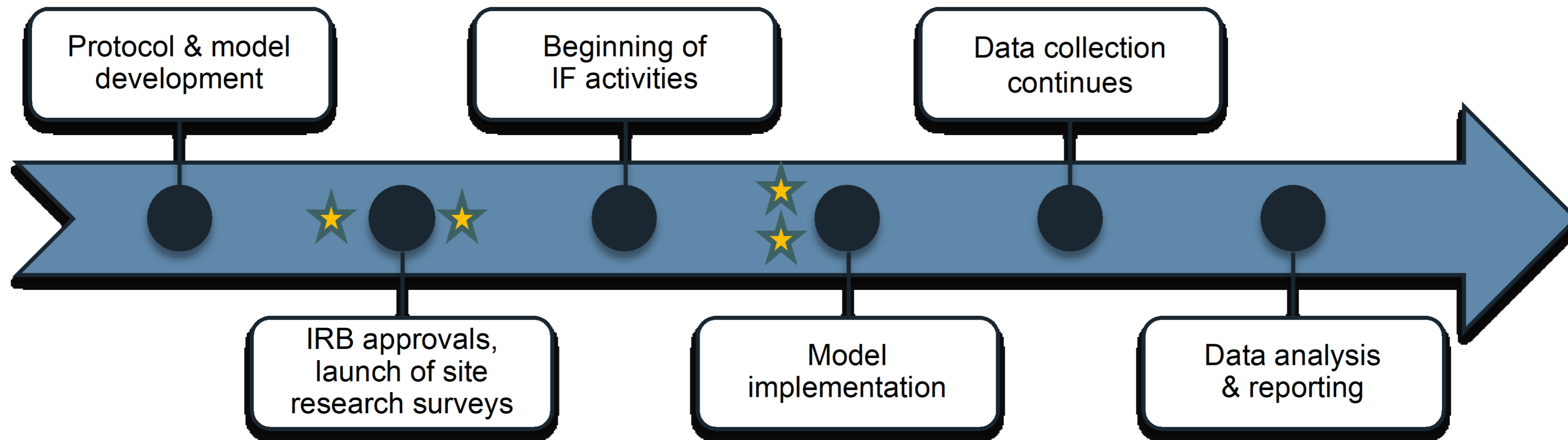


# Study Sites

	<b>Harbor Care Health &amp; Wellness Center</b>	<b>Hilltop Regional Family Medical Clinic, Community Health Care</b>	<b>Truman Health Services, University of New Mexico</b>	<b>Sugar House Health Center, University of Utah</b>
<b>Location</b>	Nashua, NH	Tacoma, WA	Albuquerque, NM	Salt Lake City, UT
<b>Rurality</b>	Urban	Urban	Urban	Urban
<b>Institution</b>	FQHC, specialty SUD provider	FQHC	Hospital/medical center primary care site	Hospital/medical center primary care site
<b>Patient Volume</b>	1,549	45,385	1,900	17,762
<b>Unique MOUD Patients</b>	455	71	35	102

# Timeline

We have two sites that are in the Implementation Facilitation (IF) phase while the other two sites are about to launch the first round of research assessments.



★ Represents each of the 4 study sites

# Potential Impact

This project will provide novel empirical information about how to optimally engage pharmacies as key partners in collaborative, integrated care models designed to expand access to evidence-based medication treatment for OUD.

# Thank You

## Lisa A. Marsch, PhD

Director, Center for Technology and Behavioral Health  
Director, Northeast Node of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network  
Andrew G. Wallace Professor of Psychiatry  
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth  
[www.c4tbh.org](http://www.c4tbh.org)  
[www.ctnnortheastnode.org](http://www.ctnnortheastnode.org)  
[Lisa.a.marsch@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Lisa.a.marsch@Dartmouth.edu)



Center for **Technology**  
and **Behavioral Health**

Innovate · Evaluate · Disseminate



**CTN-NE**

The National Drug Abuse Treatment  
Clinical Trials Network - Northeast Node

