Quality and Impact of Maryland's State Opioid Response Services by Race, Age, Gender and Placed-based Economic Indicators

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NBER working paper that studied the variation in Maryland's State Opioid Response (SOR) Services by Race, Age, Gender and Place-Based Economic Indicators using data collected from October 2020 through May 2022, by Assefa et. al. (2023) found that the Maryland's State Opioid Response services distribution of treatment and recovery services per population rate are equitable among Blacks and White Maryland residents. However, overdose death rates are high and rising for Black residents. Therefore, the authors proposed further investigation of sources of variation in the death rate by race, gender, and age. In this paper, we will conduct further analysis to examine if there is any difference in the quality/type of services and impact of SOR provider services by race, age, and gender. Furthermore, the composition of clients served by race could vary across the 11 SOR initiatives that focus on different types of programs. Some programs could be serving primarily more Black or primarily more White clients. Hence, we will investigate if there are differences by initiative types. For this investigation we will use the dataset we have and the cross-tabs and chi-square techniques.

Finally, using qualitative data collected as part of the SOR's program the study will further investigates to discovery insights on the quality of the SOR services. That is, the qualitative portion of the study seeks to identify the problems, challenges, and successes reported by those providing treatment, prevention and/or recovery services to clients. Our approach is to study, including with the use of text analytic tools, the "monthly progress report comments" provided by service providers or grantees. The text analytics software will assist us in identifying the most frequent concepts, topics, and themes referenced in the comments, as well as the overall sentiments reflected. Insights from these analyses will then be presented both conceptually, and as word clouds and graphs.