

“Community Social Vulnerability and Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Within the Continental U.S.: A Cross-Sectional Study”

Research Objective

How is a community's ability to respond to natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks related to their current access to MOUD?

Social Vulnerability Index

- Socioeconomic status (the area's income level, how many people are below poverty, unemployed, or have no high school diploma)
- Household composition and disability (how many people are aged 65 or older, aged 17 or younger, older than age 5 with a disability, and number of single-parent households)
- Minority status and language (how many people identify as a minority ethnicity or speak English “less than well”)
- Housing type and transportation (the number of multi-unit structures, mobile homes, crowding, number of homes with no vehicle, and number of group quarters such as worker dormitories, skilled nursing facilities, or college dorms)

Findings

Urban ZCTAs: Geographic access may not be as important a barrier to MOUD treatment in these communities.

Suburban ZCTAs: Those with lower socioeconomic status or households with more children, seniors, or individuals with disabilities had less geographic access.

Access to MOUD

Drive time in minutes from the population-weighted center of the zip code tabulation areas to the zip code tabulation area of the nearest treatment location for buprenorphine, methadone, extended-release naltrexone, and dialysis

Total number of treatment locations within 30-minute drive time

Rural ZCTAs: The type of social vulnerability did not matter because geographic access was uniformly poor in these areas.

TAKEAWAYS

Communities with lower socioeconomic status have less geographic access to methadone, buprenorphine, and extended-release naltrexone, which should make us question current disaster preparedness. Must develop proactive measures to increase services within communities with greater vulnerability in the event of a disaster and not rely on coordination of existing opioid treatment programs.