

### INTRODUCTION

- MACS is a state funded program that provides support to prescribers in addressing the needs of their patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain management through phone consultation, education and training opportunities, resource and referral identification, and technical assistance.<sup>1</sup>
- Adoption of buprenorphine prescribing is low with significant treatment gaps.
- Increasing the available workforce of practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine is essential to reduce the impact of the ongoing opioid epidemic and a main goal of MACS.
- Current publicly available datasets are inadequate to accurately assess the supply of practitioners.

### METHODS

- MACS surveys practitioners across Maryland through a variety of methods to confirm buprenorphine prescribing practices of all eligible practitioners
- Bi-annual phone calls, mailings, faxes, and emails are systematically distributed to practitioners utilizing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Buprenorphine Practitioner Locator list, Maryland board of physician's lists, and through partnerships with local health departments, and other outreach efforts.
- MACS hosts DATA 2000 waiver qualifying trainings and provides systematic follow-up four months following the training to confirm prescribing practices.

### RESULTS

Figure 1. Datasets of available prescribers

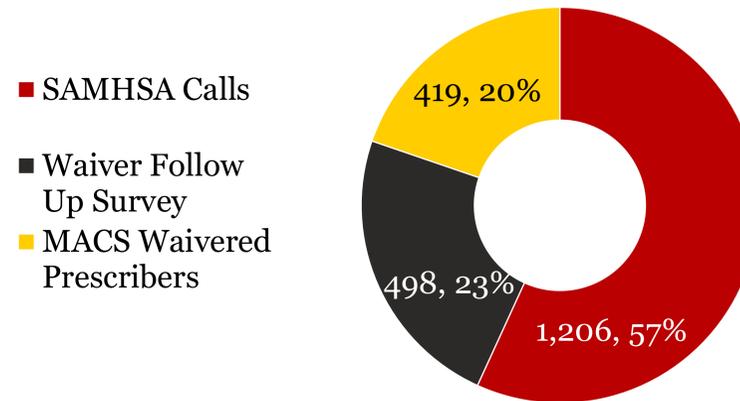
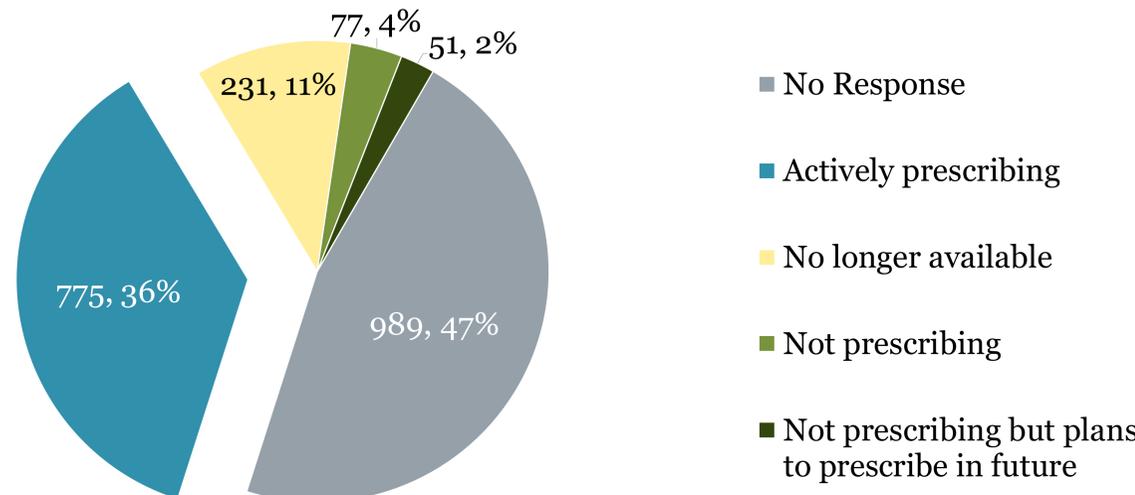


Figure 2. Statewide prescriber buprenorphine survey response (N=2,123)



- MACS surveyed a total of **2,123** eligible practitioners through a variety of methods and outreach efforts from April 2019 to March 2022 (Figure 2)
- A total of **36%** (n=775) practitioners have confirmed as **actively prescribing buprenorphine**
- 19% (n=231) of practitioners on the SAMHSA list were inaccurate contacts
- 43% (n=210) of confirmed prescribers did not appear on the SAMHSA list
- Majority of prescribers across lists are in the Baltimore metropolitan area with limited access to prescribers in rural counties.

### DISCUSSION

- Available **datasets are outdated and lack critical variables** necessary to accurately evaluate access to care.
- **Many waived prescribers do not prescribe**, local assessments are currently necessary to understand the regional capacity to prescribe buprenorphine.
- Results illustrate the **difficulty in identifying appropriate referrals to treatment gaps and institutional barriers**
- MACS has developed **targeted training** to provide education **under New HHS guidelines**
- **Other states can replicate these efforts** to evaluate prescriber capacity
- MACS will continue to monitor the waiver status of eligible practitioners in Maryland.

### REFERENCES

1. Sweeney, S., Coble, K., Connors, E., Rebert-Franklin, K., Welsh, C., & Weintraub, E. (2020). Program development and implementation outcomes of a statewide addiction consultation service: Maryland Addiction Consultation Service (MACS).

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