

Characterization of Young Adults Accessing Buprenorphine Telehealth in Philadelphia, PA



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INTRODUCTION

- Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are under-prescribed to young adults.
- Young adults may require different types of low threshold treatment models.
- Goal: Compare characteristics of young adults to older adults seeking buprenorphine treatment via telehealth and examine retention in treatment among the young adult cohort.

METHODS

- Cross-sectional study of young adults (ages 18-29 years) to older callers who were prescribed buprenorphine via a health system-based telehealth urgent care program, CareConnect, in Philadelphia, PA from 2021-2023.
- Multivariable logistic regression model: factors associated with linkage to treatment and retention in care adjusting for age, gender, race, ethnicity, housing, recent incarceration and insurance.

RESULTS

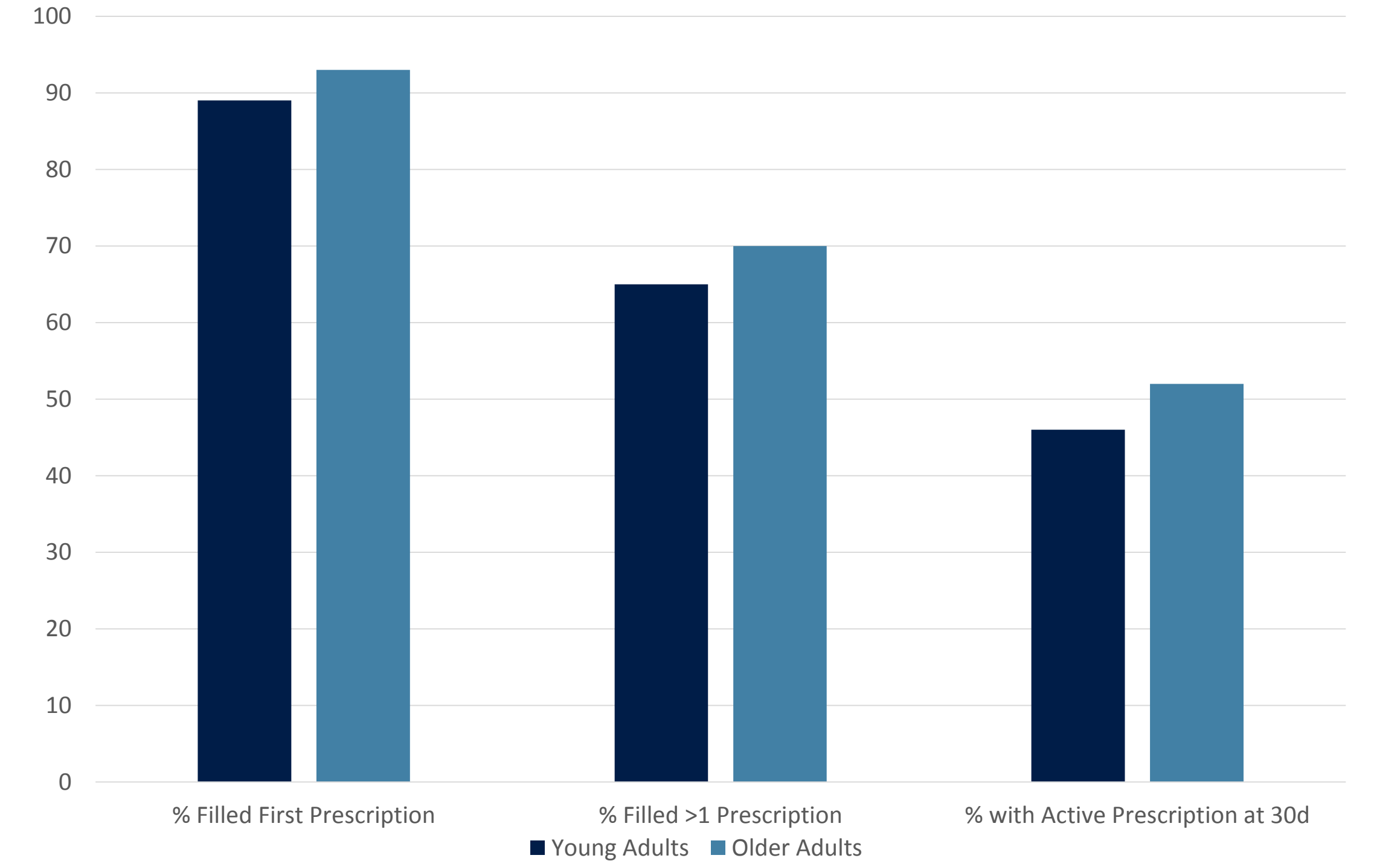
Table 1. Demographics and bivariate analysis

Caller Characteristic	Overall Sample 1023(%)	<=29 years 152(15%)	>= 30 years 871(85%)	p-value
Gender				
Male	610 (60)	92 (61)	518 (59)	0.5
Female	403 (39)	54 (36)	349 (40)	
Trans or non-binary	10 (1)	6 (4)	4 (<1)	
Race				
Black	370 (36)	57 (38)	313 (36)	0.1
White	463 (45)	58 (38)	405 (47)	
Asian	3 (<1)	1 (1)	2 (<1)	
Other	48 (5)	9 (6)	39 (4)	
Latinx ethnicity	126 (12)	28 (19)	98 (11)	0.03
Insurance				
Medicaid/Medicare	809 (79)	116 (76)	693 (80)	0.1
Private insurance	69 (7)	15 (10)	54 (6)	
None	103 (10)	17 (11)	86 (10)	
Housing Status				
Unstable/Shelter/None	222 (22)	23 (15)	199 (23)	0.03
Recent incarceration	105 (10)	25 (17)	80 (9)	0.03
Has Narcan	450 (44)	64 (42)	386 (44)	0.8
Retained in care at 30d	520 (51)	70 (46)	450 (52)	0.2

Table 2. Multivariable regression assessing associations with retention in MOUD care at 30 days

	Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Lack of insurance among all callers	0.5 (0.3-0.8)
Young adult callers who identify as Black	0.5 (0.3-0.9)
Young adults with permanent housing and incarceration	0.2 (0.03-0.84)

Figure 1. MOUD Care Cascade (by age group)



CONCLUSION

- Minimizing insurance disruptions supports continued engagement in MOUD care for all.
- Targeted interventions to ensure Black young adults are retained in care are needed.
- Prevention of incarceration with diversion programming may improve retention in care.
- Limitations: Cross-sectional data

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DISCLOSURES

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