

## “COVID, Race, & MOUD”

### Study Overview

This study examines the ways COVID-19 impacted individuals from racial/ethnic groups with substance use disorder (SUD).



- COVID may have worsened racial and socioeconomic disparities in access to SUD treatment.
- Those with an SUD have an increased risk of getting COVID and individuals who are Black with an opioid use disorder (OUD) and COVID have an increased risk of hospitalization and mortality.
- There is a history of differential marketing and access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) based on race.

### TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Treatment changes during COVID, such as telemedicine and take-home dosing, expanded access to MOUD and reduced some of the burdens that come with methadone treatment. These changes can reduce racial disparities in access to MOUD.
- ✓ Reform/improvement recommendations include:
  - ✓ Expand the workforce of providers who can prescribe buprenorphine.
  - ✓ Offer patients with OUD the full range of MOUD options.
  - ✓ Organize local health departments and OTPs (opioid treatment programs) to provide home deliveries for patients who use methadone.