

Residencies must train residents to treat substance use disorder among pregnant women

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Early-career family physicians who both provide maternity care and prescribe buprenorphine—a medication used to treat opioid use disorder—primarily completed their training in a small number of residency programs.

Using data from the 2016, 2017 and 2018 National Family Medicine Graduate Survey, administered annually by the American Board of Family Medicine, the research team behind this study asked clinicians who graduated from family medicine residency programs within the past three years whether "[maternity care](#)" or "buprenorphine treatment" were part of their practice and whether they were currently delivering babies.

Of the 5,103 respondents in their sample, 153 both deliver babies and prescribe buprenorphine. A further 108 respondents provide maternity care and prescribe buprenorphine but do not perform deliveries. The researchers note that it is not clear whether the surveyed physicians are necessarily providing pregnancy care and prescribing buprenorphine to the same patients.

Of 614 total family medicine residencies represented in the survey, only 15 of them, mostly in [urban areas](#) on the East and West Coasts, trained 25% of the respondents who provide this care. As data about the risks of maternal mortality from [substance use disorder](#) emerges, it will be important to increase training opportunities in family medicine

residencies to meet the needs of pregnant women with substance use disorder.

More information: Maternity Care and Buprenorphine Prescribing in New Family Physicians, *Annals of Family Medicine*, 2020.

Provided by American Academy of Family Physicians

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