

# **“Medication-assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Rhode Island: Who Gets Treatment, and Does Treatment Improve Health Outcomes?”**

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## **1. Background on HealthFacts RI**

HealthFacts RI is the official name of the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) for the state of Rhode Island. In any given month the data cover most Rhode Island residents who held medical and/or pharmacy insurance in that month, with the exception of people enrolled in plans that insure fewer than 3,000 Rhode Island residents and, beginning in late 2015, those enrolled in self-insured plans.<sup>1</sup> Dental insurance information is not included. The data set contains limited demographic information (age, gender), information on the medical and pharmacy insurance plans (company name and plan type), the patient’s Zip code, detailed information for each specific claim filed in association with health-care services (inpatient and outpatient) received by an individual and prescriptions filled by the individual, and information about the provider including professional credentials and practice address. Instead of names, consistent numerical identifiers are assigned to enrollees and providers in order to link their records over time. Treatments and prescriptions paid for out of pocket, even by individuals carrying insurance, are not recorded in the data, nor are treatments received by uninsured patients. The HealthFacts RI data set we received contains observations dated from April 2011 through May 2019 for health insurance enrollees of all ages in the reporting plans. Some observed individuals have non-Rhode Island Zip codes for all or part of the sample period. This might occur if they work in Rhode Island and are covered by a commercial insurer to a sufficient number of Rhode Island residents, or if they are a child (for example, age 20) on the plan of a Rhode Island resident but live separately from their parents, although children can’t be linked to their parents in the data. Alternatively, a non-Rhode Island Zip code could be erroneous. Some individuals have a known pharmacy plan and an “unknown” medical plan. These cases arise when the individual’s medical plan is not required to report to HealthFacts RI for any of the reasons just described. Starting in January 2018 the data do not include pharmacy claims for enrollees in Medicare fee-for-service plans, and starting in January 2019 the data do not include medical claims for such enrollees. The

<sup>1</sup> In late 2015 the Supreme Court ruled that self-insured plans could not be mandated to provide claims data to state APCD systems. A self-insured or self-funded plan is a type of coverage offered by some employers where the employer covers the cost of claims as they are accrued rather than paying an insurance premium to an insurance carrier.



















