2017-18 Buprenorphine County prescriber counts, and mean monthly census and buprenorphine treatment episode duration for Massachusetts

County	State	Buprenorphine Patient Months- All Prescribers	Buprenorphine Episode- Primary Prescribers	Buprenorphine Episode Primary Prescriber Mean Patient Census	Buprenorphine Episode Mean Days' Supply
Barnstable	MA	35,955	60	42	448
Berkshire	MA	13,880	31	32	343
Bristol	MA	83,557	128	49	363
Dukes	MA	1,906	<10	28	396
Essex	MA	62,066	153	33	335
Franklin	MA	12,401	33	30	191
Hampden	MA	74,694	116	51	282
Hampshire	MA	37,184	53	53	322
Middlesex	MA	137,895	272	40	421
Nantucket	MA	538	<10	33	188
Norfolk	MA	67,972	96	59	529
Plymouth	MA	37,011	74	39	373
Suffolk	MA	100,382	348	23	268
Worcester	MA	94,902	177	39	378

Table notes:

Table data was generated from IQVIA Longitudinal Prescription Data which captures approximately 90% of all prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies in the U.S. IQVIA web site accessible at: https://www.iqvia.com/solutions/realworld-evidence/real-world-data-and-insights.

Patient months: For every active buprenorphine prescriber, we calculated the total patient-months of care for 2017-2018. An active buprenorphine patient for one month contributed one patient-month of care. A patient possessing buprenorphine from a prescription in a month was considered an active patient; for example, a patient filling a 30-day prescription on September 15th was defined as an active patient in both September and October.

Episode and episode days' supply definition: Episodes that were active in 2017 and 2018 started with the first observed fill date of any buprenorphine prescription following a clean period, defined as at least a 90-day period after the day's supply of any prior buprenorphine prescription had run out. An episode lasted through the last day of the supply of medication for the last filled buprenorphine prescription, with no more than a 30-day gap between the last day's supply of one prescription and the filling of the subsequent prescription. Episode days' supply is the cumulative days' supply from the first filled prescription to the last day of supply of the last filled prescription. Overlapping buprenorphine prescriptions filled on the same day were treated as being taken concurrently; overlapping buprenorphine prescriptions not filled on the same day were treated as early refills and were treated as being take sequentially.

Episode primary prescriber: Episodes active in 2017 and 2018 as defined above in which the patient filled buprenorphine prescriptions from 2 or more prescribers were attributed to the prescriber (the primary prescriber) who wrote the majority of buprenorphine days of supply during the episode. Note that not all active prescribers were primary prescribers for an episode; examples include a prescriber who may have written one prescription during an episode to cover for the primary prescriber or a prescriber who started the episode but then transfrerred care of the patient to a primary prescriber who was responsible for more of the days supply than the initial prescriber.

Primary prescriber patient census: For each prescriber, the number of patients with an active episode in 2017 or 2018 for which the prescriber was the primary prescriber.