



Serious Mental Illnesses Among People Who Use Drugs: Gender Differences in Prevalence and MOUD Treatment in a Community Recruited Sample

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I. BACKGROUND

- Prior estimates suggest high rates of co-occurring serious mental illness (SMI) among people who use drugs (PWUD) and indicate potential gender differences in SMI; however, to our knowledge, few studies have explicitly examined this.
- Given the high prevalence of SMI among PWUD, it is also essential to understand its relationship to drug treatment outcomes, such as medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment.
- Examining how SMI and sociodemographic characteristics influence the receipt of MOUD treatment can inform equitable and integrated care.

II. AIM

- To examine rates of co-occurring SMI in PWUD and its overall and gender-specific associations with receiving MOUD treatment.

III. METHODS

- Sample:** Data (N=568) from B-SAFE, an intervention study of a peer educator training for PWUD in Baltimore. Survey data was collected between April 2021 and November 2022 on demographics, SMI, and current receipt of MOUD treatment.
- Predictors:** SMI, defined as diagnosed bipolar disorder and/or schizophrenia, and sociodemographic characteristics.
- Outcome:** Reception of any type of MOUD treatment (methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone, or indicated “other”).
- Analysis:** Multivariable logistic regression was used to assess the association of SMIs and MOUD treatment, which we further stratified by gender.

V. DISCUSSION

- Co-occurring SMIs show disproportionately high prevalence among PWUD – especially women. However, gender was not significantly associated with current engagement in MOUD treatment.
- SMI was significantly associated with MOUD treatment for men but not for women, and among women, white individuals were less likely to access MOUD treatment; thus, more targeted efforts for women with co-occurring SMI are needed.
- Among men, interventions should decrease racial disparities in MOUD access and meet the needs of homeless individuals.
- Findings support the integration of or increased linkage to mental health services in MOUD treatment.

IV. RESULTS

Figure 1: Current MOUD Treatment Type (N=291; 51.23%)

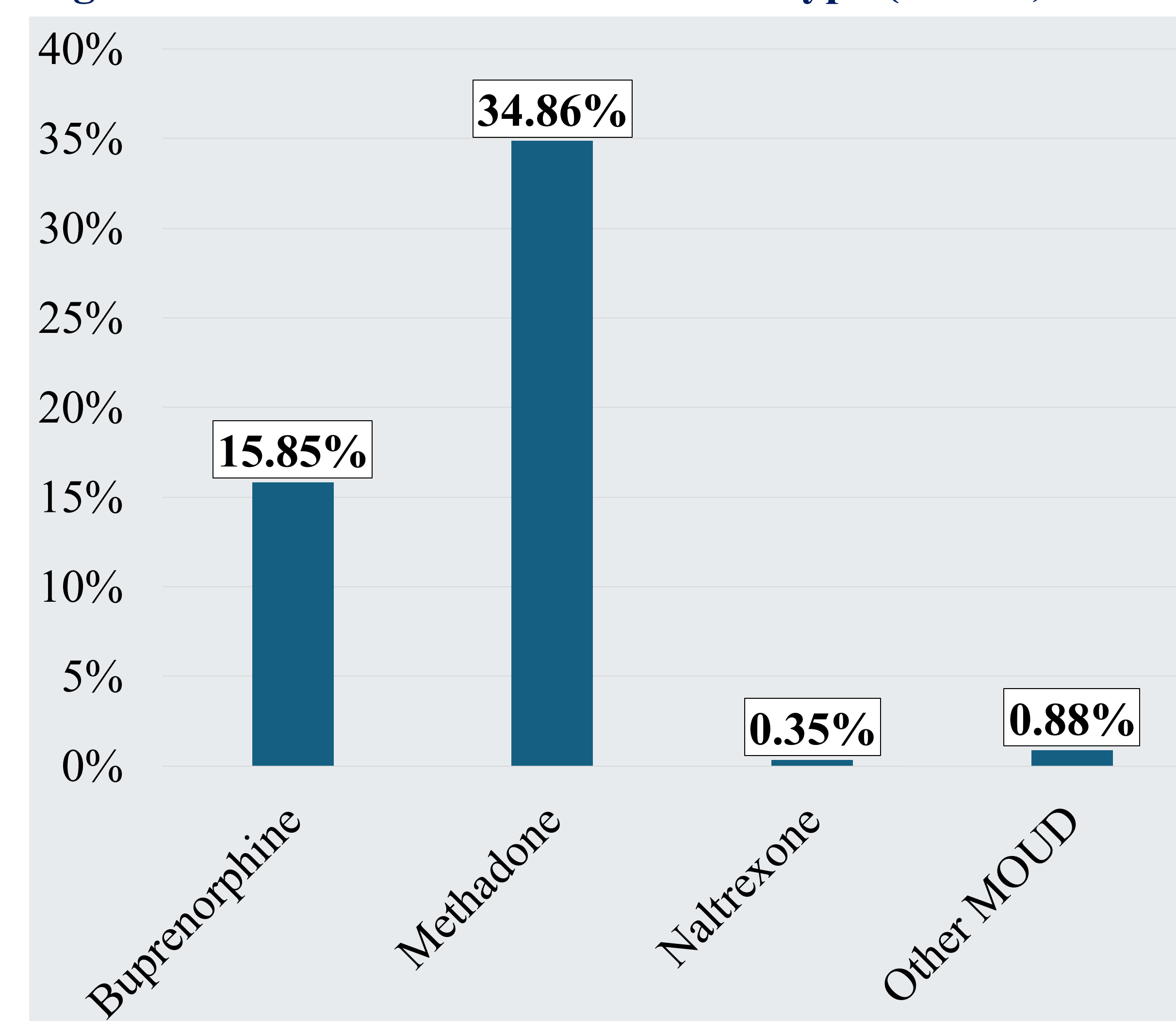


Figure 3: Percentages of Any MOUD Treatment Reception Stratified by Gender (N=568)

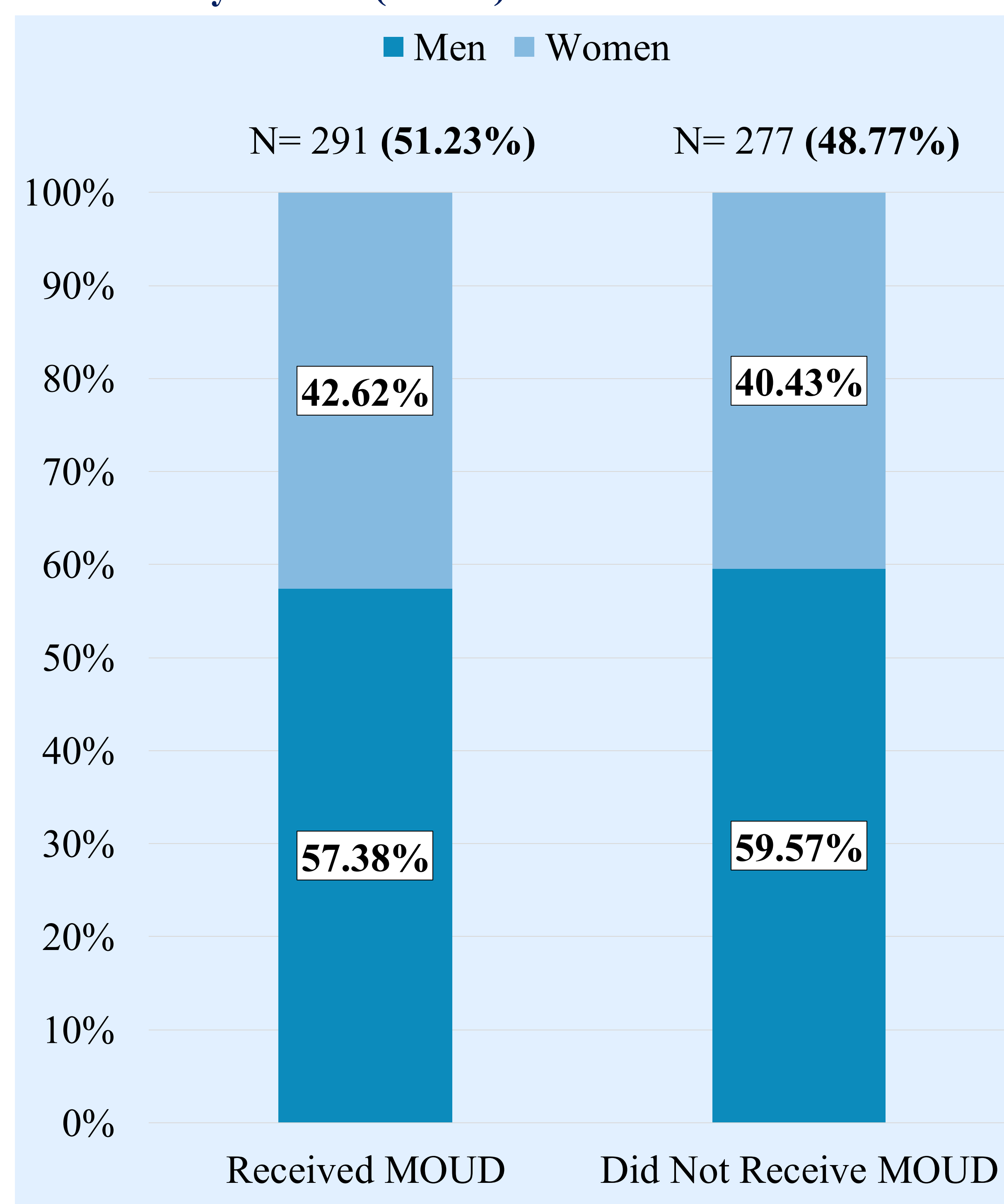


Figure 2: SMI Prevalence Stratified by Gender (N=568)

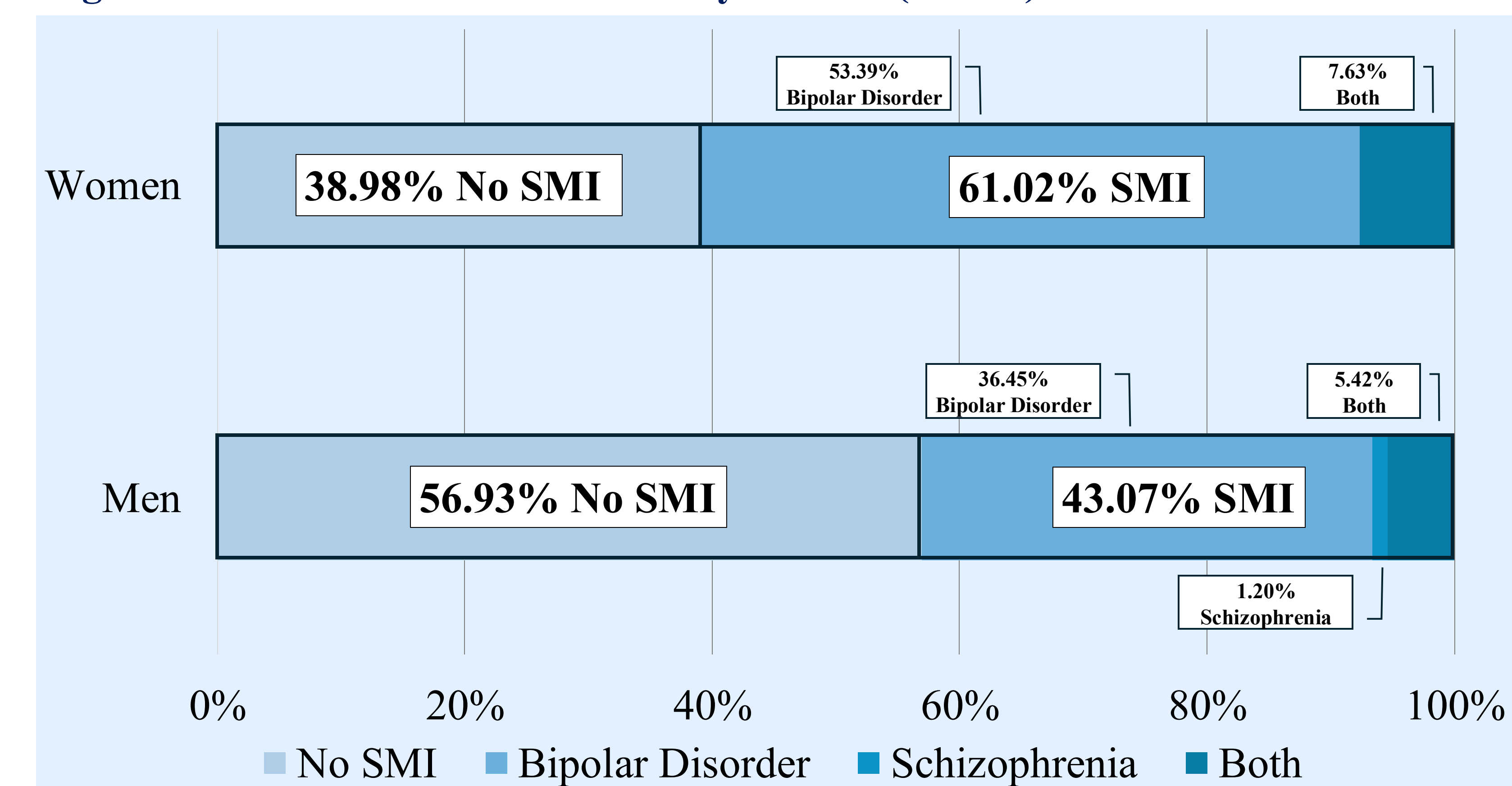


Table 1: Predictors of MOUD Use in Overall, Women Only, and Men Only Multivariable Logistic Regression Models (N=568)

Variable	Overall Model aOR (95% CI)	Men Only aOR (95% CI)	Women Only aOR (95% CI)
Gender (Ref: Male)			
Female	0.96 (0.68-1.37)		
SMI (Ref: No)			
Yes	1.62 (1.14-2.31)	1.73 (1.09-2.77)	1.48 (0.85-2.59)
Median Split Age (Ref: <= 54 years old)			
> 54 years old	1.27 (0.88-1.82)	1.22 (0.76-1.97)	1.34 (0.74-2.43)
Race (Ref: Black)			
White	1.19 (0.72-1.98)	2.91 (1.41-6.25)	0.48 (0.22-1.01)
Criminal Legal Involvement (Ref: No)			
Yes	0.68 (0.22-2.02)	0.76 (0.19-2.92)	0.30 (0.01-2.58)
Injection Drug Use (Ref: No)			
Yes	1.05 (0.72-1.53)	1.05 (0.64-1.72)	1.08 (0.58-2.03)
Insurance (Ref: Yes)			
No	0.75 (0.35-1.56)	0.57 (0.20-1.50)	1.20 (0.34-4.44)
Homeless (Ref: No)			
Yes	0.80 (0.54-1.19)	0.53 (0.31-0.87)	1.50 (0.76-3.01)

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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