



# Reversing the Opioid Crisis in Vulnerable Communities

## Overview

The rising incidence of opioid use disorder, including heroin, illicit fentanyl, and prescription pain medication, is recognized as a serious and compelling public health issue. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) serve vulnerable patient populations, including patients who are at high risk for opioid use disorder. Additionally, the Hudson Valley and Suffolk County, where Hudson River Health Care (Sun River Health) operates, are facing an acute heroin and illicit fentanyl epidemic.

The opioid crisis poses a significant human and fiscal toll: national estimates suggest that for every opioid death, there are 15 substance use disorder treatment admissions, 26 emergency room visits, and additional health care utilization related to opioid use disorder, generating an excess of \$4 million dollars in costs that could be avoided. Sun River Health is a state and national leader in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) – which is demonstrated to significantly reduce odds of death, reduce avoidable health care utilization, and educate health care providers in effective means of delivering treatment in community health center settings.

## Our Work

- + Sun River Health provides an evidence-based MAT program that includes ongoing motivational interviewing; case conferencing; embedded case management; ongoing monitoring; opioid overdose prevention education; treatment with buprenorphine and naltrexone; harm reduction education; and referrals, where appropriate
- + Patients in the Sun River Health MAT program are supported by interdisciplinary teams, including a MAT provider, social worker, LPN, care manager, regional MAT Managers, and a Medical Director
- + Sun River Health has received federal funds to expand treatment of opioid use disorders in underserved populations, which has enabled MAT expansion to our Beacon, Peekskill, Yonkers, Monticello, Brentwood, Wyandanch, Shirley, and Riverhead sites
- + Sun River Health clinical leaders hold positions on New York State DOH advisory bodies, such as the HIV Quality Advisory Committee, SUD Guidelines Committee, and Buprenorphine Advisory Workgroup, which inform best practices in substance use disorder treatment and associated clinical conditions

## About Sun River Health

Founded over 40 years ago as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Sun River Health is one of the nation's largest community health providers. The Sun River Health network of 43 health centers throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island provides affordable, accessible care to over 225,000 patients annually. The network's exceptional primary care practitioners, specialists, and support staff have made Sun River Health a destination for convenient, high-quality care for all. In 2018, Brightpoint Health, an FQHC network with sites in all five boroughs of New York City, joined Sun River Health.