

Can Cultural Competency Speak to the Race Disparities in Methadone Dosage Levels?

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This presentation examined the relationship between cultural competency in methadone treatment facilities and its influence on methadone dosages and ancillary services. Using a nationally representative sample of outpatient methadone treatment facilities in 1995 and in 2005, data were collected from facility supervisors and directors. Data collected from facility supervisors and directors was used to assess the degree of cultural competent services provided and the rate of patients receiving less than 40, less than 60 and greater than 80 milligrams of methadone dosage while in treatment. We fitted regression models with measures of cultural competency, client, and organizational characteristics to assess dosage levels and ancillary services in methadone treatment. Initial findings suggest variations across facilities as they interface with cultural competent services. Significance and implications will be presented.