

# U.S. Addiction Workforce Capacity for Wound Care in the Age of Xylazine

Raagini Jawa MD, MPH, FASAM<sup>1,2</sup>, Samantha Blakemore MPH<sup>2</sup>, Stephen Murray MPH, NRP<sup>2</sup>, Alicia Ventura MPH, Tavita Hristova BS<sup>2</sup>, Alexa Wilder MPH<sup>2</sup>, Margaret Shang MD, MS<sup>1</sup>, Colleen LaBelle MSN, RN-BC, CARN<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Research on Healthcare, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. <sup>2</sup>Grayken Center for Addiction Training and Technical Assistance, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA.

## Introduction

- The U.S. is facing an ongoing public health crisis with growing morbidity & mortality from an evolving adulterated illicit drug supply.
- People who use drugs (PWUD) exposed to xylazine-contaminated drugs experience ulcerating wounds that can heal with longitudinal medically-directed wound care.
- If left untreated, wounds can progress and place PWUD at risk of infection, hospitalization, limb loss, or death.



- Understand the wound care capacity of professionals working with PWUD
- Identify knowledge gaps related to xylazine wounds & care

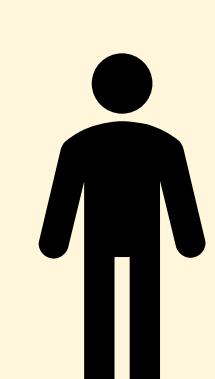
## Methods



Emailed national listserv of addiction professionals with diverse roles & practices (N=11,207)

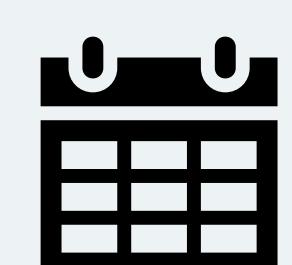
Inclusion criteria:

- 18+
- Interact with PWUD in clinical and/or harm reduction setting



26-item anonymous online survey

- Demographics
- Prior wound training
- Experience caring for xylazine wounds
- Capacity for xylazine testing & wound care

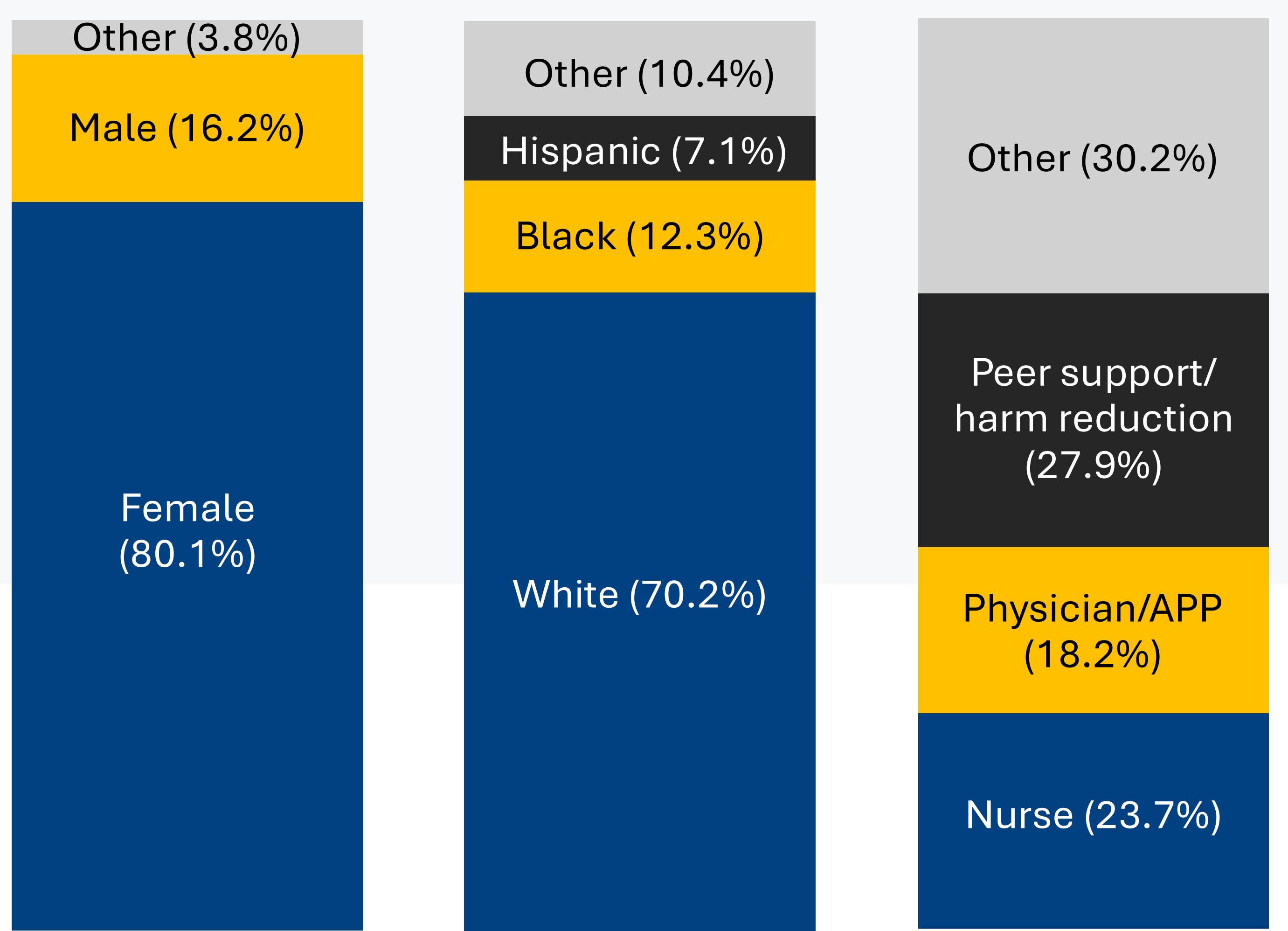


Data collected over 4 weeks (Aug-Sept 2023)

## Results

### Participant Characteristics

N = 1280 (12.8% response rate)

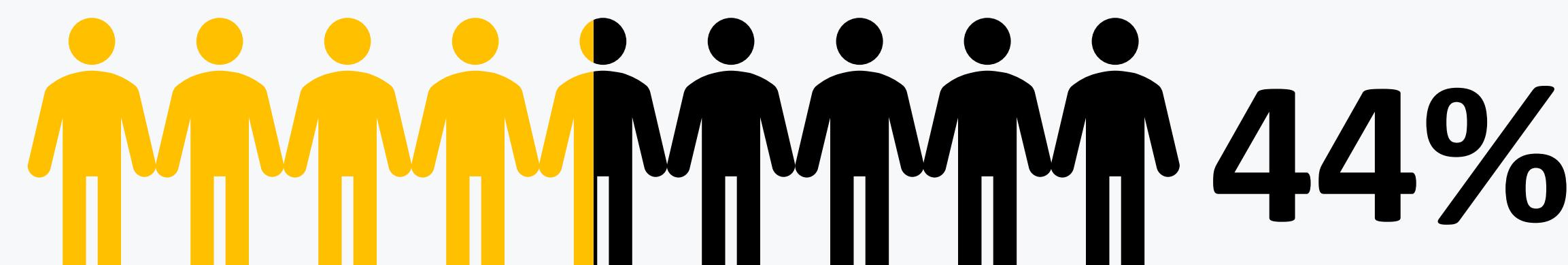


### Participant Experience

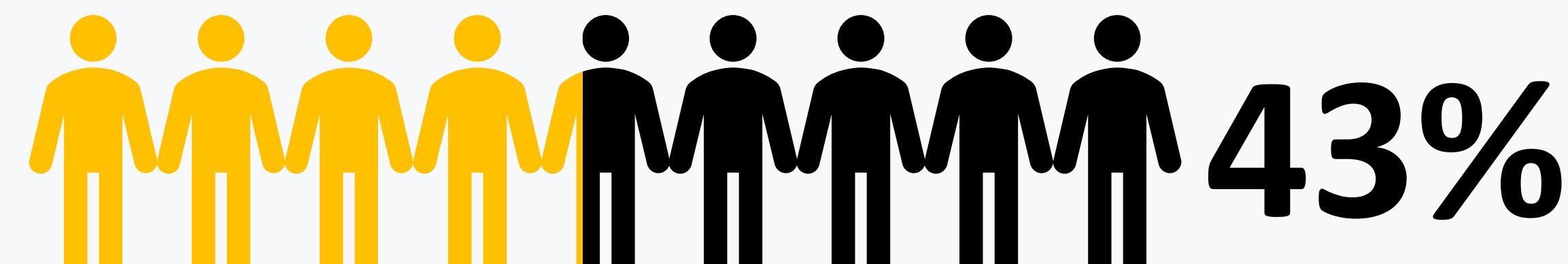
Cared for PWUD with xylazine-related harms



Cared for xylazine wounds



Prior wound care training



### Service Capacity

Referrals for wound care



Onsite wound care



Xylazine testing



## Conclusion

1

Many addiction professionals encounter & care for PWUD with xylazine wounds

2

<50% with any formal wound care training

3

Most rely on off-site referrals

### Urgent need to:

- Expand wound care training to professionals
- Increase wound care services for PWUD impacted by xylazine wounds