

# EXCEEDING THE STANDARDS OF QUALITY OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENT

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Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a chronic disease affecting nearly 10 million individuals nationwide, leading to serious potential consequences, including disability, relapses, and death.<sup>1</sup> There were approximately 107,000 overdose deaths in the past year, the vast majority due to opioids, and overdose has emerged as the leading cause of death among adults ages 18-45.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Acadia Healthcare's network of Comprehensive Treatment Centers is the leading provider of opioid treatment programs (OTPs) in the United States, serving more than 65,000 patients each day across more than 150 clinics nationwide.

At each Comprehensive Treatment Center, providing the highest quality of care is our top priority. We are committed to using evidence-based practices, providing individualized treatment plans, and offering ongoing support to help our patients achieve and maintain recovery. Our goal is to ensure that every patient receives safe, effective, and compassionate care delivered in a manner that respects their dignity, autonomy, and privacy.

Improving the quality of clinical care in opioid treatment programs is essential for several reasons:

- 1. Patient safety:** Opioid addiction is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition. Patients who seek treatment for opioid addiction are often at risk for experiencing withdrawal symptoms and other health complications. Quality treatment programs ensure that patients receive safe and effective care, including monitoring and interventions as needed.
- 2. Effectiveness:** High-quality treatment programs have proved to be more effective in helping patients achieve and maintain recovery. Effective programs use evidence-based practices and individualized treatment plans that are tailored to the patient's unique needs and circumstances.
- 3. Avoiding relapse:** Quality programs provide ongoing support and resources to help patients avoid relapse. This can include counseling, medication management, and connections with community resources.
- 4. Community impact:** Opioid addiction is a public health problem that affects not only individuals but also families, communities, and society as a whole. Quality opioid treatment programs can help mitigate the social and economic impacts of opioid addiction by improving educational outcomes, increasing employment, and enhancing community well-being.
- 5. Cost-effectiveness:** High-quality opioid treatment programs can be more cost-effective in the long run by helping patients achieve and maintain recovery, as well as by reducing healthcare costs associated with emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and other medical complications related to opioid addiction. Nearly 8% of all healthcare expenditures by U.S. hospitals annually are on care for patients who have opioid use disorder.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2021). Results from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables. Rockville, MD: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

<sup>2</sup>Wide-ranging online data for epidemiologic research (WONDER). Atlanta, GA: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics; 2021. Available at <http://wonder.cdc.gov>.

<sup>3</sup>Mattson CL, Tanz LJ, Quinn K, Kariisa M, Patel P, Davis NL. Trends and Geographic Patterns in Drug and Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths — United States, 2013–2019. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021;70:202–207. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7006a4>

<sup>4</sup>[WISQARS Data Visualization \(cdc.gov\)](https://wisqars.data.cdc.gov)

<sup>5</sup>PINC AI™ Data: Opioid Use Disorders Cost U.S. Hospitals More than \$95 Billion Annually (<https://premierinc.com/>)

Opioid treatment programs are highly regulated due to the nature of the services provided. One of the key primary regulators, CARF International (formerly known as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), is a highly respected and prestigious accreditor of human resource providers and networks. The organization provides accreditations for a number of programs and services, including opioid treatment programs. CARF International has accredited approximately 65,000 programs at more than 30,000 locations throughout North America, South America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.<sup>6</sup>

CARF's accreditation process measures the performance of treatment centers across 13 specific dimensions.

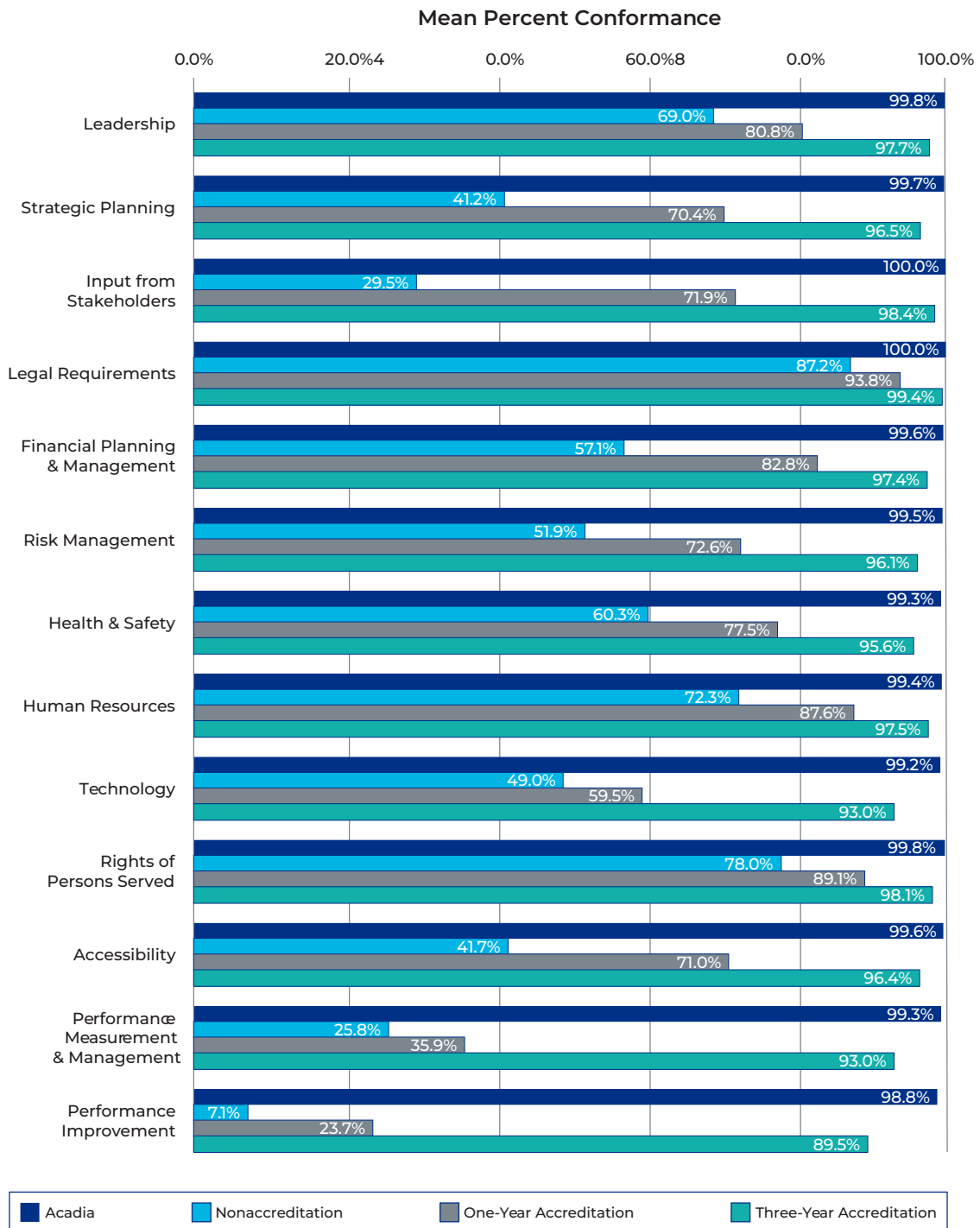
- 1. Leadership:** The organization has effective leadership practices that support its mission, vision, and values.
- 2. Strategic planning:** The organization has a clear and effective plan for achieving its goals and objectives.
- 3. Input from stakeholders:** The organization actively seeks input and feedback from individuals and groups who have a stake in its services.
- 4. Legal requirements:** The organization meets all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.
- 5. Financial planning and management:** The organization has effective financial management practices that ensure its financial sustainability and accountability.
- 6. Risk management:** The organization has effective risk management practices that identify, assess, and mitigate potential risks to individuals, staff, and the organization as a whole.
- 7. Health and safety:** The organization has effective health and safety practices that ensure the well-being of individuals and staff.
- 8. Human resources:** The organization has effective human resource practices that support the recruitment, retention, and development of qualified staff.
- 9. Technology:** The organization uses technology in a way that enhances its services and operations.
- 10. Rights of persons served:** The organization promotes and protects the rights and dignity of individuals served, and ensures that they are treated with respect and are able to participate in decisions about their care.
- 11. Accessibility:** Services are provided in a way that is accessible to all individuals who need them, regardless of their disabilities, language, culture, or geography.
- 12. Performance measurement and management:** The organization has effective performance measurement and management practices that monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of services, and use data to drive continuous improvement.
- 13. Performance improvement:** The organization has effective processes in place to identify opportunities for improvement and implement changes to enhance its services.

When a program receives accreditation from CARF, it is evidence that the treatment provider has passed intensive reviews and meets the required criteria for superior quality and the provision of exceptional clinical services. Acadia's Comprehensive Treatment Centers received CARF accreditation with scores in the 99th percentile across all the organization's identified dimensions of quality.

The table on the next page outlines Acadia's Comprehensive Treatment Centers' scores in comparison with those of competitors. Acadia achieved outstanding scores across all CARF measures — including scores of 99% or higher on each of CARF's quality measures and, notably, scores of 100% on two critical dimensions in direct support of patient safety — *Input from stakeholders* and *Legal requirements*.

<sup>6</sup> CARF International. Retrieved May 16, 2023, from <https://www.carf.org/About/WhoWeAre/>.

## PERCENTAGE OF CARF-SURVEYED FACILITIES ACHIEVING ACCREDITATION STANDARD



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Acadia's Comprehensive Treatment Centers are committed to providing the highest-quality care for our patients in a manner that ensures an exceptional patient experience and draws on the latest evidence-based approaches.

While the Acadia team is extremely proud to have received these scores and is pleased to have obtained CARF's accreditation, the primary validation lies in the fact that the survey results demonstrate that Acadia's Comprehensive Treatment Centers are successfully delivering best-in-class care for their patients.

Serving thousands of patients in more than 150 clinics throughout the United States, Acadia's Comprehensive Treatment Centers offer medication-assisted treatment for adults age 18 and older.

Combining counseling services with the use of prescription medications such as methadone, Suboxone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, the professionals at each clinic demonstrate an unwavering dedication to meeting each individual's needs as they work toward recovery from opioid addiction.

If you would like more information about Acadia's opioid use disorder treatment programs or our approach to delivering quality care, please visit [www.CTCprograms.com](http://www.CTCprograms.com).

