

## Introduction

- Buprenorphine is a mainstay of FDA approved Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) used to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Access to a provider remains a barrier to widespread treatment
- The 2016 Comprehensive Addiction and Recover ACT (CARA) sought to increase access to MAT by allowing waived Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) to prescribe buprenorphine for MAT
- NP and PA written buprenorphine prescriptions have increased annually alongside the number of licensed providers

## Methods

- We sought to examine whether CARA had any effect on buprenorphine prescribing practices
- Total annual buprenorphine prescriptions written in the US by NPs, PAs and physicians from 2012-2017 was collected using the IQVIA database
- The annual number of NPs, PAs, and physicians was obtained from their respective licensing agencies
- We compared the prescriptions per provider (PPP) before and after CARA implementation

$$PPP = \frac{\text{Total Buprenorphine Prescriptions}}{\text{Number of Providers}}$$

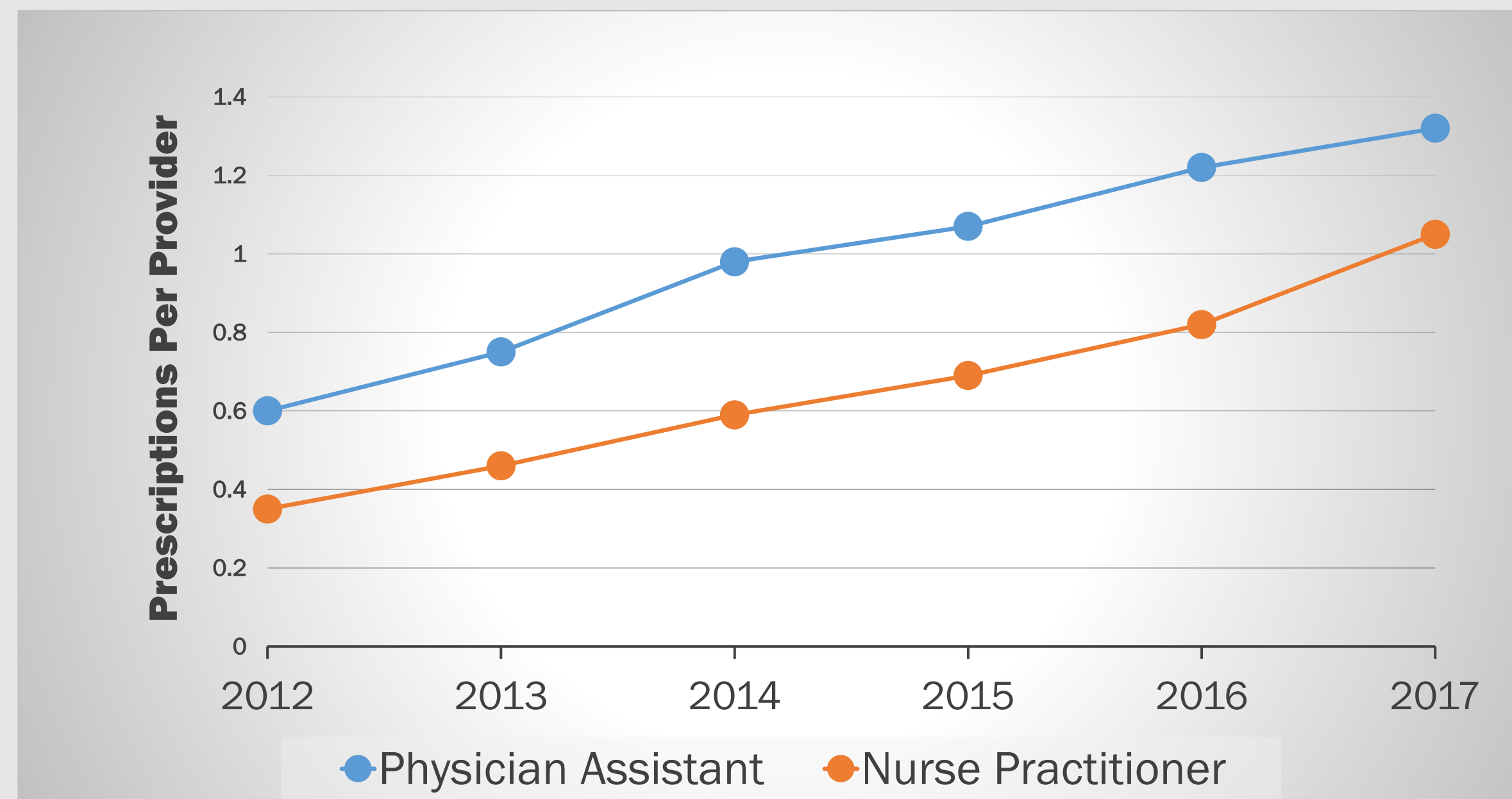


## Results

- From 2012 to 2017, the number of PAs increased from 90,000 to 120,000 (33%), the number of Nurse Practitioners increased from 157,000 to 234,000 (49%), and the number of physicians increased from 878,000 to 970,000 (10%)
- Prescriptions per provider for PAs, NPs and physicians increased 8%, 28% and 4%, the year CARA took effect, compared to 14%, 19% and 9% the year before.

### Total Annual Buprenorphine Prescriptions

	PA	NP	Physician
2012	55 (2.8)	55 (2.9)	1822 (94.3)
2013	72 (2.9)	78 (3.2)	2310 (93.9)
2014	101 (3.3)	113 (3.7)	2824 (93.0)
2015	116 (3.6)	141 (4.3)	3009 (92.1)
2016	141 (4.0)	181 (5.1)	3213 (90.9)
2017	163 (4.3)	247 (6.5)	3402 (89.2)



## Conclusion

- Total buprenorphine prescriptions and buprenorphine prescriptions per provider increased annually for all provider types.
- The rate of increase for prescription per provider increased for NPs but decreased for PAs the year after CARA was implemented
- The number of increasing providers may be a confounder that leads to overestimation of CARA's impact

## Future Study

- Obtaining and analyzing subsequent years of buprenorphine data
- Distinguishing between buprenorphine prescribed for MAT and for other uses
- Identifying barriers to prescribing MAT and addressing them

## References

- 2013StatisticalProfileofCertifiedPhysicianAssistants-AnAnnualReportoftheNCCPA.Pdf." <https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2013StatisticalProfileofCertifiedPhysicianAssistants-AnAnnualReportoftheNCCPA.pdf>.
- "2014\_Stat\_Profile.Pdf." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2021. [https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2014\\_Stat\\_Profile.pdf](https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2014_Stat_Profile.pdf).
- "2016StatisticalProfileofCertifiedPhysicianAssistants.Pdf." n.d. <https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2016StatisticalProfileofCertifiedPhysicianAssistants.pdf>.
- "2017StatisticalProfileofCertifiedPhysicianAssistants-6.27.Pdf." n.d. <https://www.nccpa.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2017StatisticalProfileofCertifiedPhysicianAssistants-6.27.pdf>.
- "ECHO News - February 12, 2019." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2021. <https://www.ecfm.org/echonews/issue47.html>.
- "Historical Timeline." n.d. American Association of Nurse Practitioners. Accessed October 18, 2021. <https://www.aanp.org/about/about-the-american-association-of-nurse-practitioners-aanp/historical-timeline>.
- "NP-Infographic.Pdf." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2021. <https://storage.aanp.org/www/documents/NP-Infographic.pdf>.
- Young, Aaron, Humayun J Chaudhry, Xiaomei Pei, Katie Arnhart, Michael Dugan, and Scott A Steingard. 2019. "FSMB Census of Licensed Physicians in the United States, 2018," 17.