# Advancing Access to Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine Through Community Pharmacies

## INTRODUCTION

- Despite the effectiveness of medications for opioid use disorder (OUD), only 25.1% of adults with OUD received treatment in 2022, underscoring a treatment gap driven by access barriers, stigma, and geographic inequities.[1,2]
- Within Albertsons Companies pharmacies, long-acting injectable buprenorphine (LAIB) prescriptions are managed through coordinated workflow. Medication is shipped to the pharmacy, stored appropriately, and administered on-site.
- Community pharmacies represent a scalable and underutilized access point, offering extended hours and geographically distributed locations that can reduce delays and normalize LAIB delivery. These advantages are particularly relevant in rural areas. [3]

**Primary Objective**
- Characterize LAIB utilization in a grocery chain community pharmacy setting

**Secondary Objective**
- Assessing geographic and prescribing patterns

## METHODS

This study is a retrospective, descriptive analysis of LAIB administrations delivered through Albertsons Companies pharmacy locations in the United States.

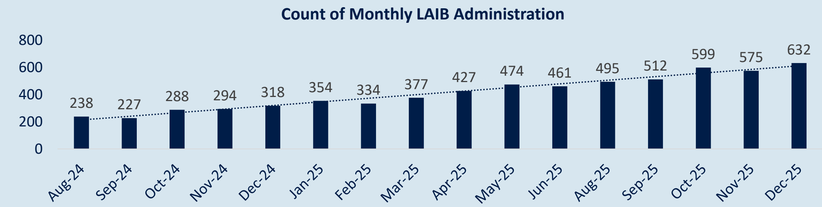
**Inclusion Criteria**
- Adults ≥18 years.
- Prescribed at least 1 LAIB administration through an Albertsons Companies pharmacy location.

**Study Period**
- August 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 2025.
- No sampling, randomization, or comparison groups applied.

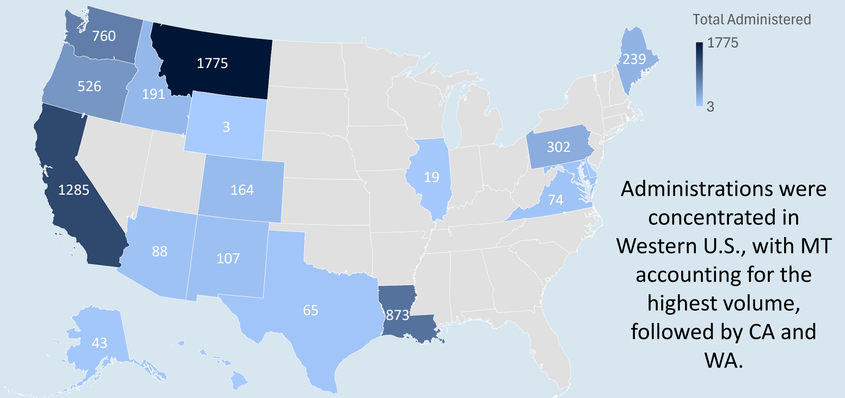
**Analysis**
- Data was extracted from internal pharmacy records.
- Analyses were descriptive. LAIB utilization was summarized using counts and frequencies.

## RESULTS

A total of 6,605 LAIB doses were administered, with nearly a threefold increase throughout the study period.

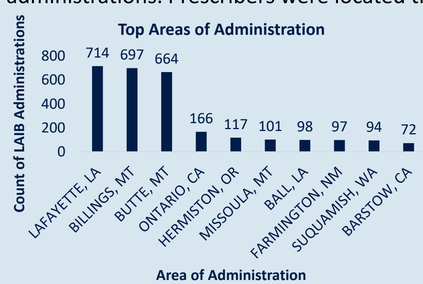


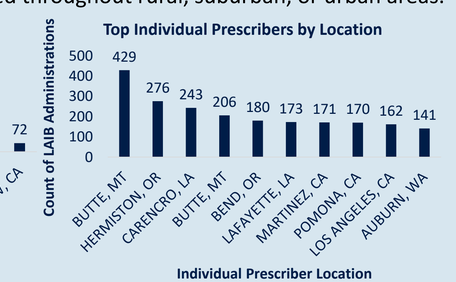

Albertsons Companies pharmacies administered LAIB in 19 states.




Administrations were concentrated in Western U.S., with MT accounting for the highest volume, followed by CA and WA.

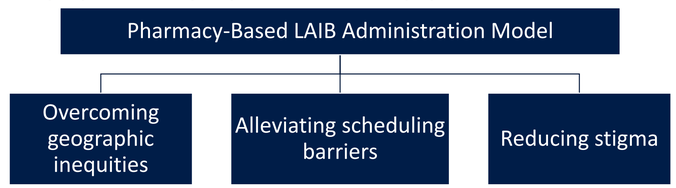
Rural regions, such as Lafayette, LA, and Billings and Butte, MT recorded the most administrations. Prescribers were located throughout rural, suburban, or urban areas.




## CONCLUSION

- The upward trend and broad geographic reach highlight the growing integration of LAIB services in a grocery-chain pharmacy setting.
- High volumes in states such as Montana and rural areas like Billings and Butte underscore the important role of community pharmacies in expanding access in underserved regions.
- Distribution of prescribing activity may reflect the presence of local champions and telehealth providers who are leveraging pharmacy-based administration to reach patients in rural regions who might otherwise lack access to evidence-based OUD care.
- Pharmacies offer a unique solution by providing a physical location for telehealth prescribers to connect patients with LAIB.
- Limitations include the observational nature of the analysis, potential variability in pharmacy-level implementation, and lack of patient-level outcome data.
- This pharmacy-based administration model advances health equity and inclusivity, reducing structural barriers to OUD treatment that disproportionately impact underserved populations.




## AUTHORS & DISCLOSURES


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1. Albertsons Companies; 2. Braeburn Inc

A. Nothing to disclose; B. Current Employees of Braeburn Inc


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