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## Aim

Recent data suggest an increase in heroin use and, less consistently, an increase in non-medical use of prescription opioids (NMUPO) in the US. However, it is unclear if these trends are consistent across racial/ethnic groups. The aim of this study is to determine whether these trends are generalizable across racial/ethnic groups.

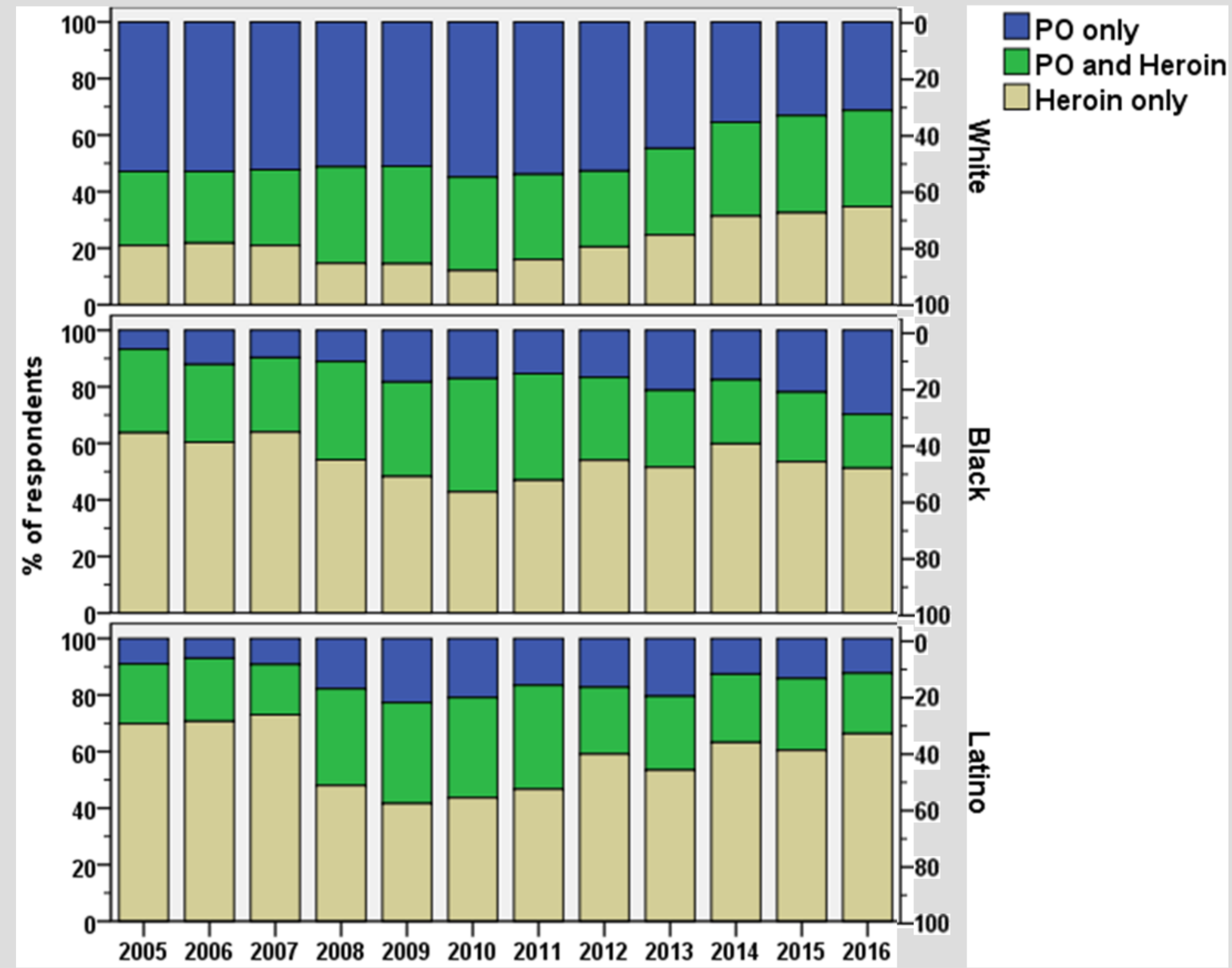
## Methods

In a nationwide prevalence study, patients newly admitted to an opioid treatment program (OTP) completed a brief self-administered survey of past month illicit opioid use. Data were collected from 69,140 patients (114 OTPs) from January 2005 through Sept. 2016. We calculated heroin use and NMUPO prevalence rates, and prevalence rate ratios of Latino and Black OTP entrants compared to White entrants over time.

## Sample Characteristics (N = 69,140)

% or Mean (SD)		%
<b>Age</b>		
	<=29	42
	30 to 43	36
	>43	22
	Overall	34 (10.6)
		<b>%</b>
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White	79
	Black	10
	Hispanic	8
	Other	3
<b>Opioid Use</b>	Heroin only	28
	NMUPO only	41
	Heroin & NMUPO	31
<b>Female</b>	43	
<b>1st time in OTP</b>	41	

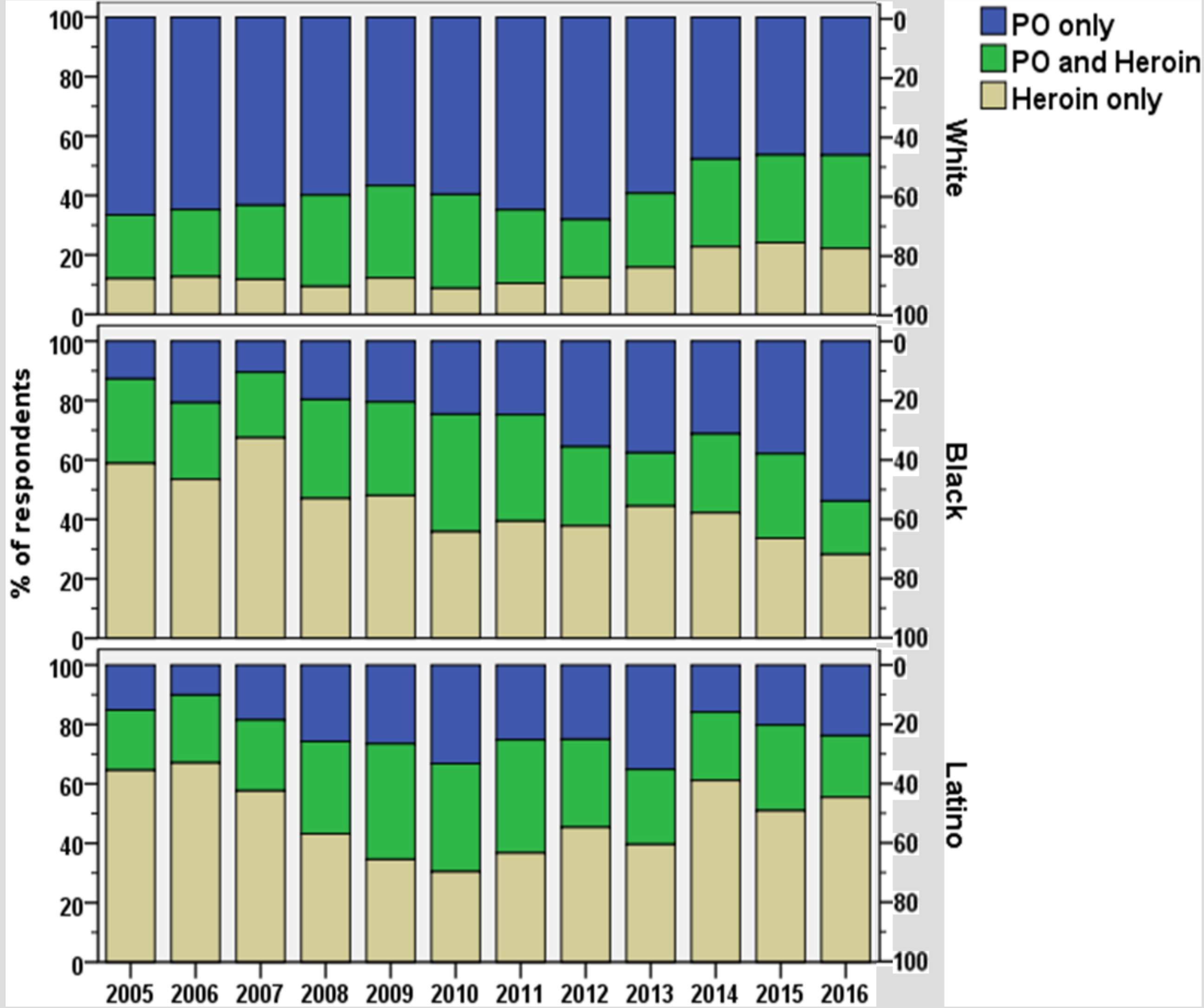
## Prevalence of NMUPO, heroin and both illicit POs and heroin by year and by racial/ethnic group. N = 65,841.



## Note to figures

The percentage using heroin can be seen summing the beige (heroin only) and green (heroin and POs) areas using the left y-axis starting from bottom and going up; the percentage using POs can be seen summing the blue (POs only) and green (heroin and POs) areas using the right y-axis starting from the top and going down.

## Prevalence of NMUPO, heroin and both illicit POs and heroin by year and by racial/ethnic group for those enrolling in an OTP for the first time. N = 25,638.



## Heroin use and NMUPO prevalence rate ratios and 95% confidence intervals comparing Black and Latino treatment entrants to White treatment entrants, 2005 through 2016.Q3, N = 65,841.

Year	Total N	Black-White		Latino-White	
		Heroin use rate ratio (95% CI)	PO rate ratio (95% CI)	Heroin use rate ratio (95% CI)	PO rate ratio (95% CI)
2005	5913	1.98 (1.91, 2.05)	0.46 (0.42, 0.50)	1.93 (1.86, 2.01)	0.38 (0.34, 0.43)
2006	6056	1.86 (1.78, 1.95)	0.51 (0.45, 0.57)	1.97 (1.90, 2.04)	0.38 (0.34, 0.42)
2007	4320	1.89 (1.80, 1.99)	0.46 (0.40, 0.53)	1.90 (1.82, 1.99)	0.34 (0.29, 0.39)
2008	5063	1.82 (1.74, 1.91)	0.54 (0.49, 0.59)	1.68 (1.60, 1.77)	0.61 (0.56, 0.66)
2009	5511	1.67 (1.58, 1.76)	0.61 (0.55, 0.66)	1.58 (1.49, 1.67)	0.68 (0.63, 0.74)
2010	6736	1.84 (1.75, 1.93)	0.65 (0.60, 0.70)	1.75 (1.67, 1.84)	0.64 (0.60, 0.69)
2011	6351	1.83 (1.75, 1.93)	0.63 (0.58, 0.69)	1.81 (1.73, 1.90)	0.64 (0.59, 0.69)
2012	5866	1.76 (1.67, 1.85)	0.58 (0.52, 0.64)	1.75 (1.66, 1.84)	0.51 (0.46, 0.58)
2013	5423	1.42 (1.35, 1.51)	0.64 (0.58, 0.71)	1.44 (1.37, 1.51)	0.62 (0.56, 0.68)
2014	5421	1.28 (1.22, 1.34)	0.59 (0.52, 0.65)	1.35 (1.30, 1.41)	0.54 (0.48, 0.60)
2015	5037	1.17 (1.10, 1.24)	0.69 (0.62, 0.77)	1.28 (1.23, 1.34)	0.59 (0.52, 0.66)
2016	4114	1.02 (0.94, 1.11)	0.75 (0.66, 0.84)	1.28 (1.22, 1.33)	0.52 (0.45, 0.59)

## Results and Conclusion

Among OTP patients entering treatment, racially/ethnically disparate rates of heroin use and PO misuse have become more similar over time. Heroin use has increased and PO misuse has decreased consistently among White patients in recent years, with similar but less consistent trends among Latino patients. In contrast, heroin use has decreased and PO misuse has increased among Black OTP patients. These racial disparate trends are even more pronounced among those enrolling in an OTP for the first time. To understand these trends it may be important to consider potential changes in the likelihood of physicians to prescribe POs for patients across racial/ethnic groups, as well as potential changes in heroin distribution networks.

(Refer to: Pouget ER, Fong C, Rosenblum A. (In press). Racial/ethnic differences in prevalence trends for heroin use and non-medical use of prescription opioids among entrants to opioid treatment programs, 2005-2016. *Substance Use and Misuse*.)