

Supporting Individuals with Substance Use Disorder and Co-Occurring Conditions

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Academic Preceptor: Charlene Chen, MD, DipABLM, Esperanza Health
Community Preceptor: Rayn Phillips, MSW, LSW, Gaudenzia, Inc.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Gaudenzia Together House Men's Program

Gaudenzia Together House Men's Program provides addiction treatment services for adult men with a history of criminal justice involvement, including high-intensity residential substance use disorder treatment, co-occurring disorders treatment, individual and group counseling, trauma-informed care, culture-informed care, and gender-responsive care.

EXPERIENCE

Gaudenzia Together House Men's Program provided an informative and educational experience for the BTG intern. The intern learned the full process of the Gaudenzia recovery pipeline for substance use disorders - from detox, to intake, to programming, and finally discharge. The intern learned to take clinical notes during group sessions, conduct biopsychosocial interviews and other intake processes, and was exposed to the different functions of the full clinical team for an addiction services center. In addition, the intern shadowed the medical staff, assisted with physical assessments, and co-facilitated group sessions focusing on coping strategies.

CHALLENGES

Relapse

- Risk of relapse while in residential programming or upon discharge
- Relapse rates as high as 91 percent, depending on drug of choice ⁴

Adherence to Gaudenzia Guidelines

- Full and active attendance during programming
- Staying sober
- Clients sharing medication
- Leaving ASA/AMA

Health Risks

- Withdrawal monitoring
- Mental health monitoring

Social Determinants

- Future housing
- Employment
- Benefits



BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

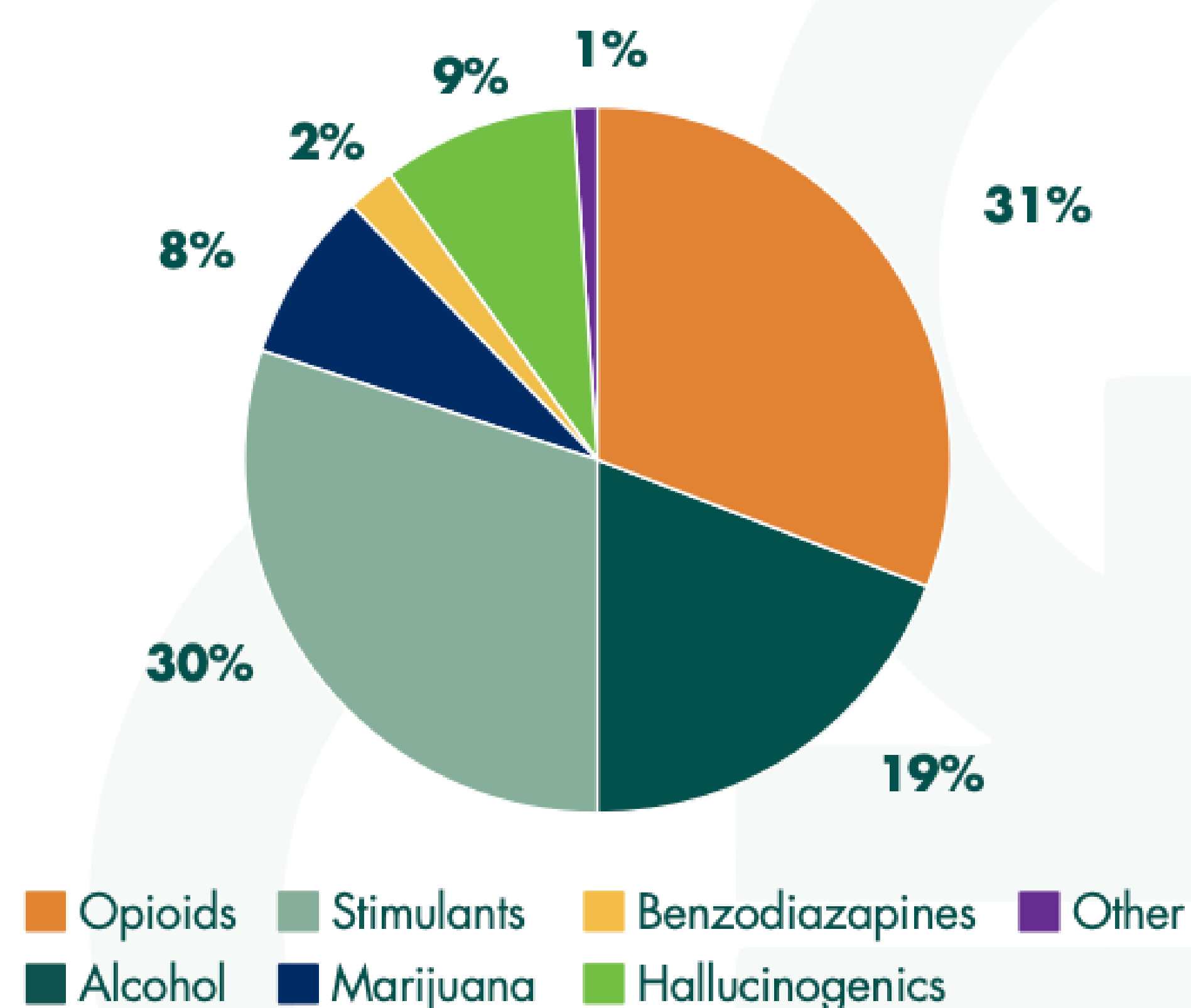
In Philadelphia:

- Estimated 50,000-75,000 individuals struggle with an Opioid Use Disorder ⁵
- Unintentional drug overdoses increased to 1276 in 2021, a 5% increase from 2020 ³
- 82% involved opioids
- 67% involved stimulants
- Concentrated in North and Northeast regions ³

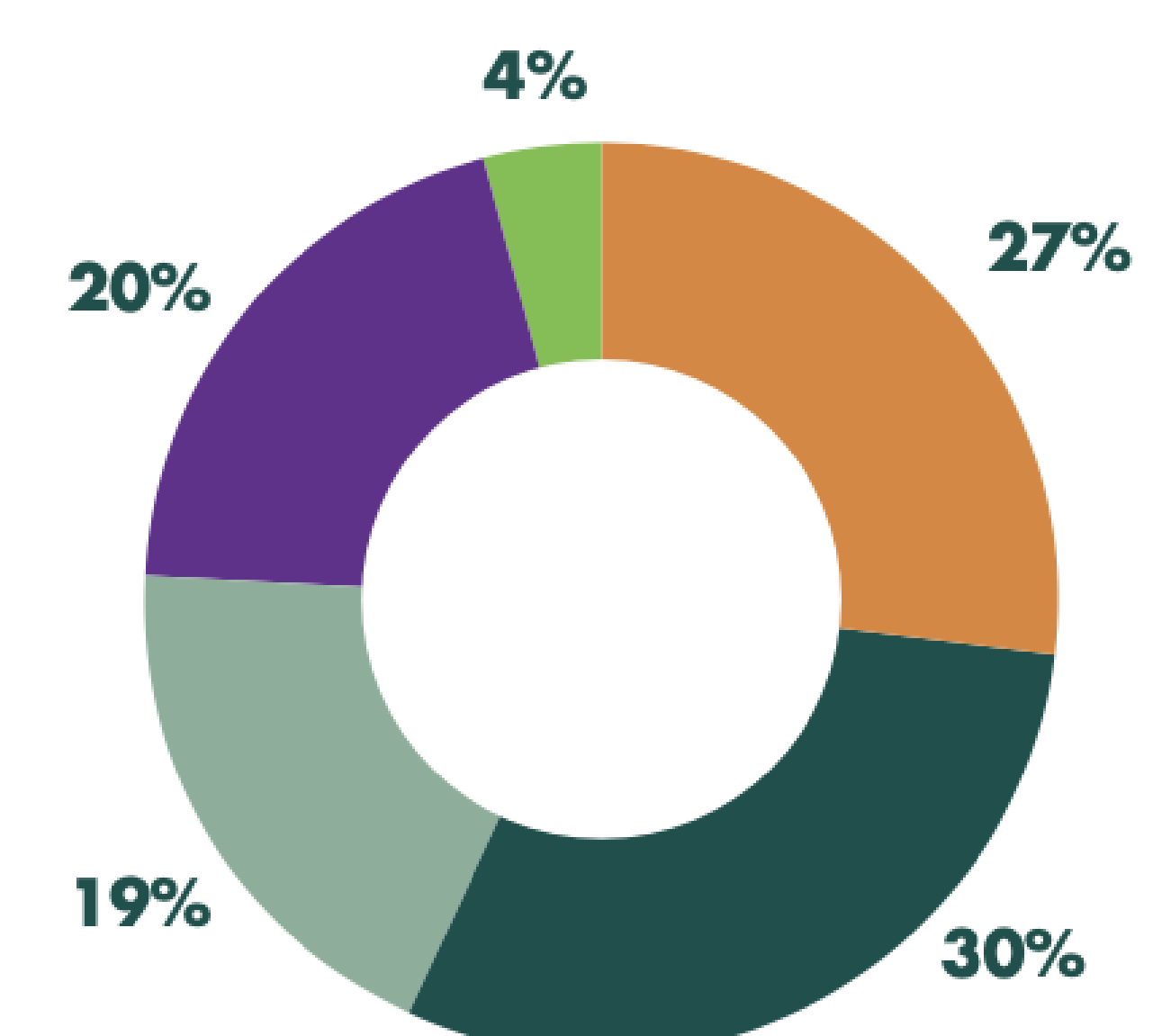
At Gaudenzia ^{1,2}

DIAGNOSIS DATA:

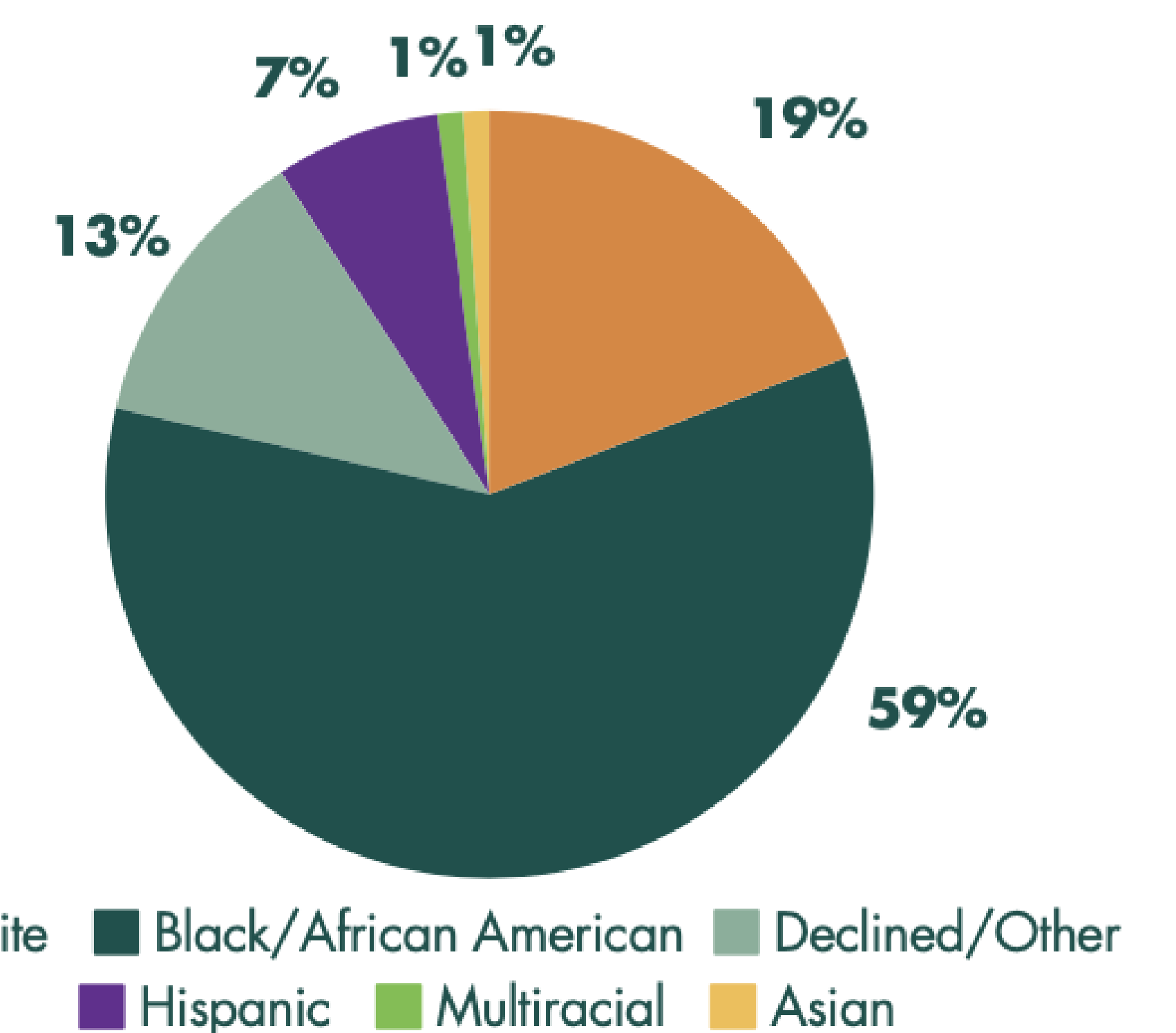
PRIMARY SUD DIAGNOSIS DATA FY 22 (N=2,531)



AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CLIENTS SERVED



RACE/ ETHNICITY OF CLIENTS SERVED



REFLECTION

Ben Berman: "Working at Gaudenzia was an eye-opening experience. Every day was a new challenge and a new chance to learn. What stood out most to me was speaking with the clients on the floor. The clients all have a story behind their addiction, and it truly exposed me to the co-existing determinants of health. I learned a lot from the clinical and medical staff and was able to see the process at Gaudenzia, start to finish. Gaudenzia has impacted my patience and awareness of trauma-informed care and exposed me to the field of addiction medicine. The skills and perspectives I have learned at Gaudenzia will stick with me, and I know they will benefit me as a future healthcare professional."

References

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3. Higgins D, Johnson J, Andrews A, et al. Unintentional Drug Overdose Fatalities in Philadelphia, 2021. *CHART*. 2022;7:1-7.
4. Kadam M, Sinha A, Nimkar S, Matchewalla Y, De Sousa A. A Comparative Study of Factors Associated with Relapse in Alcohol Dependence and Opioid Dependence. *Indian J Psychol Med*. 2017;39(5):627-633. doi:10.4103/IJPSYM.IJPSYM_356_17
5. Vitez M. 24 hours in the life of an opioid epidemic. Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. 2019. Accessed July 26, 2023. <https://medicine.temple.edu/education/narrative-medicine-program/24-hours-life-opioid-epidemic>.