

OD2A LOCAL Cuyahoga County, OH



Component C

Cascade of Care

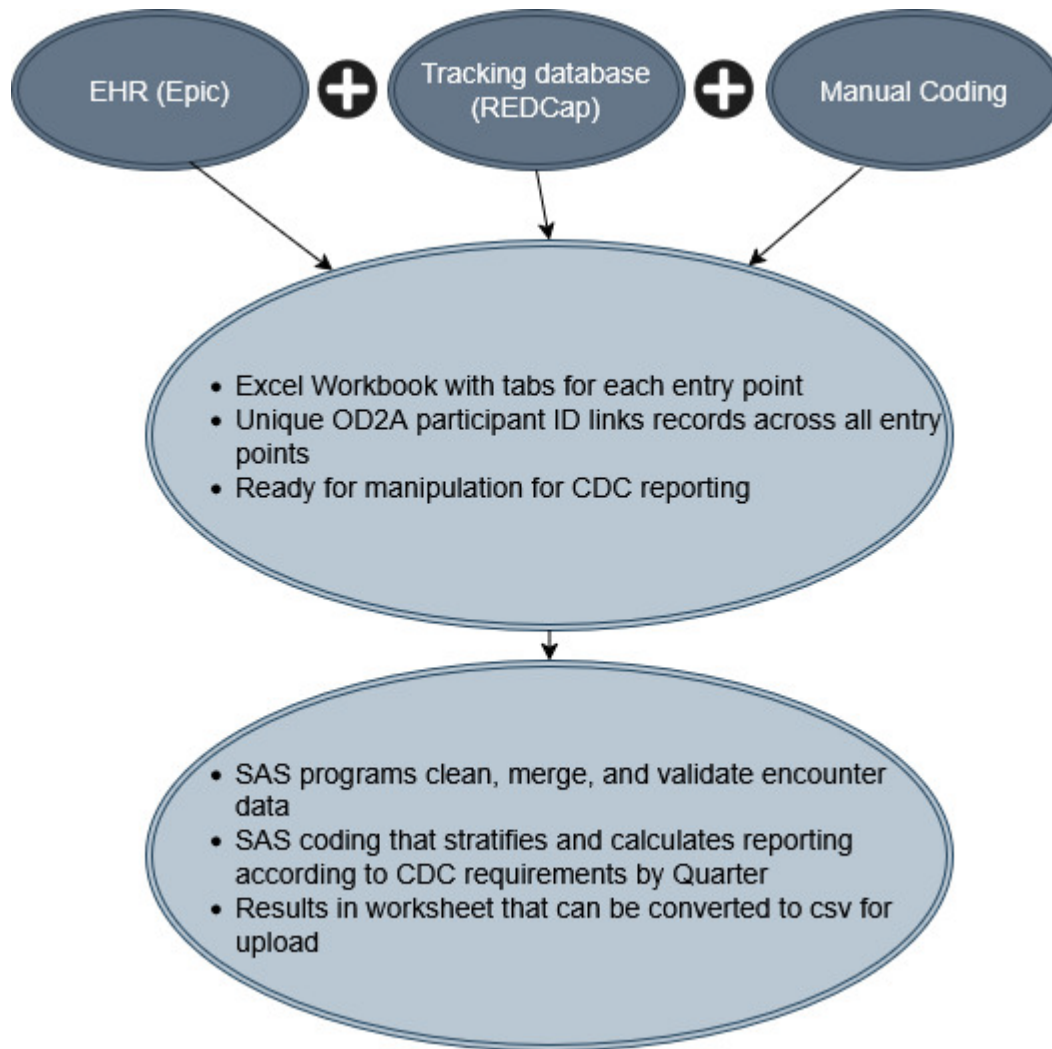


Local Data, Local Partners, Local Solutions

Cuyahoga County's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A LOCAL) Component C program is piloting a data collection system at The MetroHealth System (MHS), a public hospital serving the Greater Cleveland, Ohio region. The program aims to better understand the development of surveillance indicators to assess efforts to link and retain individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) or stimulant use disorder (StUD) to evidence-based treatment and services. MHS, in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) and the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research & Education at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), co-designed local indicators, planned and piloted patient-level data collection and analysis from three unique entry pathways across the Cascade of Care, including identification, referral and linkage to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and/or Behavioral Health (BH).

Building a system that tracks individuals through the Cascade of Care can be complex and time consuming, as we track individuals from entry to treatment. Data was analyzed from September 2024 through March 2026, with retention reported for those who were identified by September 30, 2025. Indicator counts represent encounters rather than individuals; one individual may be counted more than once in an indicator total if they re-entered the program.

Building the Surveillance System



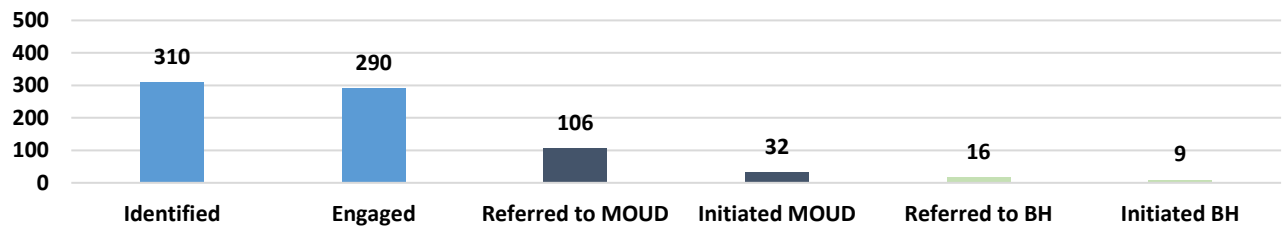
Tracking is accomplished by queries and reports from MetroHealth's EHR (Epic) for patients from the Emergency Department (ED) and the Motivation and Engagement Clinic (MEC). ExAM (the jail program) tracks their clients in REDCap. The project manager downloads targeted data from these databases and combines them into one excel sheet. Each engaged individual is given an OD2A ID that will carry across system to track their Cascade of Care.

Outcomes by Entry Point: September 2024-March 2026

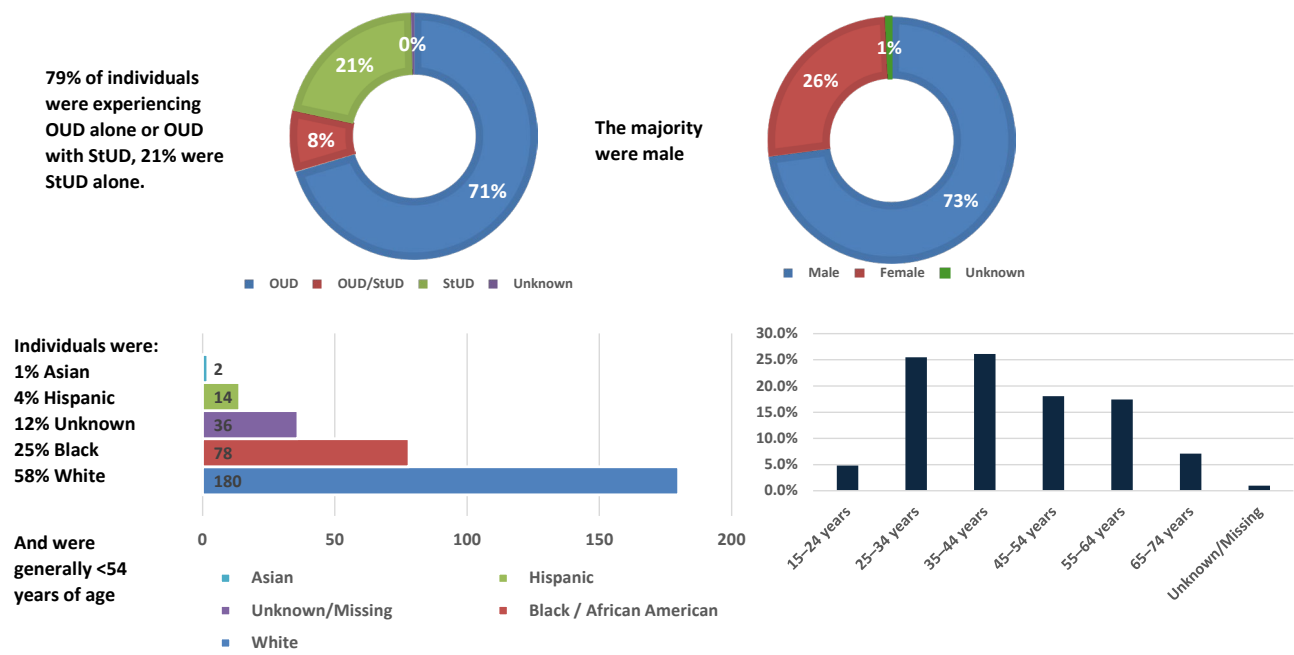
Nonfatal Overdose: MetroHealth ED

The main campus MetroHealth Emergency Department (ED) receives 28% of all opioid overdoses transported by Cleveland EMS, the highest of any single ED in Cuyahoga County. The MHS ED supports ED providers and overdose victims with a spectrum of SUD services designed for people at every level of readiness to change. Substance use navigators (SUNs) provide motivation, support and linkage to care 18-20 hours daily. SUNs provide in-person services at the main campus and remotely to the three satellite ED locations.

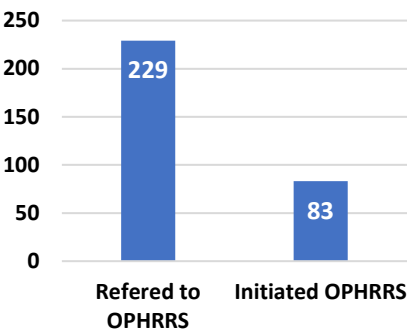
ED Cascade of Care



ED Demographic Data on Engaged Individuals (n=310)



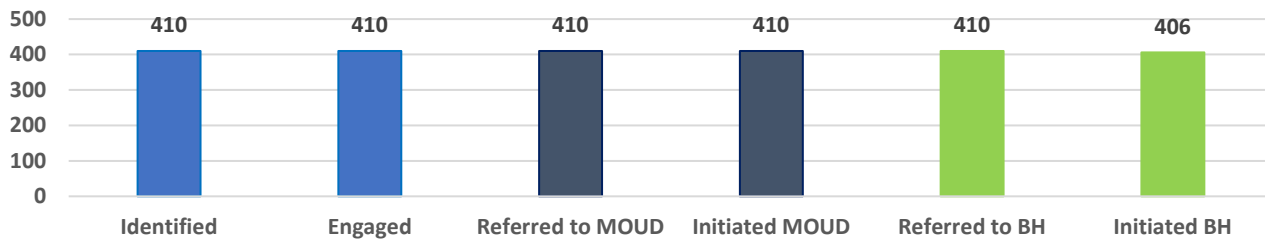
In addition to referral and linkage to treatment, individuals were referred to Overdose Prevention and Health Risk Reduction Services (OPHRRS) including Naloxone



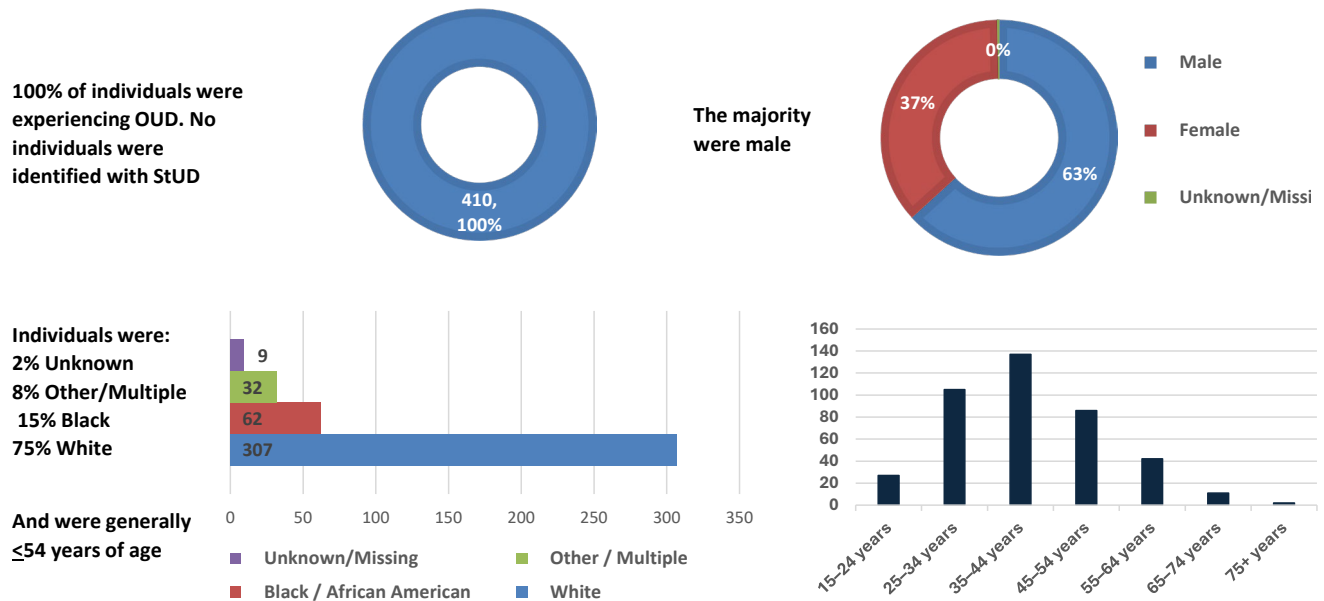
Other Clinical: Walk-in Motivation and Engagement Clinic (MEC)

The Motivation and Engagement Clinic (MEC) is a low-threshold, walk-in addiction treatment clinic that supports patients with opioid and other substance use disorders from the ED, correctional and overdose prevention setting, as well as other self-referral mechanisms. The MEC offers medication initiation at the first visit and coordinates the behavioral health treatments (group or individual counseling) on the same day as the prescriber visit. Treatment initiation and engagement are supported with robust case management and transportation services to promote recovery.

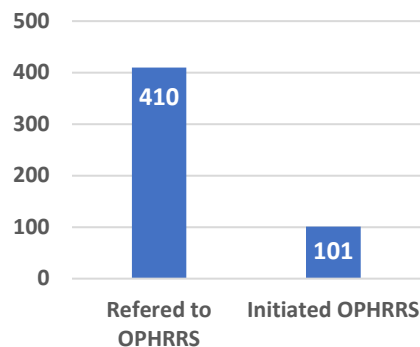
MEC Cascade of Care



MEC Demographic Data on Engaged Individuals (n=410)



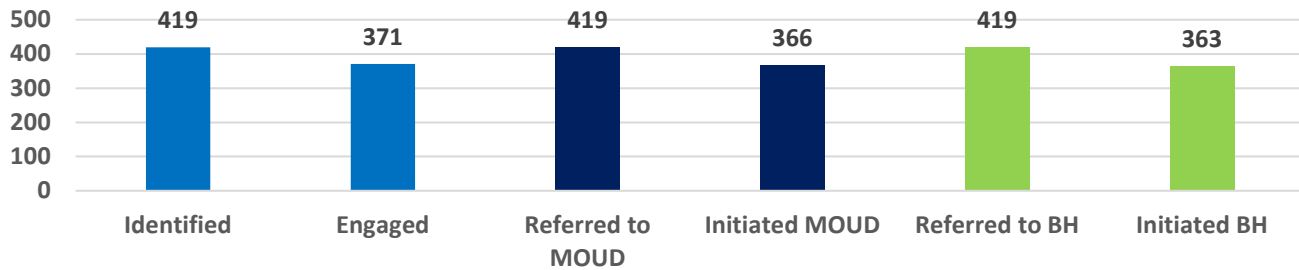
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Criminal Justice: MetroHealth's MOUD Program at County Corrections

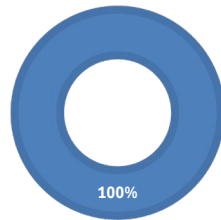
The Expanded Access to MOUD (ExAM) program screens inmates identified with OUD at intake and triages for treatment while they are in jail. Component C tracks individuals' transition to treatment once they are released from County Corrections into the community or to a different facility. ExAM refers individuals to programs with MOUD and behavioral treatment including MetroHealth's own Motivation and Engagement Clinic and MetroHealth Recovery Services, as well as other programs outside the MH system.

ExAM Cascade of Care

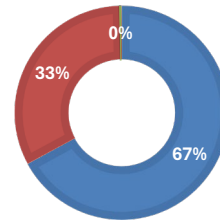


ExAM Demographic Data on Engaged Individuals (n=419)

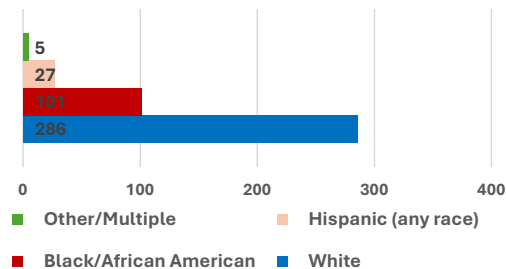
100% of individuals were experiencing OUD. No individuals were identified with StUD at the time of engagement



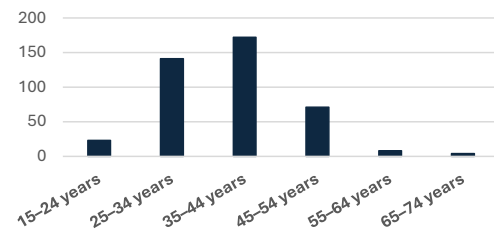
The majority were male



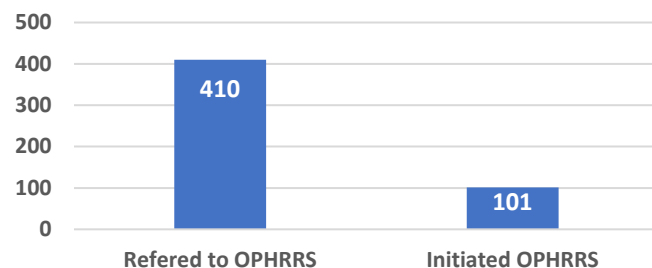
Individuals were:
1% Other/Multiple
6% Hispanic
24% Black
68% White



And were generally <45 years of age



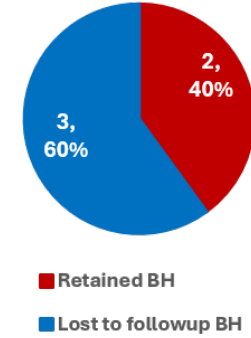
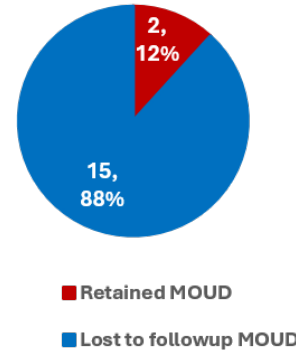
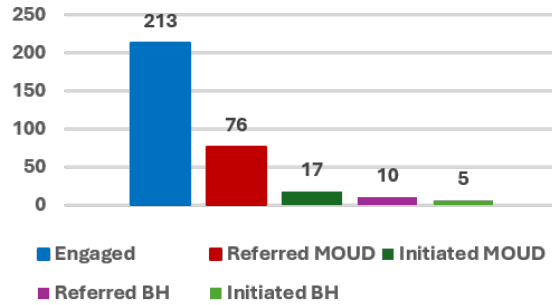
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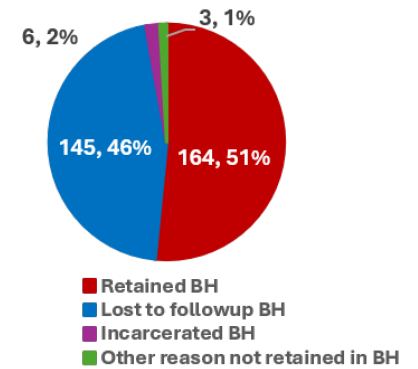
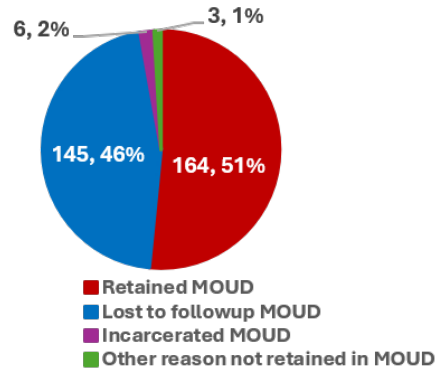
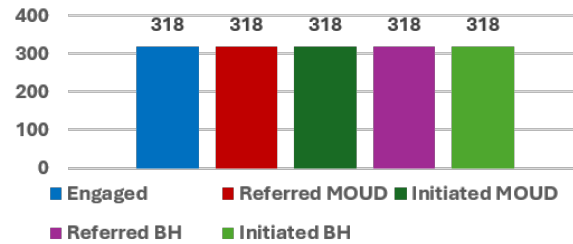
Retention

September 2024-2025 Treatment Status

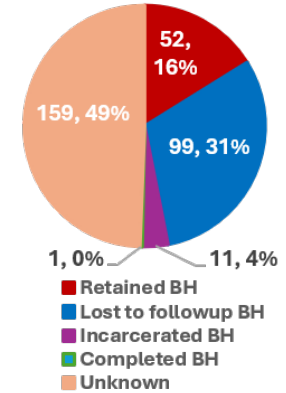
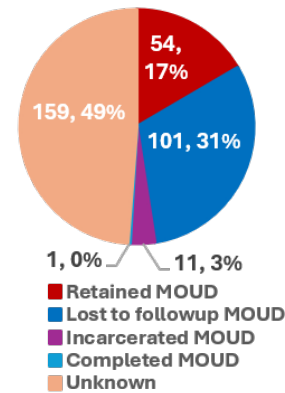
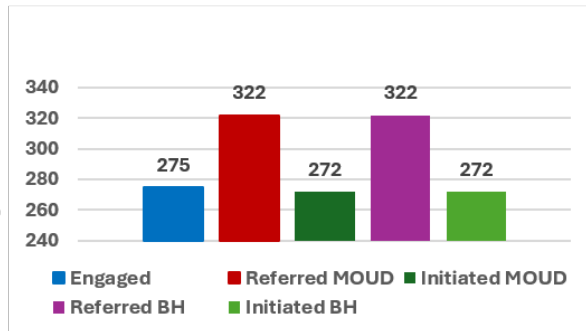
County Hospital ED (NFOD)



MEC (Other Clinical)



ExAM (Criminal Justice)



Key Takeaways

The Cascade of Care for substance use, as described by Ussery et al.,ⁱ from identification through linkage to and retention in treatment is a challenging path to track due to the multiple entry points individuals can have, different health agencies involved in treatment, as well challenges tied to the individual including insurance coverage, access to a stable telephone, etc. The Cuyahoga County OD2A LOCAL has created a method of tracking individuals through three entry points that are administered by the county hospital. The three points included the ED (addressing non-fatal overdoses), the MEC walk-in clinic (addressing other clinical entries) and the ExAM program at the county jail (addressing criminal justice entries). The tracking was a challenge even within the same hospital system, requiring on-going manual tracking across platforms.

Key takeaways and data collected from September 2024 through March 2026 include results that will continue to add to our understanding of effectiveness of programs in linking individuals to treatment. The web of county hospital-run programs engaged and tracked over >1,000 individuals total with OUD and/or StUD from September 2024-March 2026 through the Cascade of Care. The Motivation and Engagement clinic model walk-in clinic resulted in the highest percentage of linkage to MOUD and Behavioral Health (100%), as well as higher 6-month retention (51%). The ExAM program's model of in-jail MOUD and warm hand-off at time of release resulted in an 84% linkage to treatment rate upon release from jail. This was higher than reported in a study of county jail MOUD programs in Massachusetts that reported a 50-60% rate by Friedman et al.ⁱⁱ in 2025. This evaluation indicates that in this system, clinics designed to meet individuals where they are, allowing them to "walk in" when they are ready and programs with warm hand-offs to treatment result in better linkage to treatment and retention in treatment rates.

ⁱ Ussery, EN, Rennick, M, Vivolo-Kantor, A, Scott, S, Davidson, AJ, Ishikawa, C., Williams, AR, & Seth, P. (2025), Public Health Reports. Vol.140(2-3);137-43. [DOI: 10.1177](https://doi.org/10.1177)

ⁱⁱ Friedmann, PD, Wilson, D, Stopka, TJ, Bernson, D, Pivovarov, E., Ferguson, W, Hoskinson Jr., RA, Rottapel, RE, Bovell-Ammon, B, Gaba, A, Morgan, JR, Senst, T, Hayes, E & Evans, EA. (2025). NEMJ, 393 (10): 994-1003. [DOI: 10.1056](https://doi.org/10.1056)



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