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According to the 2020 United States Census, Arkansas's population is 3,011,524, making it the 33rd most populated state. Arkansas, like many states, faces a pressing need to expand access to evidence-based services for individuals affected by opioid use disorders (OUDs) and other substance use disorders (SUDs). The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH) SOR IV project will help expand a state-wide infrastructure across the continuum of care for SUDs through multifaceted approaches in prevention, treatment, and recovery with a focus on underserved populations including mothers and pregnant women, rural populations, youth and young people, people with co-occurring mental health diagnoses, justice-involved populations, low socioeconomic status, and other minorities.

An estimated 1200 individuals (400 individuals annually) will receive treatment funded by the OSAMH SOR IV project with primary focus on these above identified populations. These populations are described as follows. According to the 2023 Arkansas *Maternal Mortality Review Committee*, the total number of live births in Arkansas in 2018 - 2020 combined was 108,517, with the data linkage process identifying 121 potential pregnancy-associated deaths. Between 2018 and 2020, Arkansas had 100 pregnancy-associated deaths. This represents a pregnancy-associated mortality ratio of 92.2 deaths per 100,000 live births. Of the 75 counties in Arkansas, 55 are considered rural. Among rural counties, nearly 60 percent have fewer than 20,000 people. Arkansas is in the bottom third in terms of population per square mile at 57.9. In 2021, *Young Adult State of Wellbeing* publication from the Arkansas State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (ASEOW), the population between 18 and 29 years of age represents 15.9 percent of the Arkansas population. When it comes to individuals with mental health needs including substance use disorders (SUD), more than 380,000 Arkansans (roughly 12% of the total population) had at least one medical claim with a primary diagnosis of a mental health condition in 2019. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, Arkansas releases roughly 132,988 men and 47,413 women from its prisons and jails each year, and the risk of overdose death is more than 10-fold higher among adults released from prison relative to the general population. U.S. Census data shows that 16.8% of Arkansas residents live in poverty, which is higher than the national average of 11.5% (CDC, 2022). In Arkansas, 18 out of 75 counties, primarily located in the delta region, fall into the highest vulnerability category as defined by a high Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). Populations identified with high SVI have lower socioeconomic status, a higher percentage of single-parent households, a higher proportion of minorities, and more vulnerable housing such as more mobile homes or multi-unit structures.

In exploring minority demographics, the majority of Arkansas's population is White (78.5%) followed by Black or African American (15.6%), Two or More Races (2.4%), Asian (1.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1.1%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.5%). Hispanic or Latino ethnicity is 8.6% of Arkansas's population. Arkansas has a slightly higher proportion of females to males than the United States, with 50.6% and 50.4%, respectively. In 2020, 3.3% of Arkansas's population identified as LBGT. Arkansas does not have any federally recognized tribes. With an estimated 15,000 Marshallese and a large Spanish-speaking population call Northwest Arkansas home, there is a need for targeted services to address the SUD needs in these populations.