

Opioid Agonist Maintenance for Probationers: Patient-level Predictors of Treatment Retention, Drug Use, and Crime

This study examined outcomes and their predictors among 181 probationers enrolling in opioid agonist maintenance with methadone or LAAM.

Participants were interviewed at treatment entry and 2-, 6-, and 12-month follow-ups. Treatment retention and frequency of heroin use, cocaine use, and income-generating criminal activity were examined using survival and longitudinal analyses. Participants reported marked reductions in drug use and crime relative to treatment entry. A number of patient characteristics associated with various outcomes were identified. The findings support engaging probationers in treatment and highlight patient factors that might influence outcomes.