

In-Treatment v. Out-of-Treatment Opioid Dependent Adults: Drug Use and Criminal History

This study compared the characteristics of opioid-addicted adults seeking ($n = 169$) and not seeking ($n = 74$) methadone treatment in Baltimore, Maryland. Participants entering treatment were recruited from six methadone treatment programs, while out-of-treatment participants were recruited from the streets using targeted sampling methods. Measures included the Addiction Severity Index, a Supplemental Questionnaire, and urine drug test. Data were analyzed using ANOVA, χ^2 , and regression, holding key background variables constant. Despite the lack of differences between the samples in demographic characteristics, the out-of-treatment sample reported significantly more days of heroin, cocaine, and alcohol use and spent significantly more money on drugs and earned more illegal income at baseline.