

**A study of methadone maintenance for male prisoners:  
Three-month post-release outcomes**

This study examined benefits of methadone maintenance among prerelease prison inmates. Incarcerated males with preincarceration heroin dependence ( $n = 197$ ) were randomly assigned to (a) group educational counseling (counseling only); (b) counseling, with opportunity to begin methadone maintenance on release (counseling + transfer); or (c) counseling and methadone maintenance in prison, with opportunity to continue methadone maintenance on release (counseling + methadone). At 90-day follow-up, counseling + methadone participants were significantly more likely than counseling-only and counseling + transfer participants to attend drug treatment ( $p = .0001$ ) and less likely to be reincarcerated ( $p = .019$ ). Counseling + methadone and counseling + transfer participants were significantly less likely (all  $ps < .05$ ) to report heroin use, cocaine use, and criminal involvement than counseling-only participants. Follow-up is needed to determine whether these findings hold over a longer period.