

“Women, Incarceration, and Substance Use Disorder”

Study Overview

With an exclusive focus on women who are incarcerated, Dr. Staton’s team at the University of Kentucky, examines unique factors associated with MOUD treatment for women preparing to leave jail and reenter communities. In this experimental study, the researchers consider treatment approaches that may improve outcomes for women.



Dr. Michele
Staton

Experimental Group 1

These women are assessed in jail and provided telehealth with an MOUD provider to create a reentry plan that outlines key barriers to reentry.

Experimental Group 2

These women are assessed in jail and are provided telehealth with peer navigators (*people who’ve been there*) to create a more detailed reentry plan that more deeply outlines key barriers to reentry.

Control Group

These women go through the jail’s substance use treatment programming with options to start naltrexone and receive supportive services from the corrections’ department.

TAKE-AWAYS

- ✓ COVID interfered a bit with the study design; but the research team pivoted to alternative recruitment methods in partnership with eight jails.
- ✓ Preliminary findings really focus on the sample composition but point to the complexity of substance use disorder among women in prison.
- ✓ About 75% of women selected for study met criteria for OUD, and 99% of those women went on to meet study’s OUD screening criteria.
- ✓ Women in study report high prevalence of mental health challenges including PTSD, depression, and anxiety and these are highly correlated with substance use.
- ✓ Most of the women in the study are mothers and have had interactions with child services. This creates additional challenges for MOUD treatment.
- ✓ The women in the study are resilient and hopeful about their future.