

“The Benefits and Implementation Challenges of the First State-Wide Comprehensive Medication for Addictions Program in a Unified Jail and Prison Setting”

Methods

- **Qualitative interviews** from 40 medication for addiction treatment (MAT) program participants

Findings

- Participants viewed the program **positively, overall**
- Despite viewing many benefits, **participants also identified areas of improvement:**

Benefits of MAT program	Challenges of MAT program
Reduced withdrawal symptoms- improved experiences while incarcerated	Delays in first dose- limited benefits of reducing withdrawal symptoms
Less illicit drugs in prisons or jails- residents had more access to legal treatment options	Want further access to other recovery strategies- limited access to other recovery strategies, such as group treatments
Better overall environment- less fighting, less sickness	Need for additional staff training- some staff members perpetuated stigma
Impacts on post-release treatment/recovery plans- plans to continue treatment and recovery	More support in release- better connections to community-based treatment options

TAKE-AWAYS

- ✓ Participants viewed the MAT program positively, identifying a variety of benefits of the program.
- ✓ Participants also identified multiple areas of improvement.
- ✓ It is important to do research that accounts for the perceptions of those with lived experiences.

Sources: