

“The Impact of the Opioid Crisis on U.S. State Prison Systems”

Research Objective

To better understand how states most impacted by the opioid epidemic respond to this issue across the stages of the service cascade.

Methods

- Stratified sampling used to identify states most impacted by opioid epidemic
- Interviews with representatives from 21 state prison systems
- Sample included 583 prisons

Key Findings

Stage 1: Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than half of all 583 individual prisons conducted screenings • Of those that screened, 60% used a validated screener
Stage 2: Withdrawal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43% of prisons had a protocol for managing withdrawal • Of those with a protocol just over half used buprenorphine for withdrawal
Stage 3: MOUD availability and provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61% of prisons provided no MOUD • 39% used at least one type • 7% of prisons used all three forms of MOUD
Stage 4: Overdose prevention and reentry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27% of prisons provided trainings on naloxone • 25% provided naloxone to individuals upon release

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ The real-world factors that can impact evidence-based treatments include funding, staffing limitations, and prior beliefs.
- ✓ Factors like stigma reduction, education, funding, and reentry support may increase MOUD use in prisons.

Sources: Scott, C. K., Dennis, M. L., Grella, C.E., Mischel, A. F., & Carnevale, J. (2021). The impact of the opioid crisis on U.S. state prison systems. *Health & Justice*, 9.