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Title of your research project.

Risks and protective factor associated with opioid relapse by released inmates supported by "vivitrol"

Description of research. Please provide a few sentences that explain the question and the methods employed in this research project.

Another research has initiated to identify life stressors and protective factors associated with opioid relapse show by newly released inmates who received medically assisted therapy in the form of monthly vivitrol injections, starting while incarcerated and continuing for six months after release from prison. Previous research has documented the effectiveness of other medically-assisted therapies (MAT) for improving outcomes for individuals with a history of opioid abuse, with these medications including methadone variates, but our study would be the first to examine opioid outcomes associated with vivitrol injects. Life stressors considered for their association with post-release opioid abuse for the inmates will include transportation problems, housing problems, neighborhood stressors, money problems, health problems, family stressors, partner stressors, "moral injury" stressors, perceived powerlessness, and perceived barriers to opioid resistance. This study will develop and psychometrically evaluate a new Perceived Barriers to Opioid Resistance Scale (PBORS) to identify specific concerns that inmates believe block their success in remaining drug-free after release from prison.

This study also evaluating how inmate demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, education, partner status, employment) are associated with risks of opioid relapse during the six months of vivitrol support after release from prison. Finally, we are examining how the inmate's use of healthy coping behaviors (counseling, social support, exercise, spirituality, creative expression) may serve as protective factors that moderate the impact that their life stressors have on the unhealthy coping behavior of opioid abuse.

Did this project include Penn State students as researchers?

No

If yes to the above question, please state where it was published.

N/A

What problem do you address with your research?

To evaluate how inmate demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, education, partner status, employment) are associated with risks of opioid relapse during the six months of Vivitrol support after release from prison. Finally, to examine how the inmate's use of healthy coping behaviors (counseling, social support, exercise, spirituality, creative expression) may serve as protective factors that moderate the impact that their life stressors have on the unhealthy coping behavior of opioid abuse. (Last part is the most important for this sociology/psychology focused research)