

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

December 23, 2022



National

[Negative attitudes about medications for opioid use disorder among criminal legal staff](#)

Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports

Results

At the bivariate level, measures capturing more stigmatizing attitudes toward justice-involved people, believing addiction represents a moral weakness, and believing people with addiction are responsible for their actions and their recovery were related to more negative attitudes about MOUD, whereas higher educational attainment and believing addiction has a genetic basis were related to more positive attitudes about MOUD. In a linear regression, only stigma toward justice-involved people significantly predicted negative attitudes about MOUD ($B = -.27, p = .010$).

Conclusion

Criminal legal staff's stigmatizing attitudes about justice-involved people, such as believing they are untrustworthy and cannot be rehabilitated, contributed significantly to negative attitudes about MOUD, above their beliefs about addiction. The stigma tied to criminal involvement needs to be addressed in attempts to increase MOUD adoption in the criminal legal system.

New York

[Putnam County Announces Drug Crisis Center](#)

Mahopac News

“Thanks to the perseverance of all the families and the groups that provide services for alcohol and opioid abuse, mental health treatment, suicide prevention and more, Putnam County right now is in a very, very good position,” [Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell] said. “We first got involved in the fight against the opioid crisis back around 2013, when we fought the state to keep open the drug court. We saw the devastation that addiction was causing families and loved ones of those with the disease, and so we stayed on course. We did not let up on this crisis.”

Kentucky

[Partnership between Kenton County Detention Center, Life Learning Center that aims to reduce recidivism featured on PBS](#)

Link NKY

Seventy percent (70%) of inmates incarcerated at the Kenton County Detention Center were arrested for drug charges directly related to their substance use disorder. Inmates within the detention center can apply to participate in the jail's Substance Abuse Program and Comprehensive Opioid Response Program.

“If this is a war on drugs, we definitely are losing that battle. Our philosophies of all those ways about how we can incarcerate our way out of this and we’re going to arrest everybody just plain doesn’t work,” said Kenton County Jailer Marc Fields. “You cannot take somebody and put them back in the same situation that they came from and expect them to succeed.”