

“Using Project ECHO to Promote Evidence-Based Care”



<https://oudecho.iu.edu/tracks/jail>

Project ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes) uses a virtual hub-and-spokes model of training in which academic medical centers operate as “hubs,” providing mentorship and sharing expertise with community-based practitioners (or “spokes”), who share valuable insights into current practices and local innovations.

The Indiana Jail-Based OUD Treatment ECHO series met for 10 sessions, virtually, twice a month, for 5 months (February 13 – June 18, 2020). Session agendas included a brief didactic presentation and case-based learning.

Research question	Sample	Methods	Analysis
Describe the content and implementation of ECHO in jail settings and identify initial impacts on knowledge and attitudes about OUD and MOUD.	183 individuals recruited in various ways. 150 attended at least 1 session. 43 completed part of pre-test and part of post-test. Session attendance ranged from 39 (session 10) to 85 (session 1). Participants attended an average of 3.7 sessions. 37% worked in jail.	Pre- and posttests given to participants. Variables included: •punishment orientation •rehabilitation orientation •treatment perception •knowledge of OUD Cases submitted by participants using a structured case form.	Compared pre- and posttests using <i>t</i> -test for most variables. Paired Wilcoxon tests used for treatment perception. Thematic analysis of case forms.

Thematic analysis results →

Pre and post results not much different

Patient characteristics

- polysubstance use
- high rates of medical and psychiatric comorbidity
- prior history of mental health treatment
- family history of substance use
- early age of first substance use

Questions posed

- how to support harm reduction
- determining most appropriate form and dose of MOUD
- resources for community-based aftercare and housing options that support MOUD

Recommendations given

- treatment and harm reduction precautions for clients upon release from carceral settings (e.g., providing naloxone)
- connecting with recovery services prior to release
- identifying community-based housing and aftercare
- reducing stigma with education of probation/parole agents and judges
- best practice behavioral health treatments to complement MOUD

Results	Pre	Post
Mean score of knowledge assessment	54%	61%**
Punishment orientation	1.80	1.68
Rehabilitative orientation	1.23	1.30
Belief that it's impractical to provide tailored treatment services	2.00	1.64**

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Case study analysis supports a multidisciplinary approach to treating substance use disorders for those in the justice system. An approach that can address not only the clinical management of OUD but also the wide array of social, legal, medical, and psychiatric factors that contribute to patient success and recovery.
- ✓ Future studies should shift away from assessing attitudes and assess actual practice.

Source: Adams, Z. W., Agle, J., Pederson, C. A., Bell, L. A., Aalsma, M. C., Jackson, T., ... & Hulvershorn, L. A. (2022). Use of Project ECHO to promote evidence-based care for justice involved adults with opioid use disorder. *Substance Abuse*, 43(1), 336-343.