

BOP Drug Treatment Programs Work: Treatment of Inmates' Addictions to Drugs (TRIAD)

The Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) has provided drug abuse treatment to the inmate population for more than three decades. The current residential drug abuse treatment program (RDAP) requires inmates to identify, confront, and alter the attitudes, values, and thinking patterns that lead to criminal and drug-using behavior, and includes a transitional component that keeps inmates engaged in treatment as they return to their home communities. This treatment has proven effective in reducing recidivism and relapse to drugs.

The Bureau completed an evaluation of RDAP by assessing the outcomes of inmates who had been released from Bureau custody for at least three years. The study is noteworthy because of its rigorous research design, use of multiple treatment sites, and large sample size (2,315), all of which bolster the findings' validity.

The study found that offenders who participate in RDAP are less likely to be re-arrested, less likely to relapse, and for women, are more likely to be employed:

1. **Recidivism Reduction:** Offenders who participate in RDAP are 16 percent (%) less likely to be re-arrested, have their supervision revoked, or return to prison than inmates who did not participate in RDAP, three years following release.
2. **Drug Use Decline:** Offenders who participate in RDAP are 15% less likely to use drugs than released offenders who did not complete RDAP, three years following release.
3. **Improved Employment for Women:** More than 70% of women who participate in RDAP are employed three years following release, whereas women who did not participate in RDAP are employed less than 60% of the time post-release.