

## Buprenorphine for opioid use disorder for adults post-release

### Adult Criminal Justice

Literature review updated March 2021.

As part of WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies, WSIPP determines "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using an approach called meta-analysis. For detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#). At this time, WSIPP has not yet calculated benefits and costs for this topic.

**Program Description:** For patients with opiate use disorder, buprenorphine, a type of partial agonist opioid, generates a limited euphoric effect of opiates, with the goal that patients experience limited withdrawal symptoms when they stop taking the drug. Its intent is to reduce cravings and prevent relapse.

Buprenorphine, in our analysis, is administered as an oral medication. Pharmacists administered buprenorphine for 12-weeks while patients were in the community. Patients in our analysis meet the criteria for opioid use disorder, are all female, and are on some form of criminal justice supervision (either parole or probation) following a release from jail, prison, or a residential drug treatment program. Patients in the comparison condition receive a medical placebo.

### Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Adjusted effect size and standard error			Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)	
			ES	SE	Age	ES	p-value
Opioid use disorder	1	24	0.000	0.570	32	0.000	1.000

Meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome. WSIPP systematically evaluates all credible evaluations we can locate on each topic. The outcomes measured are the types of program impacts that were measured in the research literature (for example, crime or educational attainment). Treatment N represents the total number of individuals or units in the treatment group across the included studies.

An effect size (ES) is a standard metric that summarizes the degree to which a program or policy affects a measured outcome. If the effect size is positive, the outcome increases. If the effect size is negative, the outcome decreases.

Adjusted effect sizes are used to calculate the benefits from our benefit cost model. WSIPP may adjust effect sizes based on methodological characteristics of the study. For example, we may adjust effect sizes when a study has a weak research design or when the program developer is involved in the research. The magnitude of these adjustments varies depending on the topic area.

WSIPP may also adjust the second ES measurement. Research shows the magnitude of some effect sizes decrease over time. For those effect sizes, we estimate outcome-based adjustments which we apply between the first time ES is estimated and the second time ES is estimated. We also report the unadjusted effect size to show the effect sizes before any adjustments have been made. More details about these adjustments can be found in our [Technical Documentation](#).

## Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

Cropsey, K.L., Lane, P.S., Hale, G.J., Jackson, D.O., Clark, C.B., Ingersoll, K.S., . . . Islam, M.A., (2011). Results of a pilot randomized controlled trial of buprenorphine for opioid dependent women in the criminal justice system. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 119(3), 172-178.

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