

Gender differences among in- and out-of-treatment opioid-addicted individuals

Objective: Gender differences were explored among 355 in- and out-of-treatment opioid-addicted adults in Baltimore.

Methods: Addiction Severity Index and other variables were compared among: 1) in-treatment women v. out-of-treatment women; 2) out-of-treatment: women v. men; and, 3) in-treatment: women v. men.

Results: Analysis indicated that in-treatment and out-of-treatment women worked less and used more cocaine than their male counterparts ($p < .01$). Moreover, out-of-treatment women used heroin and cocaine more often, spent more money on drugs, earned more illegal income, and had fewer treatments than in-treatment women ($p < .01$).

Conclusions: Findings indicate greater severity of drug and employment problems of opioid-addicted women and underline the need for gender-specific drug-treatment services.