

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

**University of Maryland, College Park**

***Research-Based Guide Presents Principles of  
Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations***

“Treatment offers the best alternative for interrupting the drug abuse/criminal justice cycle for offenders with drug abuse problems,” according to a research-based guide to treating drug abuse among criminal justice populations (p. 13). The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) guide describes 13 research-based treatment principles that are of particular relevance to the criminal justice community and to treatment professionals working with drug abusing offenders (see below). A copy of the full report, which includes a detailed discussion of all 13 treatment principles, as well as answers to frequently asked questions about drug abuse treatment for those involved with the criminal justice system, is available online ([http://www.drugabuse.gov/podat\\_cj](http://www.drugabuse.gov/podat_cj)).

**Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations**

- Drug addiction is a brain disease that affects behavior.
- Recovery from drug addiction requires effective treatment, followed by management of the problem over time.
- Treatment must last long enough to produce stable behavioral changes.
- Assessment is the first step in treatment.
- Tailoring services to fit the needs of the individual is an important part of effective drug abuse treatment for criminal justice populations.
- Drug use during treatment should be carefully monitored.
- Treatment should target factors that are associated with criminal behavior.
- Criminal justice supervision should incorporate treatment planning for drug abusing offenders, and treatment providers should be aware of correctional supervision requirements.
- Continuity of care is essential for drug abusers re-entering the community.
- A balance of rewards and sanctions encourages prosocial behavior and treatment participation.
- Offenders with co-occurring drug abuse and mental health problems often require an integrated treatment approach.
- Medications are an important part of treatment for many drug abusing offenders.
- Treatment planning for drug abusing offenders who are living in or re-entering the community should include strategies to prevent and treat serious, chronic medical conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and tuberculosis.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), *Principles of Drug Abuse Treatment for Criminal Justice Populations: A Research-Based Guide*, 2006.

•• 301-405-9770 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• [www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu) ••  
CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.

The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded this project under grant BJAG 2005-1206. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State agency.