

Abstract

Background

Every year millions of Americans struggle with opioid use disorder, a disease that manifests as a dependence on prescription or illicit opioids. It can lead to issues such as loss of employment, incarceration, and death. Assisted Recovery Centers of America (ARCA) is an organization that has a mission to combat opioid use disorder. They have recently begun a project that utilizes a mobile unit to distribute medications to combat drug addiction. This study would be to evaluate the positive effects of increased access to treatment.

Methods

ARCA would be able to gather statistics on drug abuse by utilizing patient intake forms and by collaborating with Missouri's court systems. Some of the metrics that would be tracked would include the amount of time on average their patients were addicted before seeking treatment, percentage of people who begin treatment voluntarily, and the number of patients that are incarcerated due to drug related offences. Once the relevant data was gathered, it would be compared with national statistics to determine the impact that the mobile units have on the community.

Discussion

While other places have utilized mobile units similar to the ones ARCA uses for treatment of drug addiction, very few studies have been done regarding the impact the units have on the community. The research outlined in this paper could be used to prove that the units have a positive impact on the community, which could be used as justification to expand the project. Once the program is established in other areas, further research could be conducted.

Conclusion

While ARCA operates in St. Louis, they could be a resource to other areas throughout the U.S. The mobile units, should they be proven to have a positive impact, would be immensely helpful in combating drug addiction nationwide.