

# Contacts

## Who will be carrying out the study?

The **National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC)** at the University of Manchester has a long established expertise in drug misuse prevalence work, evaluative and outcome research. Staff at the centre are involved in national policy initiatives and in provision of local advice regarding health care and criminal justice responses. NDEC is one of the leading units in the country engaged in research in the area of drug misuse.

The **National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)** is the UK's largest independent social research institute specialising in the application of high quality survey research methods to social and public policy issues. NatCen has a full range of facilities for carrying out both quantitative surveys and qualitative work, including access to a team of experienced interviewers around the country.

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## DRUG TREATMENT OUTCOMES RESEARCH STUDY

## QUANTITATIVE FOLLOW-UP STUDY DAT INFORMATION

The National Drug Evidence Centre (NDEC), University of Manchester in collaboration with the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) has been commissioned by the Home Office to carry out the Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS).



## What is DTORS?

The Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS) is a major national study, which investigates:

- How drug treatment impacts on outcomes:
  - Levels of drug and alcohol use;
  - Offending behaviour;
  - Physical and mental health;
  - Wider social outcomes.
- Whether being referred by the Criminal Justice System affects treatment outcomes.
- The costs associated with these outcomes and cost benefit.
- The effect of individuals' characteristics, motivation and attitude on treatment pathways.
- Why retention rates on treatment programmes vary between individuals.

The study will comprise three distinct elements: a **quantitative follow-up study**, which will gather information from a representative sample of 3,000 treatment seekers attending a wide range of treatment services; a **cost-benefit analysis study**; and a **qualitative study**, which will involve smaller samples of clients and service providers and will provide depth of understanding of users' experiences and perceptions of treatment and the decisions they make about remaining in or leaving it.

## What will the quantitative follow-up study involve?

The quantitative element of the study will comprise survey interviews with a random sample of 3,000 treatment seekers at the outset of treatment (baseline) and then 3 and 12 months thereafter. The fieldwork is due to start in March 06.

## How will the treatment seekers be recruited?

NatCen interviewers will be put 'on call' within sampled DAT areas for pre-determined periods. During these periods, those seeking treatment at any agency in the area will be asked to meet or speak with an interviewer and be invited to participate in the study.

## How long will the interview last?

In view of the emphasis on early engagement and the need to build willingness to participate repeatedly, the interviews will be constrained to 45-50 minutes. Participants will be offered vouchers to compensate them for their time.

## What will be required of Drug Action Teams?

The project team intend to invite 100 DATs and all agencies therein, to participate in the study. The research team will proactively work with agencies and DATs to facilitate prompt contact with treatment seekers. Participating DATs will be asked to assist with the recruitment of drug treatment agencies. This commitment will be required for a relatively short period as the research team aim to recruit treatment seekers in each sample area for a period of 7 weeks with a 2 week retrospective window between March 2006 and December 2006.

By participating in the study you will be contributing to the largest UK drug treatment outcome study to date. The information gained from your involvement will assist you to plan the provision of drug treatment and other services more effectively and to help as many people as possible to overcome their drug problems.

## Ethical Approval

The study has been approved by a Multi Centre Research Ethics Committee (Ref: 05/Q1204/43), to make sure that the research is of a high standard and that all participants' rights are respected.

**Participation in the study is voluntary. If you would like any more information about the project please contact the research team using the contact details shown overleaf.**