

# **Conducting Research in a Community Setting: Challenges and Rewards - Practical Experiences**

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# Rewards

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- **Clients learned from their experiences and shared their growth with peers**
- **Clients have more access to enhanced care and specialized attention**
- **Make a contribution to the knowledge base of the field**
- **Distinguish your agency from others. Increase your credibility.**

# Rewards

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- **Have input on research topics**
- **Connection to medical school/scientists and bigger world of research**
- **Connection to other treatment providers and different approaches to treatment**
- **Increase staff understanding of addiction as a brain disease**

# Rewards

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- **Greater comfort with medication assisted treatment (MAT)**
- **Access to blending conferences and other good quality training**
- **Opportunities to publish**
- **Financial incentive**

# Challenges

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- **Blending two completely different cultures**
- **Differing priorities/perspectives of researchers vs. clinical staff**
- **Recruitment and retention issues**
- **Additional work involved**

# Challenges

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- **Managing staff you don't pay**
- **Space requirements and accommodations**
- **Continued connection to client outcomes-  
sometimes discouraging - reveals the  
difficult lives of our clients**
- **Confidentiality issues**