

Best, D., Sondhi, A., Hoffman, L., Best, J., Leidi, A., Grimes, A., Conner, M., DeTriquet, R., White, W., Hilliard, B., Leonard, K. & Hutchison, A. (2023): Bridging the gap: building and sustaining recovery capital in the transition from prison to recovery residences, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, DOI: 10.1080/10509674.2023.2286648

### **ABSTRACT**

The transition from jail to community is a high-risk time for individuals experiencing substance use disorders (SUD), with elevated risks of overdose and other substance-related harms, as well as high recidivism rates and re-incarceration. Gains made from successful treatment in prison are often lost in this transition. The current paper evaluates this process for one justice programme, Chesterfield HARP, a Therapeutic Community based in the Chesterfield County jail that continues supporting former inmates through their release by examining engagement and retention rates and changes in recovery capital among incarcerated individuals before incarceration and after transition to recovery housing in the community. Adult prisoners (both male and female) who engaged in the Chesterfield HARP programme completed an assessment of recovery capital (REC-CAP instrument) while in prison and following their transitions to one of a number of local recovery residences with strong links to the prison programme (ensuring continuity of care and support). The results suggest successful bridging with positive growth across multiple recovery capital domains. The study provides further evidence for the importance of continuity of care and integrated models of strength-building and recovery-focused interventions in successfully bridging the transition from prison to the community for offenders with a SUD history.