

# Global coverage and retention factors of criminal justice-related drug and alcohol treatment programs among offenders: a systematic review

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The Difference is Research

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## Background

Drug and alcohol treatment completion has both health and legal implications. It is viewed as a critical outcome measure and one of the best predictors of a client's long-term success<sup>1</sup>.

Although evidence shows that treatment completion is associated with improved offender functioning in multiple domains over time, approximately half of the offenders admitted to court-mandated and monitored programs drop out<sup>2</sup>.

This review provides evidence that promotes or hinder criminal justice-related drug and alcohol treatment programs retention among offenders.

## Aim

To explore the factors that influence criminal justice-related drug and alcohol treatment program retention among offenders.

## Methods

Articles in English language were identified through a systematic search of PsycINFO, SCOPUS and EBSCO databases in May 2023. The combined search resulted in a total of 21,882 studies.

Keywords including diversionary programs, treatment retention drug and alcohol treatment programs were used in the search.

This review is ongoing, with full-text screening underway.

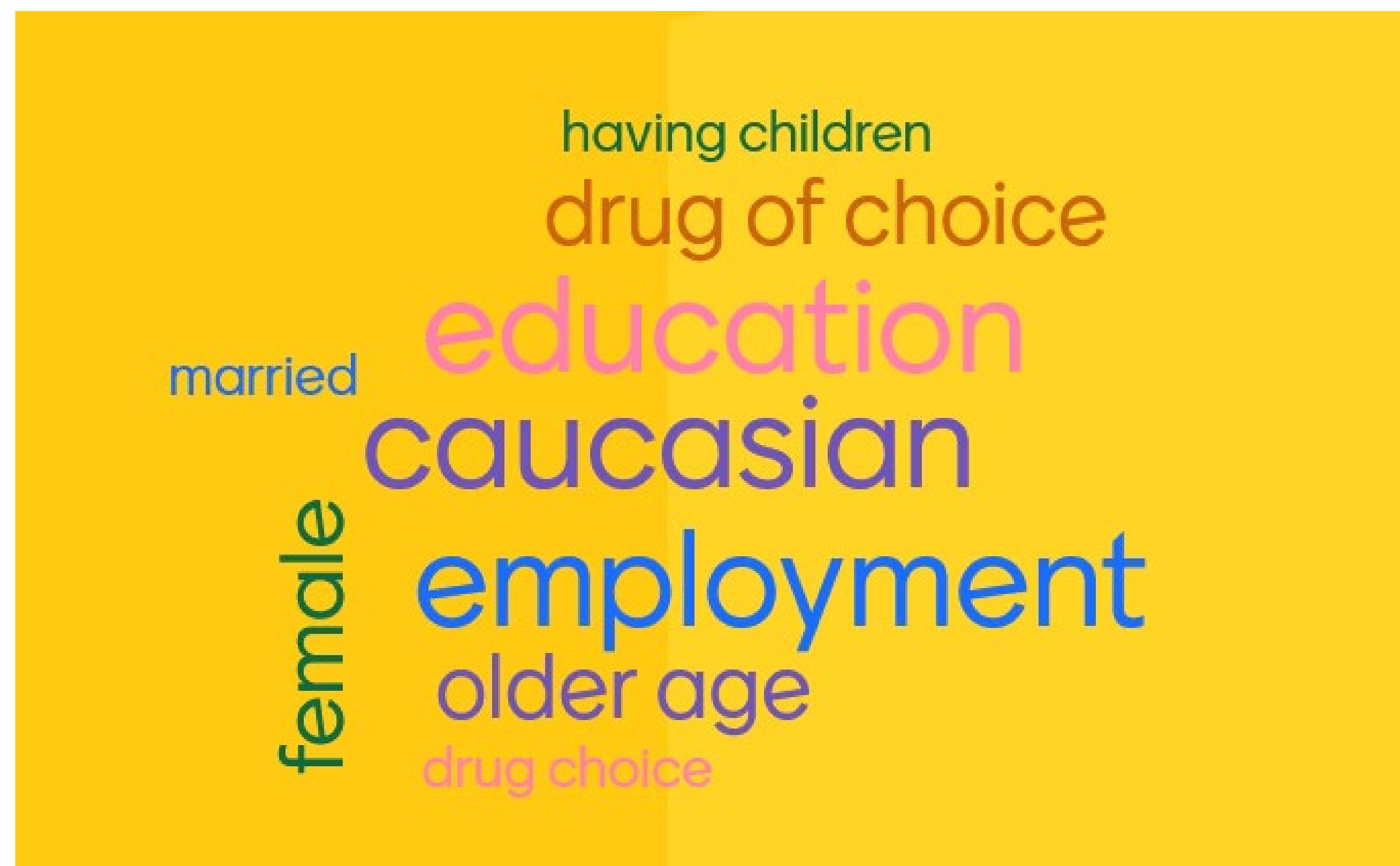


Fig 1: Individual factors affecting treatment completion

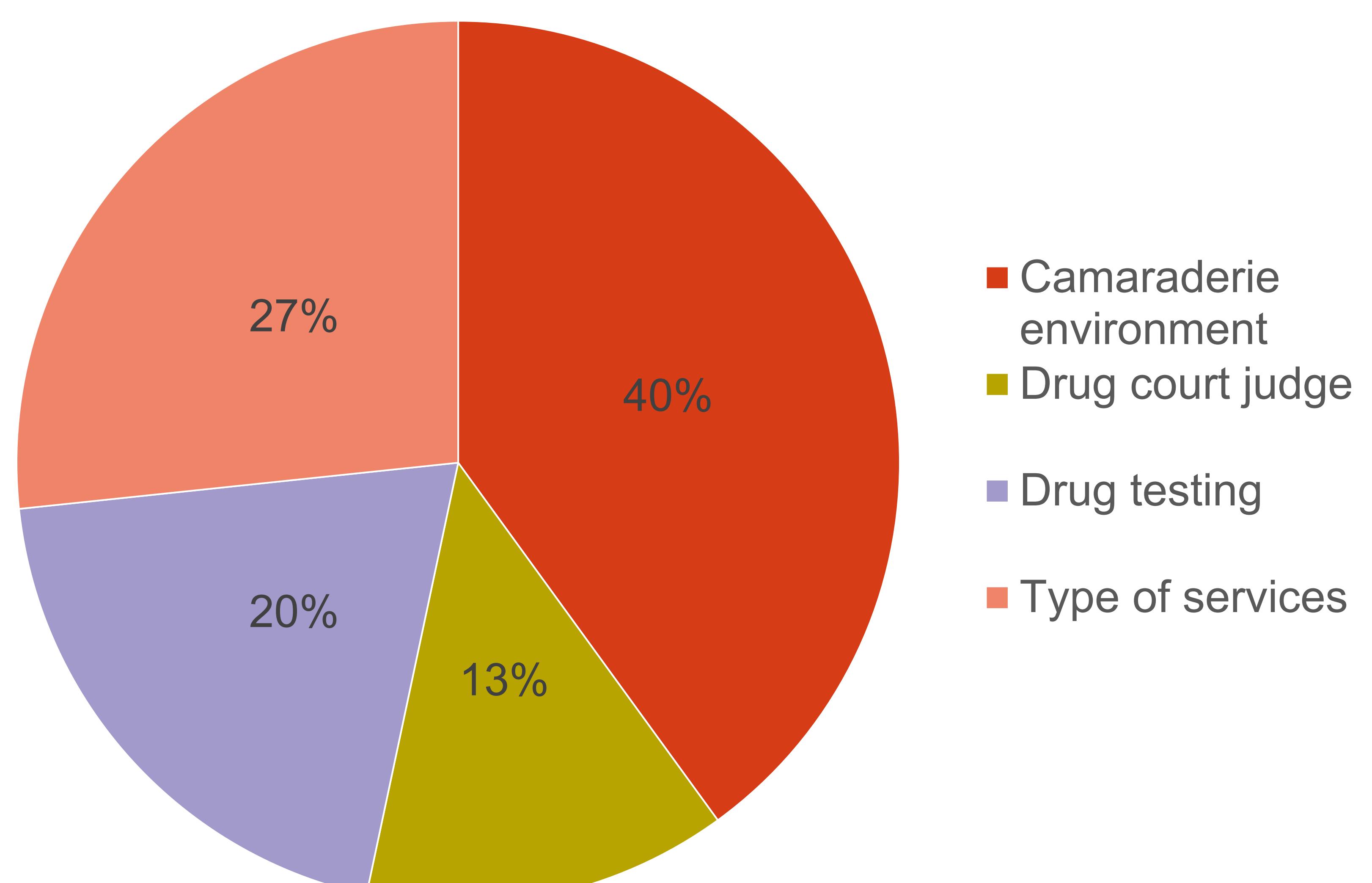


Fig 2: Programmatic factors affecting treatment completion



Fig 3: Factors affecting treatment non-completion

## Initial findings and implications

- Findings have been grouped into three categories: Individual factors (Fig 1) and programmatic factors affecting treatment completion (Fig 2); factors affecting treatment non-completion (Fig 3).
- Understanding criminal justice-related drug and alcohol treatment programs completion is important to make modifications to better meet clients' needs. It also helps to target at-risk individuals for non-completion.

### References

1. Butzin, C. A., Saum, C. A., & Scarpitti, F. R. (2002). Factors associated with completion of a drug treatment court diversion program. *Substance use & misuse*, 37(12-13), 1615-1633.2.
2. 2. McSweeney T, Hughes CE, Ritter A. Tackling 'drug-related' crime: Are there merits in diverting drug-misusing defendants to treatment? Findings from an Australian case study. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*. 2016 Jun;49(2):198-220.