

## WHO consultation (13/09/2022)

In Villa Maraini, in Rome, we didn't suspend our activities during the lockdown, continuing to welcome hundreds of drug addicts both in our headquarter and outreach activities.

We realized that contrary to what public opinion think, drug addicts and in particular those on methadone treatment are not a particularly vulnerable category to Covid.

We need to distinguish infection from disease. In between there is the immune reaction that can lead to the flogistic storm responsible for the disease and the most serious possible consequences. This reaction is counteracted by the use, now universally recommended, of anti-inflammatories. This is why methadone treatment help to avoid the transition from infection to disease.

None of our over 1000 patients died of covid and very few got sick. This is a further demonstration that, meeting, knowing and treating all drug addicts is useful also for the general population. Allowing them to attend a treatment center that respects their needs can be a valid prevention tool also for future epidemics.

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