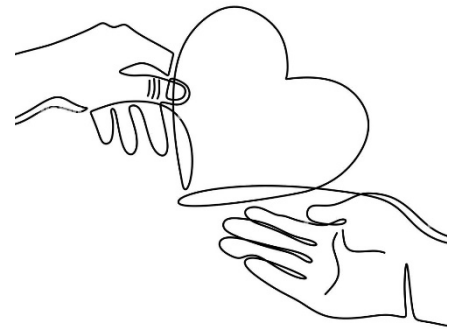


## “Overview of SUD, Overdose, & Loved Ones”

### Episode Overview

I introduce the topic of Season 11: SUD, overdose, and loved ones. “Loved ones” includes everyone intimately involved with someone with an SUD/overdose incident—including the family unit, intimate partners, and friends. I give an overview of some of the research on SUD, overdose, and loved ones—including how SUD/overdose impacts social connection/relationships and the experiences of people bereaved by an overdose-related death.



- In the United States alone, 6.1 million people are estimated to be living with an opioid addiction and in 2023, more than 81,000 people died from an opioid overdose.
- 32% of the adult population in the United States (or 82.7 million individuals) have lost someone they know to a drug overdose.

### TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Addiction negatively impacts social connectedness and relationships.
- ✓ Loved ones face a rollercoaster of grief, stigmatization, and lack of support from agencies.
- ✓ Loved ones’ addiction can create a multigenerational cycle of substance misuse.

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