

“Parents’ Experiences”

Episode Overview

In this episode, I talk about people’s experiences of parenting while having an SUD/overdose incident *and* of parenting a child with an SUD/overdose incident. I explore how child-related factors might impact treatment accessibility for parents and how substance misuse impacts people’s parenting. I also talk about the challenges of parenting a child with an SUD and how parents navigate complex grief after their child dies from an overdose.



- Currently, 6.1 million people are estimated to be living with an opioid addiction; in 2023, more than 81,000 people died from an opioid overdose.
- Compared to mothers, fathers have a higher prevalence of SUD and more frequently receive SUD treatment.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Childcare responsibilities are a major barrier to treatment.
- ✓ Removal of a child from the home increases overdose risk.
- ✓ Substance misuse negatively impacts parenting (gender differences!).
- ✓ Parents struggle with anticipatory grief and stress when their child has SUD and navigate complex grief after overdose.

References & Future Reading

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