

“Loved Ones and SUD/Overdose in Rural Areas”

Episode Overview

In this episode I talk about loved ones, addiction, and overdose in the context of rural areas. First, I review some important context and statistics, including how rural Americans are at higher risk of overdose. Then, I discuss research on family roles in prescription opioid misuse prevention, risk factors for drug misuse among young people, and how women who use drugs perceive their social networks.



- Overdoses in rural areas are increasing rapidly... from 1999 to 2015, there was a 325% increase in drug overdose in rural areas, compared to a 198% increase in urban areas.
- Rural-specific challenges to addiction/overdose care include a shortage of providers, services, transportation, cell-phone coverage, prohibitive cost, and stigma.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ There's a widespread belief that the opioid epidemic is a “family problem” and that prevention starts with loved ones.
- ✓ Loved ones are a source of both support and harm (e.g., intergenerational and interfamilial drug misuse).
- ✓ Leaving a bad situation is challenging; many people have a deep sense of loyalty to their community.

References & Future Reading

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