

“The Stories We Tell: Academia and Professional Networks”

Episode Overview

In this episode, I explore how academia and professional networks shape the broader conversation around substance use and overdose. While universities may seem far removed from everyday experiences, the research they produce and the network they operate within influence how substance use is understood, communicated, and translated into policy. I discuss how lived experience and the way research is shared can shape both knowledge production and real-world responses.



- Research shows substance use exists within academia, but disclosure is rare, especially beyond alcohol-related discussions.
- Stigma shapes more than personal experiences in academia, it can influence how substance use research is approached, interpreted, and presented in academic work.
- Academic knowledge does not stay within universities; it moves through professional networks and policy spaces: where it's often simplified or filtered.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Stigma shapes both research and professional norms.
- ✓ How research is shared influences its impact on policy and practice.
- ✓ Including lived experience (in the criminal legal system) can strengthen understanding and reduce stigma.

References & Future Reading

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