

“Overdoses Post-Release”

Study Overview

This episode focuses on studies that highlight the severe overdose risks faced by individuals recently released from incarceration. Those exiting correctional facilities are exceptionally vulnerable to opioid-related overdoses, with the risks being significantly higher in the initial weeks post-release and persisting over time. The findings in these studies collectively underscore the urgent need for enhanced support systems to mitigate the risk of overdose.



The absence of evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder during incarceration exacerbates post-release overdose risks, as individuals navigate reentry with little to no support or treatment.

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Individuals recently released from incarceration face a dramatically increased risk of opioid-related overdose. For instance, they are 40 times more likely to die from an overdose within the first two weeks after release, with elevated risks continuing over time.
- ✓ Reentry environments often lack adequate support, with significant social and economic hardships, limited access to resources, and high drug availability contributing to increased relapse rates and overdose risks.
- ✓ Those struggling with a mental health illness are particularly susceptible to overdose upon release, highlighting the need for targeted mental health support.
- ✓ To reduce overdose deaths and facilitate successful reintegration, it is crucial to prioritize accessible treatment, supportive housing, naloxone distribution, and other community-based resources that address the challenges faced by individuals transitioning from incarceration.